

WOODROW WILSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

WHY THE GRAND JURY INVESTIGATED

Public interest.

AUTHORITY

California Penal Code Section 925. The grand jury shall investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of officers, departments or functions of other districts in the county.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

On site visit of school and interview with the Principal.

BACKGROUND AND FACTS

The Grand Jury was greeted by the Principal and escorted to the school library. The Principal gave a brief overview of his background in the education field. He explained the security precautions that are in place and future plans to insure students' safety. The school has the capability to hold video conferences (WEBINAR) enabling students to interact with outside educational programs. Six mobile computer carts, each containing 30 laptops, are utilized in individual classrooms.

The Grand Jury was shown four classrooms that were in session. It was noted that all of the classrooms were locked for safety purposes. The Jury members were allowed to interact with the students, who were well behaved and showed interest in the questions posed by the visitors. The teachers and special education aides were observed to be actively involved with the students.

Woodrow Wilson offers two elective classes in videography to students who meet good citizenship and grade point requirements. A \$150,000 grant has made this program possible. A 15 to 18 minute school news program is shown each Friday morning in which the videography students write and edit the script, direct, produce, operate all of the video and audio equipment, and have their own newscasters. The program is transmitted to each classroom via video monitors. This classroom and its equipment are monitored by a separate security system.

The Grand Jury visited the cafeteria and gymnasium; both were well maintained and were in use at the time of the visit.

FINDINGS

The campus was very clean and quiet, the students were well behaved, and the teachers appeared actively engaged with their classes. The Principal was enthusiastically involved with the workings of the school. He is attempting to incorporate new and innovative programs in the system.

Future security plans involve changing access to the school grounds. Visitors will enter through the main gate and go directly to the office.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

None