



Response to 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Oversight of Charter Schools Authorized by Ventura County Schools and Ventura County Office of Education

Report Date: April 6, 2020

Response by: Brenda Olshever Title: Executive Director

FINDINGS / CONCLUSIONS

- I (we) agree with the Findings / Conclusions numbered: _____
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings / Conclusions numbered: C-04
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings / Conclusions that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-01 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a summary indicating the time frame for implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation to include: scope and parameters of the analysis or study and timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion with the agency or department head. The timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the report.)
- Recommendations numbered R-04 and R-05 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 10/20/2020

Signed: Brenda Olshever

Number of pages attached: 3



Meadows Arts and Technology Elementary School

October 20, 2020

Sent via Email and US Mail

Mr. Richard Boehmer, Foreperson
County of Ventura Grand Jury
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

On May 22, 2020 Meadows Arts and Technology Elementary School (MATES) received a copy of the 2019-2020 Ventura County Grand Jury Final Report entitled *Oversight of Charter Schools Authorized by Ventura County School Districts and the Ventura County Office of Education*. In that report, the Grand Jury required responses from MATES to the following conclusions and recommendations: C- 04, R-01, R-04, and R-05.

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)

While MATES does not have an official representative of VCOE on its governing board, the Director of Charter Schools attends all of our meetings, and has a standing spot on our agendas. The Director of Charter Schools coordinates charter director collaboration meetings and trainings at least twice a year in which the MATES Executive Director and Assistant Director both attend. Additionally, The Director of Charter Schools provides an annual Charter Board Training. Finally, MATES must present a Programmatic Audit to the Ventura County Board of Education once a year to review our required charter elements as well as our educational program.

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)

The Director of Charter Schools has provided MATES with a Charter School Reporting Timeline which was developed based on the FCMAT Charter School Oversight Checklist. Additionally, MATES uses the Ventura County Business Services Authority as our back office. As such, they follow all FCMAT guidelines.



2000 La Granada Drive • Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

P: 805.495.7037 • F: 805.374.1160 • www.matescharter.org

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)

We respectfully disagree with this recommendation. As mentioned in our response for C-04, the VCOE Director of Charter Schools attends all of our meetings, and has a standing spot on our agendas. We believe this provides our school with appropriate oversight without any conflicts of interest.

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)

We respectfully disagree with this recommendation. We believe that VCOE provides appropriate oversight to our school without requiring a representative from VCOE to sit on our governing board. As mentioned above, the VCOE Director of Charter Schools attends all of our board meetings, and has a standing spot on our agendas. Additionally, the VCOE Director of charter schools provides for charter school director collaboration and trainings. MATES and all VCOE authorized charter schools are also required to provide the Ventura County Board of Education with an annual Programmatic Review. If at any time in the future the VCOE deems it necessary to place a VCOE representative on the MATES school board, we will comply and add a clause to our charter petition.

If you have any further questions regarding this information, please contact me at 805-495-7037, or bolshever@matescharter.org.

Sincerely,



Brenda Olshever
Executive Director