

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEES

Inspections of Public Schools

Reason for the Report

The 2001/2002 El Dorado County Grand Jury decided to visit a random selection of schools in the county, some of which had been the subject of previous Grand Jury reports. The purpose of the visit was to determine the condition of the school facilities and for public awareness.

Scope of the Investigation

Grand Jury members reviewed Grand Jury Reports from 1998/1999, 1999/2000 and 2000/2001.

Grand Jury members interviewed school administrators and other personnel to ascertain, among other things, their views concerning the conditions of their schools and when each was originally constructed. Attached to this Report is an exhibit which identifies each school in the county and its original construction date. Additionally, Grand Jury members toured the following school sites:

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| • Edwin Markham School | 6-8 | Placerville Union School District; |
| • Buckeye School | K-6 | Buckeye Union School District; |
| • William Brooks School | K-6 | Buckeye Union School District; |
| • Camino School | K-8 | Camino Union School District; |
| • El Dorado High School | 9-12 | El Dorado Union High School District; |
| • Oak Ridge High School | 9-12 | El Dorado Union High School District; |
| • Gold Oak School | K-5 | Gold Oak Union School District; |
| • Pleasant Valley School | 6-8 | Gold Oak Union School District; |
| • Charles Brown School | K-5 | Mother Lode Union School District; |
| • Indian Creek School | K-5 | Mother Lode Union School District; and |
| • Pinewood School | K-4 | Pollock Pines School District. |

Findings

- F1: With the exceptions noted below, the Grand Jury found the general structural conditions of schools visited to be adequate or better.
- F2: Concerns addressed in the 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 Grand Jury's Reports, as they related to the schools visited by the 2001/2002 Grand Jury, have been addressed and corrected.
- F3: Construction dates of the schools, as reflected in the attached exhibit, do not necessarily reflect their present condition, because of intervening additions and modernization.

- F4: Many of the schools visited by the Grand Jury members have either finished or are in the process of modernization.
- F5: Local school districts have difficulties obtaining funding for modernization. Although schools can apply for modernization projects, funding frequently is not available even when a school qualifies for state grants.
- F6: Additionally, local school districts are often unable to generate matching funds which are required for state grants.
- F7: Edwin Markham School has the following structural problems:
- Laminated beams have sustained significant damage from years of exposure to the elements.
 - Runoff from the slope of the roofing at the intersection of the main roof and the covered walkways creates pooling of water, resulting in substantial damage.
 - The parking lot has numerous cracks and potholes, creating a dangerous condition which could give rise to potential liability.
 - The blacktop basketball play area is used for play during school hours and as a traffic egress in the mornings and afternoons. Such use for egress is potentially dangerous because there are no lanes indicated for cars and there are no designated areas for students to wait for pick up.
 - The maintenance shed is being utilized for storage of equipment leaving maintenance personnel without an inside work area.
- F8: Edwin Markham School has an outstanding computer science lab that could be a model for other schools.
- F9: The Principal of William Brooks School recognized and corrected a significant traffic problem, improving the traffic flow for the dropping off and picking up of students.
- F10: Camino School personnel have corrected problems noted by the 1999/2000 Grand Jury in a timely manner.
- F11: The Principal of El Dorado High School, through diligent efforts, secured a grant for the replacement of all the school's computers. The school's new computer lab is now equipped with more than fifty stations with Internet capabilities.
- F12: The Principal of Charles Brown School, in an effort to preserve aesthetics and save trees, is redesigning and using materials other than concrete in some areas to decrease damage done by tree roots.
- F13: The playground equipment area at Indian Creek School has been completely reorganized. Unsafe equipment has been removed, old equipment has been updated

and new equipment has been added. Surface materials in the play equipment area have been changed to make it safer for the children.

- F14: The Pinewood School bus barn has been converted to a maintenance/storage unit. This has eliminated the hazard of having the busses in the schoolyard.

Recommendations

- R1: Laminated beams at Edwin Markham School should be repaired or replaced.
- R2: The roof at Edwin Markham School should be repaired and/or redesigned to eliminate pooling of water.
- R3: The parking lot at Edwin Markham School should be repaired and resurfaced.
- R4: The traffic flow system at Edwin Markham School should be redesigned to eliminate safety hazards.
- R5: The basketball play area at Edwin Markham School should be repaired and resurfaced.
- R6: A storage shed for maintenance equipment and general storage, with an inside work area for maintenance personnel, should be added at Edwin Markham School.

Responses Required For Findings

- F7 Board of Trustees, Placerville Union School District.

Responses Required For Recommendations

- R1 through R6 Board of Trustees, Placerville Union School District.

Dates of Original Construction

1922 El Dorado High School	1967 Meyers School
1943 (rebuilt 1958) Indian Diggings	1967 South Tahoe High School
1949 South Tahoe Middle School	1975 Sierra House School
1950 Georgetown School	1976 Camerado Springs School
1952 Sierra School	1976 Pondorado Adult Education Center
1952 Camino School	1978 Green Valley School
1954 Gold Oak School	1978 Latrobe School
1955 Herbert Green Middle School	1979 Golden Sierra High School
1955 Emigrant Trail School	1981 Oak Ridge High School
1955 Silver Fork	1982 Marina Village School
1957 Gold Trail School	1984 Creekside School
1958 Al Tahoe School	1988 Blue Oak School
1958 Buckeye School	1988 Miller's Hill School
1958 Rescue School	1988 Indian Creek School
1958 Northside School	1988 Sierra Ridge Middle School
1959 Edwin Markham School	1990 Lake Forest School
1960 Tahoe Valley School	1991 Sutter's Mill School
1961 Charles Brown School	1991 Pleasant Valley School
1961 Bijou School	1992 Otter Creek School
1962 William Brooks School	1992 Silva Valley School
1962 Ponderosa High School	1994 Grizzly Pines
1963 Pinewood School	1995 Emigrant Trail School
1964 Louisiana Schnell School	1998 Rolling Hills School
1967 Jackson School	1998 Mountain Creek School
1967 Pioneer School	1999 Union Mine High School