

**Jennifer Shimer**

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**From:** murray smith [dn2earth@me.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 6:35 PM  
**To:** jshimer@bofg.org  
**Subject:** Re: Public comment

Pease Read At Meeting *Special Mtg 4/22/2020*  
My name is Murray Smith and I was informed that there was this meeting this morning about personal at our schools. I'd like to thank those on the board for doing there job under these strange circumstances. I'm sure it's very stressful to make hard decisions even when they are not popular with others in the community. My only hope is that your decisions are yours and not based on misleading information from others. I've been to the last two board meetings and expected to get the reason behind Ryan Dutton's termination only to leave the meeting without a clue. Your approach to this matter has made it really hard to give you the respect that you deserve. I hope at this meeting you either reinstate Rayan to his position at Tioga High or give us the reason for his termination. The people in this community are concerned and they want answers. Im sure you understand and will make the right decision at this meeting so we can put this matter to rest and move on.  
Sent from my iPhone

*start*  
↓

> On Apr 7, 2020, at 9:11 AM, murray smith <dn2earth@me.com> wrote:

>  
> Please read at the meeting. My name is Murray Smith and I'd like to express my concerns on what's going on in our community. It's been brought to my attention that you the school board have been convinced to remove Ryan Dutton from his position at Tyoga High school. I attended the last board meeting trying to figure out what went wrong and hear it from the board. I left the meeting very disappointed that you didn't discuss your decision at all. At times like these I feel that our community, our schools and Ryan's family don't need this added stress. We should be more concerned about helping people though these hard times, and delete this kind stress and distraction. Let's work together to keep Our community together, not tear it apart with actions like this. Thanks for the job you are doing and Stay Strong!

> Sent from my iPhone

## Jennifer Shimer

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**From:** Syvanna Lopez [syvannalopez@icloud.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:30 PM  
**To:** jshimer@bofg.org  
**Subject:** Public comment

Two board members that are participating met on the school board and both had spouses, had an affair while still being on the school board and both left their spouses and broke up their marriages and both have kids in the district and now are engaged and living with each other. They too worked for pml and got caught by security in the back of their vehicle doing the nasty. Are you aware that one of your school board members child was housed by the Dutton family? Does anyone want to recognize the discrimination or a configuration of interest that this might create as a board member?

Let's not even get into the reason why this child had to seek another place to live. Nothing happens to their jobs, these are the people that you think is still ok to work for the district, but yet you want to get rid (fire) of an innocent man who would no way in hell ever do something like that. Costing him his job, think about that, who would want to be jobless, think about his family that y'all are hurting. Let's not appreciate the Duttons for what they did for my child? Let's pay them back with agreeing to demote him. Is that not a conflict of interest? Having a family that takes in a board members child because they are living in their car? to help them and guide them and get them on a good path? Nah, let's just act like that didn't even happen and happily give him a big "thank you!" By doing what you did to his family.!

The whole Dutton family has always been there in every school event ave showed their school pride and dedication. Ryan Dutton has done nothing but go above and beyond for his students and never or will he ever let a student fail, he pushes them to strive and succeed.It's punk little kids who have no respect, not even for themselves that are trying to give him a bad rep.

Sent from my iPhone

## Jennifer Shimer

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**From:** Glynn Barnes [backcountrybar@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 22, 2020 8:17 AM  
**To:** jshimer@bofg.org  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Sent from Mail for Windows 10  
Agenda Item # 2019-2020-27  
Title: Superintendant

Please read at Board meeting

I'm hoping the community joins together even if it takes a recall to get Ryan Dutton reinstated!  
If that is....If the Board hasn't already soured Mr. Dutton in such a way that He say's the heck with it!  
With Ryan's education, his experience's, his accomplishments, his dedication, even if its money donated out of his own pocket to help out.

I know Mr. Dutton can easily go to work anywhere he chooses, but to lose him would be a huge mistake.  
Not only would the kids be losing out, but our community would suffer a loss as well.

I've known Ryan now for about ten years, and his wife Danelle since the day she was born, and Danelle's family even longer.

Combine all family members are hard working honest folks.

The family demonstrates morals that need to be past down to our youth.

Mr. Dutton whatever the outcome. I not only thank you for your work onsite, but also your work behind the scenes.  
Your work has not gone unnoticed, and you are not being treated the way that you deserve to be, but regardless ill stand by your side and wish you the best always

Glynn Barnes  
209-768-4761  
PO box 71  
Moccasin CA 95347

Hello Everyone,

I have worked for this district for 22 years. I have had my share of administrators and Board Members. If you judge an administrator by their ability to put children's welfare before all else, Mrs. Hilton is the best I have seen. If you judge an administrator by their ability to multi-task, Mrs. Hilton is the best. If you judge an administrator by the amount of love they show students, without a doubt Mrs. Hilton is the best.

For whatever reason Mr. Dutton has been reassigned to the classroom, I know in my heart it is for the students. Yes Mr. Dutton has done a lot for the students of Tioga since he has been the administrator. That's his job. Mrs. Hilton, and you as board members, have to make every decision with student safety and wellbeing as your first consideration. I have watched the decisions you have made, and I have yet to see you make a decision that isn't for the students.

I know you cannot discuss the reasons for Mr. Dutton's reassignment, but know I trust you did not make this decision without weighing every possibility. Thank you for always putting children first, even when you have to make difficult decisions. Your service to our district is valued by many.

Rhonda Crow

## Jennifer Shimer

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**From:** Jackie Matthews [miphotography209@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 10, 2020 1:54 PM  
**To:** Jshimer@bofg.org  
**Subject:** The BOFG school board agenda 5/13/20 RYAN DUTTON

To whom it may concern:

I've contemplated writing this many times but have been having a hard time finding the right words. I wanted to keep this professional but when talking about a persons character, it's almost impossible not to get personal. This also might be long, because I have a lot to say, so please forgive me for taking up time but I feel like it is something that is needed to say.

I could sit here and tell you what an amazing person Ryan Dutton is. How he selflessly has taken on so many roles in the community, and in the lives of the youth. However that part I'm sure you know, or have heard. I want to tell you what I see and how I see it, and hopefully give you a better look at his character then just some simple praises...

My mother and father went to high school with Ryan's wife, Dawnelle's parents. Needless to say Dawnelle and I grew up together. A few years older than I, I grew up admiring her tenacity and love of life. Her determination at everything she did was inspiring from a young age and stuck with me for life. So when I heard Dawnelle got married, I couldn't wait to meet him. Knowing Dawnelle's vivaciousness, finding her mate had to have been a monumental task.

I had no idea what to expect when I finally met Ryan Dutton. When I did meet him all I could think of was WOW! Dawnelle really did meet her equal. He was smart, funny, had an infectious laugh. But what stuck with me the most was his passion. I'm generally a good judge of character, and I knew right away he was an amazing person. You could see it in his eyes when he talked about his love of helping others, specifically his high school students.

Over the years I've had the opportunity to work with him during school and sporting events through Tioga High School. Each and every time I would show up to photograph I was met with a kind smile and a genuine "how are you". Even on his worst days, the kindness was always always there.

One of the first times I worked with Ryan was during one of his football camps he ran over the summer at Sonora High School. I was in college, working for my bachelors in photography at the time, so when he asked if I would photograph his football camp I jumped at the opportunity.

I showed up a bit early on day one of camp. I wanted to ask him a few questions about the camp specifically as I knew nothing about it. When I arrived I was shocked at the amount of planning and thoughtfulness that went into this event. There were signs, equipment, water, pop up tents for shade and even starry professional shirts for everyone. After talking with Ryan I learned that he had used his prior football ties to get some of his other pro football athletes to come help him coach this camp! How amazing is that? All I could think about was how cool it was that little Tuolumne county had some real pros here teaching our youth! What an amazing asset to have!

The most amazing thing of all though happened in a few fleeting moments after I was tucking my camera back into my bag at the end of the two day camp; I heard a conversation between Ryan and a small child participant. The child looked at Ryan and with amazement in his eyes said "thank you so much! This was great! Thanks for the opportunity". And I smiled. I recalled a post on Facebook where Ryan had said that even if you couldn't pay for camp to let them know because they wanted everyone that wanted to to be able to participate. It hit me at that point, that Ryan wasn't in it for the money or the fame. He was in it to give back to a community that needed it. He got it.

Why was that story in particular important you ask? It changed me/ Of course I was a kind and giving person before, but watching this whole huge camp that went on for days and knew that most of these kids weren't able to afford it... that it was all volunteer... made me realize that being kind and generous isn't good enough. You need to step up and put it forward. Get your kindness out there for the world to see and never be ashamed of it.

## Jennifer Shimer

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**From:** Caleb DeCoster [calebdecoster3@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 8:34 AM  
**To:** jshimer@bofg.org  
**Subject:** Principal

To whom it may concern.

As a former student of Tioga high school (2010-2014). Having seen Ryan Dutton in action as both a teacher and principal, I do believe that the school board removing him as principal is a huge mistake. That man has had such a huge impact on me as an individual. He is my mentor for success because he leads by example in finding the success that is best fit for you. From his sharing of work put into the NFL, or work to get better in the gym, proper eating. He does not allow that to interfere with his ego. All he and his family care about is getting us motivated and to guide us to success.

I recall on weekends seeing Ryan outside of the high school going above and beyond weed eating the hole campus on his own. Or during the summer going out to water the plants that his students worked so hard to plant. Without Ryan the landscape turnaround and donation from the community would not be what it is today. He is the single reason why that high school has grown into what it is today. If he is the best educator/ principal I have ever seen or had the opportunity to talk to. Whatever the reasons are that made you the board decide he is not worthy of the position of principal, well you are never going to find someone better for the student life or higher success than from Ryan Dutton.

## Jennifer Shimer

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**From:** stephanie esteves [stephanieesteves64@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 12:35 PM  
**To:** jshimer@bofg.org  
**Subject:** Public comment.

As a Trustee, you are expected to carry out your due diligence roles—particularly when it comes to Board meetings. The Board acts as an entity, not as a collection of individuals. During meetings, Trustees must always keep in mind to whom and what the Board is responsible. The Board’s constituency is not the current students, parents, teachers, and administrators. Board members must uphold the essential character and integrity of the school, and ensure that it remains viable to serve the children of today’s students. Certain board members on the BOFGUSD board have not held up their end of the essential character and integrity of the school district. The choices those of you are making in your own personal lives reflect your position on the board and has a trickle down effect to our students. What you are allowing to happen with the leadership of the schools and its employees is hard to swallow. The divisiveness, spying, and back stabbing is out of control. We want our kids to leave our schools and become successful citizens that exhibit and promote integrity and character, yet this is the example you set for them as well as staff members. Maybe you don’t really know what is going on, but that doesn’t exclude you from the responsibility. I suggest you really find out and look into how your schools are being run, and what is being allowed to happen. These behaviors have made it to the kids at the high school, with the kids participating in the spying acts and snitching on employees to the school secretary in order to be passed on to the Superintendent and Board. The best way I can explain this is that you are only hearing one side of the story, and you are running with that side and making decisions that are completely ruining the culture in your schools, the lives of your employees, and ultimately, the education of the students you are required to provide for are suffering. We are here for the children. Please start thinking of our children.

Thank you,  
Stephanie Esteves.

## Jennifer Shimer

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**From:** Abbey Ludwig [abbeyludwig1976@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 1:04 PM  
**To:** jshimer@bofg.org  
**Subject:** Message for Public Comments at Board Mtg

I am a graduate of Tioga's very first graduating 4 year class of 1994. I have some amazing memories from my time at Tioga. I was fortunate to be able to participate in sports, clubs, associate student body, and take a wide variety of classes that prepared me for success in the years after graduating, and the reason my education was so complete is the teachers and staff who gave abundantly of their time, energy, and selves while working at Tioga High.

In the years since my graduation, Tioga has been blessed with amazing teachers, administrators, and staff. A small school in any area is very dependent upon these individuals.

In recent years, Ryan and Dawnelle Dutton have chosen to give Tioga High School their hearts, souls, time, energy, and more. They have taught, coached, mentored, labored, and loved the students who attend the high school. Their efforts do not end at the final bell at the end of the day or in the last day of the school year.

I know that Tioga High School is a special place to learn. The impact my years at Tioga have had on my life are many, and I fully believe that the same is true of all who have graduated from Tioga while Ryan and Dawnelle have been a part of the staff. I hope that the board members and leadership of Big Oak Flat-Groveland Unified School District will recognize all the Duttons have given in continuing to make Tioga High School one of the best schools in the area!

With warmest regards-  
Abbey Ludwig  
Class of 1994

## Jennifer Shimer

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**From:** Jesika [jbarbeex3@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 3:25 PM  
**To:** Jshimer@bofg.org  
**Subject:** Read in public comment board meeting 4/13/20

I would like to have my voice be heard tonight as the wife of Sheldon Crouse. My husband was raised in Groveland, he went to Tenaya and Tioga. Mr. Dutton was his teacher and baseball coach throughout this high school career. Mr. Dutton has been someone that many people in this community look up to and go to for advice. My husband now coach's baseball for Tioga high school and he has been mentored by Mr. Dutton since he was 14 years old. I have to say that some of the values that Mr. Dutton has instilled in my husband still show through today and have shaped him into the amazing person he is. I do not think that y'all realize just what type of impact Mr. Dutton currently has and has had on these children. He has taught Sheldon self-discipline, how to handle himself and be respectful, how to work hard for a goal and NOT give up! This is the type of person that kids in this area need because some do not have that at home. You are taking away a man that can mentor male teens that come from this community who truly need that mentor ship. I believe you're making a huge mistake because there are not that many strong male influences within the schools for some of these kids to look up to.

My husband moved to North Carolina right after high school for college and Mr. Dutton kept in touch with Sheldon and always encouraged him and helped him map out his goals! My husband is now a successful paramedic, who works in THIS county and knows he can still to this day, even after graduating TEN years ago, turn to Mr. Dutton for any type of motivation and words of advice.

The way you have treated Mr. Dutton and the lack of even any kind of expressions of gratefulness is appalling. He has nothing but the best interest of those kids in mind. He is helping them to develop life skills that will stay with them throughout their adulthood. Y'all have worked hard to make to make sure you get him to leave. It's a small town and we all know the ethics and your internal inner drive to do what you're doing. Don't think we don't know what the board members say beyond school board meetings.

As for myself, I work as a registered nurse and I am absolutely disgusted at this school board. I thought that the purpose of having a "board" is for each and every person to have their OWN opinion. The purpose is not just to follow suite and do as the super intendent says. You have the choice to do what is right for this community. Who cares if you don't like the person? Are they doing what is best for the community and putting their best foot forward? Are they going out of their way to help the community? THAT is what you should ask yourselves. My husband was raised out here, but I was not. I know what an actual school board SHOULD be doing and y'all are a disgrace to this community. I moved out here with my husband to be closer to his family and start one of our own. I can tell you without a shadow of doubt, my children will never go to school in this district. I trust myself homeschooling them as I KNOW for a fact, I will put my interest in them first. As the school board, can you say that you guys are doing the same? I can't.

Sheldon Crouse

5/13/2020 @ 342

To Whom It May Concern,

I am reaching out to the Big Oak Flat-Groveland Unified School District in regards to Tioga High School Principal Mr. Ryan Dutton. As a past Tioga High School graduate, it is bothersome to know that Mr. Ryan Dutton is being re-assigned from his position as principal of Tioga High School. Mr. Dutton has served many roles in my life in the past 15 years ranging from coach, teacher, mentor, and friend. He has always had the best interest and has done everything in his power to push me further and better myself. This is a common theme with Mr. Dutton and he has done the same thing with a countless amount of his former students and athletes.

When I was a freshman at Tioga High School, Coach Dutton took over the baseball team and led us to a League title and into the State Playoffs. This was a feat that did not happen very often at Tioga High School and I think that our success was directly correlated to Coach Dutton taking over the program. He taught the student athletes about integrity, accountability, how to be a team player, and also lessons about leadership. He spent countless extra hours practicing with me and several other players without ever expecting anything in return.

When Coach Dutton turned into Mr. Dutton I had the pleasure of being in his math class. As a struggling student, math was something that I could never get a grasp of. Mr. Dutton would work with me extra either during lunch time or after school without hesitation. With the extra tutoring and practice, I was able to pass my math classes and earn grades high enough to continue playing sports which had a huge impact on my life.

After Tioga High School, I chose to play baseball at a Community College in North Carolina. Even though I was 2,500 miles away, Mr. Dutton was a teacher that I could always count on for advice whether it was for baseball or academics. He was able to mentor me and teach me things that I could use, such as fitting in with a team and working hard or looking up different drills to pass my math classes. These are all things that Mr. Dutton had no obligation to do but chose to do it because of the drive he has to make everyone around him better.

In 2018, I coached the Tioga High School baseball team and it was a struggle from the very beginning. From having players that have never played to coaches that have never coached, every step along the way was difficult and needed direction. As principal of Tioga, Ryan was able to steer me in the right direction and teach me how to coach these high school students appropriately. He helped me develop practice plans and drills and also taught me the little things I was not super familiar with. Once again, these were not things that he did not have to do but he wanted to do them to help me and the student athletes.

There is a common theme with Mr. Ryan Dutton that I have experienced through my relationship with him: He always wants to help people become better versions of themselves. I have had struggles throughout my life and he has always been someone that I have reached out to because I

## Jennifer Shimer

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**From:** Craig Amos [amos.craig@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 3:56 PM  
**To:** jshimer@bofg.org  
**Subject:** Ryan Dutton

Hello my name is Craig Amos, I was a student at tioga high for my junior and senior year. I met Ryan for the first time when I registered for classes, and ever since that day he has been nothing short of amazing as a teacher and principal. He always looks after the students, and is able to establish connections with them that not many others can. I do not think that removing him from office would be a good idea as there is a fair amount of students who he is able to make truly care about their grades and schooling. Thank you for hearing my opinion.

Sent from my iPhone

## Jennifer Shimer

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**From:** Tarynn Warren [tarynnwarren8@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 4:06 PM  
**To:** jshimer@bofg.org  
**Subject:** A note of appreciation for Ryan Dutton

Dear School Board,

I am a former student of Ryan Dutton from Tioga's 2015 class. I saw Mr. Dutton post something for Teacher's Appreciation Week and reached out to give him an update on my life post-high school. If you have a moment I would like it if you can read it at an appropriate time during your weekly meeting.

My name is Tarynn Warren and I went to Tioga High School from 2011-2015. I had Mr. Dutton for all four years, from science to math to school assemblies. By my senior year I was class president and had a bright future ahead of me thanks to Mr. Dutton and the rest of staff at Tioga.

Unfortunately the world was pretty harsh outside highschool. I faced a lot of inner demons and made a lot of mistakes. I was even homeless for a couple of years. Not to say I didn't succeed at certain things. Two years ago I got a job at the San Jose Airport and met some amazing people, saw once in a life time events and made good money. I was even assistant station manager for my company.

Through all of life's ups and downs I always have the memories of high school. Mr. Dutton was one of the best teachers. He was always positive, active, and empathetic. You could tell he was truly someone who wanted the best for each and every student. He was also the only math teacher who didn't have to fail me so let that speak for something.

Mr. Dutton knew me during some really dark times in my life. He was always there to talk and listen, and he and his wife even helped me personally when my home life got to overwhelming. I just wanted to say thank you to Mr. Dutton. If any teacher deserved to be a principal it's you.

Thank you and everyone stay safe!

To Whom It May Concern:

As a parent of students in the BOFG school district, I have great concern about how Tioga High has been ran by the Dutton's. Outside of running Dutton's Fitness on Tioga's Campus, and using school equipment, the Dutton's are bullies. Ryan has used excessive force in dealing with students, who have existing problems in life. He has also mocked students for problems they cannot control. To me, that is a bully. Dawnelle has told students in PE to run and not walk laps because they are fat. Not everyone can have a body like Dawnelle. Students should not be shamed for their appearance. Making students feel like they have to play sports, or they let the school down... bully. These are just a couple of examples of how the Dutton's bully students. The District has removed Ryan from his position as principal, and now Mrs. Hilton is under attack. I think Mrs. Hilton does a great job as a principal and superintendent, as do most students and parents alike. I think that if Ryan was doing his job, there would not be a problem. Dutton's, stop bullying Mrs. Hilton.

## Jennifer Shimer

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**From:** Penny Dutton [pkdutton@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 5:35 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Shimer  
**Subject:** Please read at the board meeting 5-13-20 ---- Public comment portion

Also, what are your protocols as a district for demoting or reassigning an administrator?  
What are your thoughts to in regards to students being involved in or being asked to assist in matters related to the work or "lack therefore" of employees?  
Is this something you would say is good procedure? To ask or have students reporting to supervisors or employees and using their own judgement to determine if something is unsafe or not right?

## Jennifer Shimer

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**From:** no one important [gnomestealer@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 5:53 PM  
**To:** jshimer@bofg.org  
**Subject:** Questions for school board meeting

Part 1: Are you familiar with the government's Privacy Act?

Part 2: Do you have a stipend for the resident campus photographer that takes pictures and submits them "anonymously" or is that in someone's job description?

Thank you for reading!

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to show my support of Wynette Hilton. I have worked for this district for four years, and have had the pleasure of working closely with Mrs. Hilton. She has consistently impressed me with her heart for the students, her consistency with her staff, and her passion for this district. There have been many times that I have come to her about situations with our students, and she is always willing to go above and beyond to support them. I am so impressed by her desire to support student's mental health. She makes connections with each student, even the ones who are difficult to reach. She never gives up on a student, and sometimes that is the only consistency they have. I have personally felt supported by her as a staff member. I am so proud to work for such a great district, and Mrs. Hilton is an invaluable part of that. She has truly been an amazing boss to me, and advocate for our students.

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Lizzie Banks

Big Oak Flat School District

Crisis Counselor

19177 Hwy 120

Groveland, CA 95321

209-962-7846

[lbanks@bofg.org](mailto:lbanks@bofg.org)

\*\*I am available at Tenaya Elementary on Mondays and Wednesdays, Don Pedro High School on Tuesdays and alternating Fridays, and Tioga High School on Thursdays and alternating Fridays

May 13, 2020

From: Big-Oak Flat-Groveland USD Teachers' Association

To: Board of Trustees, BOFGUSD

We would like to express our appreciation of Wynette Hilton who has worked tirelessly to keep our district functioning well. She has ensured that our students are cared for in every way possible, she's mapped out positive plans for next year at each of the school sites, and worked with staff in a collaborative and inclusive manner.

Not only has she virtually single-handedly managed this district, she found the time to recognize teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. These are trying times for all of us, but through-out these last several weeks, Wynette has been unfailingly supportive and positive, despite the pressure of school closures and an uncertain future. Leading by example, she has motivated us all to try to be as upbeat and hardworking as she always is -she is both an inspiration and a source of comfort.

We would like the Board to acknowledge that we greatly appreciate her and all she has done on behalf of this district.

Sincerely,

Big Oak Flat-Groveland Teachers' Association

Emily Hanchett

Lynda Martínez

Karen Seals

Steven Baptista

Sarah Graham

Kevin Griffith

Gary W Houghton

Jude Hawkins

Lydia Loera Jessica Pretzer

Jennifer Smith Penny Williamson

Lisa Pritchard Jason Coultrap

Christina Wyman

Don Couch

Trudi Griffin

Joanne Beaudreau Jodi Richey

Natalie Gonzales