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Ventura County
Grand Jury

Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
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grandjury.countyofventura.org

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Oversight of Charter Schools Authorized by VC School Districts & VCOE

Report Date: April 6, 2020

Response by: Dr. Angelica M. Ramsey Title: Superintendent of Schools

FINDINGS / CONCLUSIONS

- I (we) agree with the Facts / Conclusions numbered: 1-5
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Facts / Conclusions numbered: _____

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Facts / Conclusions that are disputed; including an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-04 & R-05 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions and date completed.)
- Recommendations number R-01, R-02, R-03 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a time frame for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

Date: 10 Jun 20

Signed: *AM Ramsey*

Number of pages attached: 27

Office of the Superintendent

June 9, 2020

Ventura County Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Honorable Chair and Members of the Grand Jury:

On May 20, 2020, The Pleasant Valley School District received the Grand Jury Report: Oversight of Charter Schools Authorized by Ventura County School Districts and Ventura County Office of Education. While we agree with the conclusions/findings and recommendations, the Pleasant Valley School District (PVSD) would like to provide additional context and information in this response.

Recommendation R-01.

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

PVSD Response

PVSD already utilizes the FCMAT tool in its oversight. There is a need at the state level for agreed upon, common best practices on charter school oversight. CA Ed Code provides little information or standard for what oversight looks like in our state. This is an area of improvement needed at the state level. There is no coordination from the California Department of Education to assist authorizers with the oversight process for the sake of consistency across the state. PVSD's resources come from FCMAT, collaboration with VCOE, other County Offices of Education, and the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA).

PVSD will participate in collaboration. As PVSD has no control over VCOE and other authorizers, we cannot provide a timeline. We defer to VCOE who holds the role of convener.

Recommendation R-02.

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.



Pleasant Valley School District

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PVSD prepares 21st century learners who are responsible members of our global society.

PVSD Response

PVSD collaborates by sending documents, process, and timelines to VCOE for review. We see value in a coordinated process. We look forward to a more unified approach, but would prefer the County take a statewide approach where Ventura County actively participates with the Charter Accountability Resource and Support Network (CARNet) and the California Charter Authorizing Professionals (CCAP).

PVSD will participate in collaboration. As PVSD has no control over VCOE and other authorizers, we cannot provide a timeline. We defer to VCOE who holds the role of convener.

Recommendation R-03.

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.

PVSD Response

PVSD agrees. PVSD will participate in meetings at County level. As PVSD has no control over VCOE and other authorizers, we cannot provide a timeline. We defer to VCOE who holds the role of convener.

Recommendation R-04.

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

PVSD Response

Both Pleasant Valley Board of Education's authorized charter schools have a PVSD representative on their board. PVSD Board minutes attached.

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.

PVSD Response

Both of the Pleasant Valley Board of Education's authorized charter school petitions have language within the petition and in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

indicating PVSD will have a representative on the charter school board. While we do not anticipate any new petitions, Peak Prep will be presenting a material revision later this year and University Preparation Charter School at CSU Channel Islands will be presenting their renewal charter this summer. PVSD will continue to ensure petitions and any subsequent MOUs include an agreement that the charter school will have a representative from PVSD.

Submitted respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Am Ramsey".

Angelica M. Ramsey, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools