



**LARKSPUR-
CORTE MADERA
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Board of Trustees: Beth Blair, Natalie Medved, Amir Movafaghi, Eric Schmautz, Annie Sherman
Superintendent: Brett Geithman, Ed.D.

230 Doherty Drive, Larkspur, CA 94939
(415) 927-6960
www.lcmschools.org

June 16, 2023

Via e-mail

Matt Kirk: [REDACTED]

Stephen Marotto: [REDACTED]

Re: Response to Complaint Dated June 1, 2023

Dear Mr. Kirk and Mr. Marotto:

The Larkspur-Corte Madera School District ("District") received an email from you on June 1, 2023 titled, "Spark: Call for Commissioning of Historical Audits and Investigation," that included a 114 page attachment containing your specific complaints as well as corresponding documents. Your complaint called for the following District actions:

1. Investigation of SPARK operations.
2. Independent audit of SPARK for each of the last five years.
3. Present any and all fundings in a public setting.

The District has evaluated your complaint and found no evidence of fraud or illegal wrong doing. Your complaint does not substantiate the need to initiate the three actions you have called upon the District to do in response to your allegations of SPARK. Doing so would be unnecessary and cause an undue expenditure of District financial resources, as well as consuming a significant amount of staff time. Your requests are therefore denied.

We ask parents and community members to be partners with our school district. A fundraising group such as the SPARK Foundation is an example of a community partnership that provides significant art, music, wellness, and science programming for students. How we engage with one another in these community/school relationships models appropriate behavior for our students while also fostering productive relationships that enhance the District.

Moving forward, I suggest that you shift your approach when providing suggestions for increased efficiency from the position of an investigation of SPARK to a collaboration with the SPARK Foundation. You appear to have an interest and background in finance. Parents who can bring this kind of expertise can be a significant benefit when the District partners with organizations such as SPARK. Providing accusations through an investigatory approach, as you have with this complaint, is a disruption to District operations and negatively impacts the SPARK Foundation, which consists primarily of volunteers. This type of disruption and accusatory tone can result in a barrier to fundraising, which could ultimately result in teacher layoffs and a reduction of student programs.

To initiate the shift to collaboration, Eric Schmautz and I are willing to facilitate a meeting between you and the SPARK Foundation. The goals of this meeting would be to discuss your suggestions for greater efficiency and how you might be of assistance in achieving that goal. I will provide you with potential meeting dates under separate cover.

The District embraces transparency and aligns our practices with this value. Moving forward, we are going to request that the SPARK Foundation provides the Board of Trustees with an annual fiscal report during a regularly scheduled meeting. This report will be agendized and recorded in the minutes.

I look forward to more productive conversations on how to support our students with SPARK Foundation fundraising and programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Geithman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brett Geithman, Ed.D.
Superintendent