



Rec'd electronically 08/19/20, printed 08/20/20

309 South K Street • Oxnard, California 93030 • (805) 385-2500 • FAX (805) 483-3069

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Karen M. Sher, M.Ed.  
President

Gary Davis, Ed.D.  
Vice President

Beatriz R. Herrera  
Clerk

Wayne Edmonds  
Member

Steve Hall, Ed.D.  
Member

## ADMINISTRATION

Tom McCoy, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent

Deborah Salgado, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent  
Human Resources

Jeffrey Weinstein  
Assistant Superintendent  
Business Services

Visit our Website at  
[www.oxnardunion.org](http://www.oxnardunion.org)

August 14, 2020

### Sent via Email and US Mail

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

Dear Mr. Boehmer:

Oxnard Union High School District (OUHSD) 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 Ventura County Office of Education*. In that report, the Grand Jury required responses from the Superintendent of Schools to the following recommendations: C-01, C-02, C-03, C-04, R-01, R-02, R-03, R-04, and R-05.

We are pleased to provide the attached response in accordance with Penal Code 933 and 933.05. Please note that all referenced documents can be accessed by using the following link to a shared Google Drive:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11KfQggR1ofP8Fiska05WtbTKkzXMwOmp?usp=sharing>

If you have any questions regarding the information presented in this response, please contact Marianne Ramos, Director of Instructional Support Services at 805-394-4785, or [marianne.ramos@oxnardunion.org](mailto:marianne.ramos@oxnardunion.org)

Yours respectfully

Tom McCoy, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools, Oxnard Union High School District

CC: Marianne Ramos, Director of Instructional Support Services, Oxnard Union HSD

## Response to Grand Jury Report Form

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

Report Date: April 6, 2020

Response by: Marianne Ramos

Title: Oxnard Union High School District  
Director Instructional Support Services

### FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: N/A
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: See Attached  
*(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)*

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-01, R-02, and R-03 have been implemented.  
*(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)*
- Recommendations numbered (NONE) have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
*(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)*
- Recommendations numbered (NONE) require further analysis.
- Recommendations numbered R-04 and R-05 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

Date: August 14, 2020

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



Number of pages attached: 3

# GRAND JURY REPORT

*Oversight of Charter Schools Authorized by Ventura County  
School Districts and the Ventura County Office of Education*

## **GRAND JURY FINDINGS**

CONCLUSION 1: The Grand Jury concluded that, while the authorizing districts in the County and VCOE are following state law in reporting fiscal and administrative information, there is a lack of consistency in report monitoring and oversight of charter schools.

CONCLUSION 2: The Grand Jury concluded that, while VCOE is providing training opportunities to charter school staff, no training is being offered to the authorizing school districts.

CONCLUSION 3: The Grand Jury concluded that best practice guidelines for monitoring charter schools by authorizing school districts have been developed by FCMAT and VCOE. These guidelines have not been adopted by all County authorizing districts.

CONCLUSION 4: 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.

## **GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES**

RECOMMENDATION 1: 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.

The Oxnard Union High School District (OUHSD) annually reviews VCOE's Charter School Reporting Timeline (hereafter "Timeline") for updates and shares this document with authorized charter schools. OUHSD is scheduled to attend the upcoming VCOE authorizer training on **Tuesday - 09/22/20** at which time the county will review the Timeline, as well as share other resources, and collaborate to identify suggested changes. The Timeline serves as a detailed list of reports, presentations, training, site visits, and documents that are required to be submitted by each OUHSD charter school by the due date provided pursuant to our memorandum of understanding. While the FCMAT Charter School Oversight Checklist provides a very comprehensive overview of many of these items, the checklist is over 80 pages and will be used by our office over the course of multiple site visits.

RECOMMENDATION 2: The Grand Jury recommends that VCOE, in conjunction with charter schools and authorizing districts, develop a consistent, comprehensive and regularly scheduled oversight process for all County charter schools.

OUHSD is scheduled to attend the upcoming VCOE authorizer training on **Tuesday - 09/22/20** at which time the county will review the Timeline, as well as share other resources, and collaborate to identify suggested changes. The authorizer training and Timeline will serve as an opportunity to collaborate with VCOE and other authorizing districts to develop a consistent, comprehensive and regularly scheduled oversight process for all County charter schools.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:** The Grand Jury recommends that VCOE periodically conduct meetings to be attended by all charter school authorizers in the County. These meetings are to collaborate and provide training, review new education legislation, share best practices and highlight successes.

With only five charter authorizing school districts in Ventura County, VCOE has had the ability to work closely and collaboratively with OUHSD for training purposes. Given this close network, the VCOE has been able to provide one-on-one guidance tailored specifically to meet the individual needs of OUHSD. Examples of specific one-on-one training to OUHSD and other district authorizers include providing presentations to authorizing district boards on the petition, renewal and oversight responsibilities, frequent collaboration with district superintendents and staff on the charter petition process, renewal process, revocation process, oversight best practices and legislative updates.

Nonetheless, we agree that participation in periodic group training from VCOE would be beneficial as well. OUHSD is currently scheduled to attend the district authorizer training scheduled on **Tuesday - 9/22/20**. A comprehensive legislative update on AB 1505 and related changes to the Charter School Act will be provided. We have also been invited to a Charter School Board Governance Workshop on October 14, 2020. Further, on October 19-21, 2020, we have been encouraged to attend the Sixth Annual Charters Accountability Resource and Support Network Conference (CARSNET) which will be provided in partnership with (FCMAT). Following this conference, OUHSD will attend a collaboration Zoom meeting with Marlo Hartsuyker, Director of Charter School Support and Oversight where discuss topics will include highlights, best practices and key conference takeaways.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:** The Grand Jury recommends that each existing charter school's governing board have at least one official representative from the authorizing district or VCOE.

We respectfully disagree and will not be adopting R-04. We appreciate the Grand Jury's intended goal of increased oversight by recommending that each existing charter school governing board have at least one official representative from the authorizing district or VCOE. However, we have achieved this objective by having a VCOE observer attend every VCOE authorized charter school board meeting as well as receive the board agenda and supporting documentation prior to the meeting for review. By placing an authorizer representative/OUHSD representative on the charter school governing board, many conflicts of interest and confidentiality issues can arise. For this reason, this recommendation is not supported as a best practice in the authorizer community at large, nor is it supported by the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT), an established leader in LEA operational management. ([see Google drive](#))

Should it become necessary, the OUHSD does reserve the right to place an OUHSD representative on the charter school board by way of its memorandum of understanding. Other district authorizers have this same clause in their memorandum of understanding with their charter schools.

RECOMMENDATION 5: 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.

We respectfully disagree and will not be adopting R-05. We appreciate the Grand Jury's intended goal of increased oversight by recommending that each existing charter school governing board have at least one official representative from the authorizing district or VCOE. However, we have achieved this objective by having a VCOE observer attend every VCOE authorized charter school board meeting as well as receive the board agenda and supporting documentation prior to the meeting for review. By placing an authorizer representative/OUHSD representative on the charter school governing board, many conflicts of interest and confidentiality issues can arise. For this reason, this recommendation is not supported as a best practice in the authorizer community at large, nor is it supported by the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT), an established leader in LEA operational management. ([see Google drive](#))

Should it become necessary, the OUHSD does reserve the right to place an OUHSD representative on the charter school board by way of its memorandum of understanding. Other district authorizers have this same clause in their memorandum of understanding with their charter schools.