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Michael Williams  
Commissioner

April 1, 2015

Dr. Marlene Zipperlen, Board President  
Rosebud-Lott Independent School District  
Post Office Box 638  
Rosebud, Texas 76570-0638

VIA EMAIL/U.S. MAIL  
[aprice@rlisd.org](mailto:aprice@rlisd.org)

Mr. Anthony Price, Superintendent  
Rosebud-Lott Independent School District  
Post Office Box 638  
Odessa, Texas 76570-0638

Subject: Closure Letter for TEA Reference #INV-2015-02-045

**No Response Required**

Dear Dr. Zipperlen and Mr. Price:

On April 1, 2015, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) informed the Rosebud-Lott Independent School District (ISD) of a complaint we received alleging the Board of Trustees refusal to calendar time for a citizen to address her concerns as to the salary discrepancies of two (2) employees as to what the ISD and TEA reported in response to a Public Information Records (PIR) request on these individuals earnings.

The agency has reviewed the information provided by your District, and determined that the district has addressed the reported concerns that are within the scope of the TEA.

This concludes the agency's review of the matter and no further action or information is necessary at this time. We will maintain your information in our records for future reference.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact us at [complaintsmanagement@tea.texas.gov](mailto:complaintsmanagement@tea.texas.gov).

We appreciate your assistance and cooperation in this review.

Sincerely,

Ralph Disher, Director  
Special Investigations Unit  
Office of Complaints, Investigations, and Enforcement

April 1, 2015

### Update

On April 1, 2015 I returned from a workshop in Waco and had two messages from Daniel Ellis with TEA. The messages were left at 10:18 AM and 1:03 PM on April 1, 2015. His return phone number was 512-936-2585.

When I returned from the workshop I returned his call at 1:09 PM on April 1, 2015. He explained that he had received a request from Gail Palmore to investigate the salary discrepancy that was reported to PEIMS for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years for two staff members.

I explained to Mr. Ellis that we addressed the discrepancy at our board meeting on March 30, 2015. He told me that Ms. Palmore provided him with the payroll documentation and told him that this was addressed at our board meeting on March 30, 2015 but she was not satisfied with our response. Mr. Ellis told her that she received her answer at the board meeting. He stated that she still requested that he open an investigation.

In my response to Mr. Ellis I explained to him that the two staff members are in two different pay frequencies due to their multiple duties. When the PEIMS reports were pulled for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 it was clear that the situation occurred due to their bus duties, not their regular job assignment, as the reports reflected the additional \$10,000 on their "bus duty" code. Payroll reports for the years in question for their regular job code do not reflect that either employee received an additional \$10,000 in salary due to their regular job assignment.

Mr. Ellis and I both understand that bus drivers do not have a set salary each year and to satisfy the PEIMS reporting system an estimated amount is entered for all bus drivers so the report can be submitted to PEIMS. The estimated amount for bus drivers was \$10,000.

Mr. Ellis stated that he was satisfied with my explanation and that he was going to close the investigation. I asked if we would receive a letter stating the investigation was closed. He said yes, that a letter would be sent to the superintendent.

Valerie Gausemeier  
Rosebud-Lott ISD  
Payroll