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Mattole Unified School District / Mattole Valley Charter School

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After careful consideration of the Grand Jury's findings, Mattole Valley Charter School has concluded that nearly all of the findings of the Grand Jury Report are based on misunderstandings of charter school structure, misunderstandings of financial and CDE data, or incorrect information. Charter schools vary greatly in their structure and organization and can be very complicated to understand.

Mattole Valley Charter School is a dependent charter school, and is, therefore, part of and wholly connected to the Mattole Unified School District. As such, the data for MVCS is included with the MUSD's data, just as all schools within the Unified School District are included. Though the Mattole Valley Charter School and Mattole Unified School District are intricately linked, the Charter School financials and the Unified School District financials are distinct and separate. Mattole Valley Charter School and Mattole Unified School District each have their own accounts. This can be verified by the annual budget, the annual independent audit and the Humboldt County Office of Education. At no time is there a "blurring" of monies from these two distinct funds. Carry-over monies from MVCS do not go to the account of MUSD, as stated by the Grand Jury.

Mattole Valley Charter School believes in honoring individual education choices, and is committed to providing an innovative public education environment for students, their parents, and teachers by empowering them to collaboratively create learning opportunities which will develop responsible and contributing members of society. MVCS believes in giving students, parents, and teachers the freedom to make responsible and effective decisions and implement educational plans, by providing them with multiple tools, resources and programs.

In conclusion, the time dedicated by the Humboldt County Grand Jury is appreciated and should be commended. However, it is the hope of MVCS that the public will read its response to the Grand Jury in its entirety in order to understand that the Grand Jury report was based on misunderstandings of charter school structure and misinterpretation of data. The full response can be viewed at www.mattolevalley.org.