

Colusa County Office of Education

Kay C. Spurgeon
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

May 28, 2009

Hon. Ramona Garrett
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Ave.
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Judge Garrett:

The Colusa County Office of Education is very proud of its education program at Nielson High School. Our staff is dedicated to providing outstanding learning opportunities for all the young men who are attending school at this site.

It is very rewarding to have an impartial group of citizens confirm our belief that our educational program is meeting the needs of each student to achieve substantial advancement academically and socially. Our goal is to provide the foundation for each student to leave our school with the skills and knowledge necessary to become productive and contributing members of society.

I would like to clarify two items that were mentioned in the Grand Jury Report:

1. The number of graduates and number of recipients of the GED certificate is incorrect. Four (4) students graduated high school and eight (8) students passed the General Educational Development (GED) test last year, for a total of 12 students. The Grand Jury Report identified 12 graduates and 12 GED certificate recipients.
2. The Grand Jury Report refers to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Solano County Probation Department and the Colusa County Office of Education (CCOE). To my knowledge, there has never been such an MOU because Education Code 48645 requires the County Superintendent of Schools to operate a Juvenile Court School in his/her county. The partnership between the Probation Department and the CCOE has been successful without an MOU. We are all committed to providing a safe learning environment that offers a chance for the wards to start over with new confidence and skills when they return to their home communities.

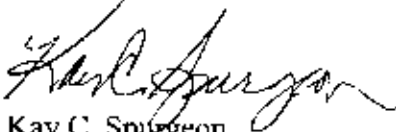
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In the past, when more of the dorms were staffed due to a much larger student population (over 100 at times), the number of graduates and successful GED completers were more like the numbers cited in the Grand Jury Report.

The Grand Jury Report recommends increasing the number of beds to be filled. If this recommendation goes forward, we will work with the camp staff and the Probation Department to plan and implement a successful program. We welcome the opportunity to reach and teach more students. The Fouts Springs program pattern of success is due to the dedicated camp and school staff.

Thank you for the dedicated efforts of the Solano County Grand Jury members who visited Fouts Springs and provided a valued public service in reviewing our programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kay C. Spurgeon".

Kay C. Spurgeon
Colusa County Superintendent of Schools