

Monterey County Grand Jury Report

“School Boards Make a Difference.”

Response from Bradley Union School District Governing Board, August 14, 2018

Recommendation 1: School Boards should adopt a policy to commit to all National School Board Association best practices.

Bradley USD Governing Board Response: The Bradley Union School District will commit to reviewing the National School Board Association best practices guide during the 18-19 school year, and determine which would meet the needs of our unique school and community. Appropriate and useful best practices will be adopted.

Recommendation 2: School Board should adopt a bylaw to make initial training and ongoing workshops mandatory.

Bradley USD Governing Board Response: The Governing Board will review its current practices and board policies and determine if a new policy or policy change is required to continue to provide proper district oversight.

Recommendation 3: School Boards along with their superintendent and teacher union representatives should make annual public presentations on school district goals and student achievement.

Bradley USD Governing Board Response: Bradley Union School District already holds public board meetings, typically in September and June, which review all school goals, priorities, and test outcomes. Bradley USD does not have a CTA representative, but teacher and staff input are collected as part of all school initiatives.

Recommendation 4: School Boards should provide clear, concise, and easy to find communications on their district’s goals and outcomes on their district’s website.

Bradley USD Governing Board Response: The Bradley Union School District website, lists all pertinent plans, including the Local Control Accountability Plan, Safety Plan, District Emergency Response Plan, and SARC. Between all of these readily available plans, the District’s goals for academics, safety, emergency response, and current levels of preparedness are detailed. Further, parents, community, and any other interested parties are available to board meetings for budget, academic, and strategic updates monthly.

Recommendation 5: School Boards should provide information on their district’s website about the role and responsibilities of school board members to educate parents, the public and potential school board candidates.

Bradley USD Governing Board Response: Currently, www.bradleyusd.org lists all board members, board meeting dates, and all meeting backup, accessible to the public. It does not specify information about role of the school board, and the board will review it during the 18-19 school year and determine if that information should be added.

Recommendation 6: School Boards should provide access to informational sessions to educate potential school board candidates on the duties and commitment associated with serving on local school board.

Bradley USD Governing Board Response: This is an area of ongoing discussion with the Bradley USD governing board. As, all members are desirous of continued training on proper board function, but fitting these trainings into the busy work schedules is difficult. Several board members have attended off site trainings in the past 2 years, and more will attend during the 18-19 school year.

Regarding accessibility to trainings for potential board candidates, this is difficult as we often do not know who the candidates will be until they register at election season. Also, as a small rural district that does not offer benefits or compensation, our board members are appointed, more often than elected, due to low turnout. It seems a better use of very limited funds to focus training on acting board members.

Recommendation 7: The Monterey County Office of Education should provide information sessions regarding the depth and breadth of school board service to people running for school board positions.

Bradley USD Governing Board Response: Monterey County Office of Education specific.
Response N/A.

Recommendation 8: The Monterey County Office of Education and the Monterey County School Board Association should actively promote and provide the California School Board Association Masters of Governance training in Monterey County.

Bradley USD Governing Board Response: Monterey County Office of Education specific.
Response N/A.

Recommendation 9: The Monterey County Office of Education and the Monterey County School Board Association should adopt options for school board training to increase attendance and engagement in school board training. For example, offer training throughout the county webinars, or onsite training.

Bradley USD Governing Board Response: Monterey County Office of Education specific.
Response N/A.

Recommendation 10: The Monterey County Office of Education should revamp its website in an effort to present useable information that is relevant for a public audience.

Bradley USD Governing Board Response: Monterey County Office of Education specific.
Response N/A.

Recommendation 11: The Monterey County Office of Education and the Monterey County School Board Association should provide information about school board best practices on their website

Bradley USD Governing Board Response: Monterey County Office of Education specific.
Response N/A.

Recommendation 12: The Monterey County Office of Education and the Monterey County School Board Association should provide information on their website about the role and responsibilities of school board members to educate parents, the public and potential school board candidates.

Bradley USD Governing Board Response: Monterey County Office of Education specific.
Response N/A.