

# **Will C. Wood High School**

## **2003-2004 Grand Jury Report**

### **I. Reason for visitation**

The Grand Jury elected to visit a random selection of schools in the County.

### **II. Procedure**

The Grand Jury:

- Toured the school facility
- Talked with the principal
- Observed students in classes and moving from class to class
- Observed the campus grounds, library, cafeteria, and classrooms
- Reviewed school profile and other documents

### **III. Background**

1. Will C. Wood High School is part of the Vacaville Unified School District. The school opened as a satellite campus to Vacaville High School in 1969. In 1974 the school became a Junior High School , grades 7–9. The process to convert W.C. Wood to a four year high school began in 1986. The first graduating class was in 1992.

2. At the time of the Grand Jury's visitation, the student enrollment was 2,110. The student demographics were: African-American 8.4%, American Indian 2.0%, Asian-American 3.8%, Filipino-American 2.4%, Hispanic/Latino 16.1%, Pacific Islander 1.3%, Non-Hispanic White 65.4%, and Other 0.5%.

3. There are 174 campus employees, of which 112 are faculty. The faculty consists of the Principal, two Assistant Principals, 3.6 counselors, one full time psychologist, one Speech Pathologist and 104 teachers. The school librarian is shared with another school. The entire faculty is certificated.

4. The current curriculum offers Advanced Placement Classes in US History, Physics, Calculus, Statistics, Literature, Art, and Government.

5. Vocational Education class offerings include Home Economics which is food preparation, child development and interior design. Additional vocational shop classes are auto, wood, metal and construction building trades.

6. The graduation rate is 94-95% of the senior class. Historically, 14% of graduating seniors go on to four-year institutions and 30% go to community colleges.

7. Not all campus areas were readily accessible to the physically challenged.

8. While the campus was neat and clean, there was some evidence of deferred maintenance.

#### **IV. Findings and Recommendations**

*Each finding is referenced to the background paragraph number.*

**Finding #1** - The Library is closed to students during “instructional time” if no certificated person is available to supervise the library. (3)

**Recommendation #1** – Consider alternative ways to finance the hiring of additional certificated personnel to allow the students more access time to the library.

**Finding #2** - The Gymnasium was found to be very dark due to ceiling lights not working even though requests had been submitted for repair. Lack of adequate lighting is a potential safety hazard. (8)

**Recommendation #2** – The District should devise a more timely system to respond to work orders from school sites.

**Finding #3** – The Grand Jury observed there is only one ramp for physically challenged persons in the main quad. The ramp is located on the left side of the quad as you enter from the parking lot. It creates a long trip to get to the opposite side of the campus. There are ramps on the outside area to access the wings on the left and right sides but it forces those who need ramps to go out and around the buildings. (7)

**Recommendation #3** – Improve access to all campus areas for everyone.

**Finding #4** - Two out of three sinks were missing from a girls’ restroom. (8)

**Recommendation #4** - Replace the missing sinks in the restrooms.

**Finding #5** At the time of the Grand Jury visit there was no certified instructor for the auto shop class. (3)(5)

**Recommendation #5** Provide an instructor for the class.

#### **V. Comments**

Will C. Wood has an emergency alert system in place. The Grand Jury was pleased to see that the history of the school was on display in the Principal’s office. During the Grand Jury visit the Jury limited their access to the classrooms due to final exams in progress.

#### **VI. Affected Agencies**

- Solano County Office of Education
- Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)
- Vacaville Unified School District
- Vacaville Unified School Board
- Will C. Wood High School