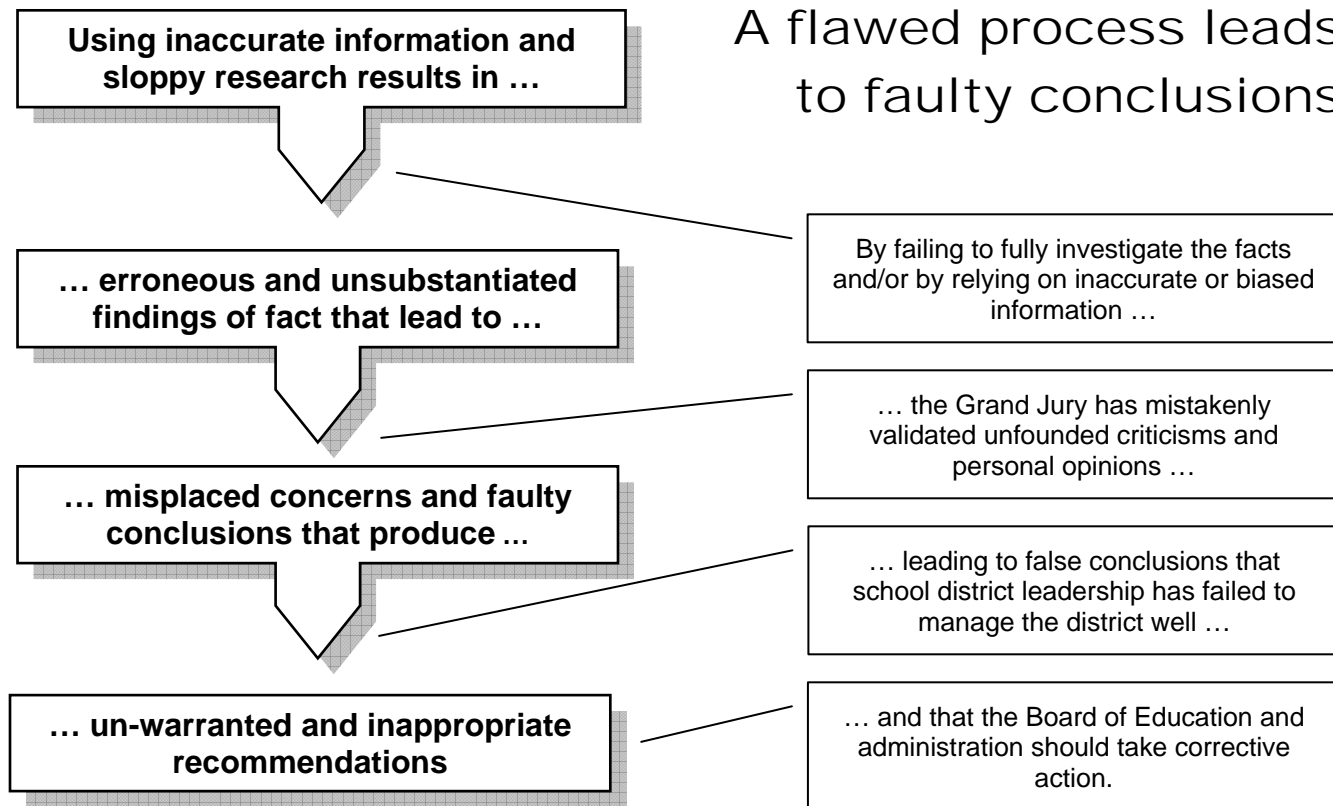


## A flawed process leads to faulty conclusions



When reading and evaluating the Grand Jury Report on Pajaro Valley Unified School District, the citizens of Santa Cruz County should ask this question:

“Did the Grand Jury have accurate and complete information on which to base its criticisms of our school district?”

The answer is: NO

### The Grand Jury report is lacking in several areas:

#### Lack of focus

Unlike other Grand Jury investigations, this one attempts to cover a wide-ranging examination of a public agency. In this case, though, the Grand Jury hasn't taken an in-depth, comprehensive look at PVUSD. Instead, it has simply bundled together a disparate collection of criticisms and topic areas to present a skewed “Report Card” on the school district. Choosing just a few select topics does not put into proper context an assessment of whether the school district leadership is doing a good job overall.

#### Lack of objectivity

Repeatedly, witnesses reported to the district that Grand Jury interviewers seemed to disregard factual and explanatory information that did not reinforce a preconceived bias about district “mismanagement.” The effect was for witnesses to believe that the Grand Jury had a conclusion in mind and was only looking for evidence to support that predetermined perception. The Grand Jury has an obligation and duty to the citizens of Santa Cruz County to conduct an impartial and objective analysis that lets the facts lead to responsible and logical conclusions.

#### Lack of accuracy

The Grand Jury report is riddled with factual errors. It appears that statements by witnesses condemning the district for a specific policy or practice were taken a face value and never cross-checked for accuracy. Just because someone said something doesn't make it true. The Grand Jury has simply given voice to people who have a complaint or opinion about the district without substantiating the validity of their opinions. The Grand Jury has an obligation and duty to the citizens of Santa Cruz County to base any of its purported findings, conclusions and recommendations on indisputable and accurate facts. By overlooking, disregarding, misinterpreting or failing to even ask for available evidence, data and information the Grand Jury has arrived at false conclusions about district actions and decisions.