



**Fully Accredited by the Schools Commission of the
Western Association of Schools and Colleges.**

October 20, 2020

To Whom It May Concern at the Ventura County Grand Jury:

On October 13, 2020 we received a letter from the Grand Jury indicating that our response to the Grand Jury Final Report entitled *Oversight of Charter Schools Authorized by Ventura County School Districts and the Ventura County Office of Education* was not received. Upon a second review of the final report, we find that Golden Valley Charter School was not required to respond; rather, we were requested to respond. Please be advised that this report was delivered at a time when schools were in the throes of managing the Covid-19 pandemic, and as such, we exercised our right to not submit a response as it was not required.

While no response from our school is required, below is our response to the conclusions and recommendations to which we were requested to respond:

C-04. The Grand Jury concluded that a benefit would accrue to each charter school's operations by having an official representative of the authorizing district or VCOE on its governing board. (FA-02, FA-03)

We disagree wholly with this finding. While some charter schools may feel that a district designee on their board is beneficial, it was the intent of the legislature in enacting the "Charter Schools Act of 1992" to provide opportunities for teachers, parents, pupils, and community members to establish and maintain schools that operate independently from the existing school district structure. We believe that requiring charter schools to have an official representative from the authorizing entity on its board is an infringement on a charter school's rights. This should be left to the discretion of each charter school. As part of the oversight process, we do think that a district designee should be present at all charter school board meetings to enable a sound understanding of the operations of the charter school.

R-01. The Grand Jury recommends that VCOE, in conjunction with charter schools and district authorizers, collaborate to review and enhance the current VCOE oversight checklist/timeline utilizing the FCMAT suggested guidelines for oversight. (C-01, C-03)

We agree with this recommendation.

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R-04. The Grand Jury recommends that each existing charter school's governing board have at least one official representative from the authorizing district or VCOE. (C-04)

As indicated above in our response to C-04, we disagree wholly with this recommendation.

R-05. The Grand Jury recommends that charter school authorizing entities within the County require future charter school petitions for authorization to include an agreement that the charter school will have a representative from the authorizing school district and/or VCOE on its governing board. (C-04)

As indicated above in my response to C-04, I disagree wholly with this recommendation.

Please contact me should you need additional information.

Terri Schiavone
Executive Director
Golden valley Charter School

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805-642-3435 tel 805-642-3468 fax www.goldenvcs.org

Landon, Carolyn

From: Terri Schiavone <terri.schiavone@goldenvcs.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 1:47 PM
To: Landon, Carolyn
Subject: Re: Grand Jury Report
Attachments: Response to Grand Jury October 2020.pdf

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Hi Carrie,

I have attached our response. Please let me know if it needs to be delivered elsewhere.
Also, please confirm receipt of this email.

Thanks,

Terri Schiavone
Executive Director
Golden Valley Charter School
3585 Maple St., Ste. 101
Ventura, CA 93003
805-642-3435 office
805-701-6950 cell

On Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 8:48 AM Landon, Carolyn <Carolyn.Landon@ventura.org> wrote:

Good afternoon Director Schiavone,

My apologies for not responding to you sooner.

The 2019-2020 Ventura County Grand Jury did receive your reply to their questionnaire in January. After compiling the data from all the Charter School survey responses the Oversight of Charter Schools Authorized by Ventura County School Districts and the Ventura County Office of Education report was written. Our records indicate your office received a hand delivered copy of this report on May 26, 2020.

The October 13, 2020 letter was regarding the Grand Jury not yet receiving a response to the Conclusions and Recommendations listed in the report. Toward the end of the report is a list of our requested responses for each school (Golden Valley Charter School (C-04) (R-01, R-04, R-05)). I hope this provides better clarification on what we are asking for.

Please let me know if I can provide further assistance.

Sincerely,

Carrie Landon

Ventura County Grand Jury – Response Review Coordinator

661-305-9106

From: Terri Schiavone [mailto:terri.schiavone@goldenvcs.org]

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 12:43 PM

To: Landon, Carolyn <Carolyn.Landon@ventura.org>; Boehmer, Richard <Richard.Boehmer@ventura.org>

Subject: Grand Jury Report

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Hello,

We are in receipt of the correspondence mailed to us on October 13, 2020, informing us that you have not received a response from our school on the Grand Jury final report entitled, *Oversight of Charter Schools authorized by Ventura County School Districts and the Ventura County Office of Education*.

Attached is a copy of our response mailed to you on January 17, 2020. We believe we have responded to each item in which a response was required from our school.

Please advise on any other information we can provide.

Please confirm receipt of this email.