

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Edwin Markham Middle School

Placerville

Reason for the Report

The Grand Jury selected Edwin Markham Middle School to review the status of the building repairs recommended in the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Report, and for a general review.

Scope of the Investigation

The members of the Grand Jury:

- Interviewed the Superintendent and the Principal;
- Toured the school grounds;
- Visited the special science laboratory and several classes including an 8th grade math class;
- Reviewed the Grand Jury report for 2001/2002.

Background

The school was opened in 1950, and has 756 students. According to the principal, the students consistently score above average on the State Administrative Tests.

The curriculum provides at least 2 elective activities for every student. These electives consist of art, music and drama. The school day begins at 7:44 a.m. and ends at 2:05 p.m. The classes that were visited were orderly and well run. Teachers appear to be involved and interested in the students.

The previous Grand Jury report identified dry-rot and drainage problems in several buildings. While the repair work has not been started to date, the recent passage of school bonds will enable a complete remodeling of the facility. This remodeling will correct the drainage and dry-rot. The architect's plan for the remodeling should be ready for approval by the end of summer 2003.

Findings

- F1. Repairs reported by 2001-2002 Grand Jury have not been accomplished.
- F2. Passage of school bonds will enable a complete remodeling of the school.
- F3. Repairs/remodeling will commence within the year.

