

AUG 13 2019

Ventura County
Grand Jury

TO: MEMBERS, BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: DR. ANTHONY W. KNIGHT, SUPERINTENDENT
DATE: JULY 29, 2019

SUBJECT: A.3. APPROVE REPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT – SCHOOL IMPLEMENTATION OF SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMS

ACTION

ISSUE: Shall the Board approve the District’s response to the Grand Jury Report on School Implementation of Sex Education Programs?

BACKGROUND: On May 15, 2019, the Ventura County 2018-2019 Grand Jury Report entitled “School Implementation of Sex Education Programs” was delivered to all school districts throughout Ventura County. The District is required to provide a response in accordance with Penal Code 933 within 90 days to this report. The response to this Report along with the report from the Grand Jury is included for the Board’s review.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

- ALTERNATIVES:**
1. Approve Response to the Grand Jury Report on School Implementation of Sex Education Programs
 2. Amend and approve the Response to the Grand Jury Report

RECOMMENDATION: Alternative 1

Prepared by:
Dr. Jay Greenlinger, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony W. Knight, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Board Action: On motion of D. Ross, seconded by A. Rosen, the Board of Education:

VOTE:	AYES	NOES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Hazelton	_____	_____	_____	_____ ✓
Helfstein	_____ ✓	_____	_____	_____
Laifman	_____ ✓	_____	_____	_____
Rosen	_____ ✓	_____	_____	_____
Ross	_____ ✓	_____	_____	_____

July 30, 2019

Sent via Email and US Mail

Ira Schoenwald, Chair
Kathleen Diamond, Foreperson
County of Ventura Grand Jury
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Mr. Schoenwald and Ms. Diamond:

On May 15, 2019, the Oak Park Unified School District received a copy of the 2018-19 Ventura County Grand Jury Final Report entitled, *School Implementation of Sex Education Programs*. In that report, the Grand Jury required responses from the Oak Park Unified School District to the following recommendations: R-01, R-02, R-03, R-04, R-05, R-06, and R-07.

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: <http://bit.ly/OPUSDgrandjury2019>

If you have any questions regarding the information presented in this response, please contact Dr. Jay Greenlinger, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, at (818) 735-3271, or jgreenlinger@opusd.org.

Sincerely,


Dr. Anthony Knight
Superintendent

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: School Implementation of Sex-Education Programs

Report Date: April 10, 2019 (Received May 15, 2019)

Response by: Dr. Jay Greenlinger Title: Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Oak Park Unified School District

Findings:

- We agree with the findings/conclusions numbered: C-01, C-02, C-03, C-04, C-05
- We disagree wholly or partially with the Findings/Conclusions numbered: N/A
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings/Conclusions that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered (R-05, R-06, and R-07) have been implemented.
- Recommendations numbered R-03 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Timeframe for the implementation included on page 3.)
- Recommendations numbered (None) require further analysis.
- Recommendations numbered (R-01, R-02, R-04) are not applicable. According to the Grand Jury report's conclusions, OPUSD was already in compliance with these recommendations.

Date: July 30, 2019

Signed:



Number of Pages Attached: 2

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT
School Implementation of Sex Education Programs
April 10, 2019 (Received May 15, 2019)
Oak Park Unified School District

All documents referenced in this response can be accessed in this Google Drive folder:

<http://bit.ly/OPUSDgrandjury2019>

RECOMMENDATION 3: The Grand Jury recommends that school districts provide an alternative educational curriculum to students opting-out of sexual-education classes that closely aligns with the Legislature’s intent that “instruction and materials shall provide pupils with knowledge and skills for making and implementing health decisions ... including negotiation and refusal skills...” The details of the alternative curriculum should be included in the notice to parents or guardians. The Life Skills curriculum established by the Moorpark Unified School District is an example of such an alternative.

Time frame for implementation of this recommendation:

September, 2019- Assemble a group of teachers and parents to create alternative assignments for each grade where Sexual Health is taught.

October, 2019- Present alternative assignments to teachers for feedback. Finalize alternative assignments.

November, 2019- Present alternative assignments to Curriculum Council for recommendation for Board approval. Present recommended alternative assignments to Board for approval.

December-May, 2019- Alternative assignments will be given in the case of a student opt out.

RECOMMENDATION 5: The Grand Jury recommends that the school districts facilitate the opt-out process by including a single form that can be signed and returned, indicating that parents or guardians wish to have their child excused from sexual-educational instruction and surveys.

OPUSD has created a separate opt out form to accompany the parent notification letter prior to sex-education instruction. The form can be found in the Google Drive folder here:

<http://bit.ly/OPUSDgrandjury2019>

RECOMMENDATION 6: The Grand Jury recommends that the school districts notify parents or guardians that they may opt-out their children from any part of sexual-education classes or surveys, while allowing them to attend or participate in others.

According to OPUSD Administrative Regulation 6142.1 (f), “parent/guardians have a right to “opt-out” their child from all or part of comprehensive sexual health or

HIV prevention education.” This language also appears in the *Notice of Rights and Responsibilities*, which can be found in the Google Drive folder here: <http://bit.ly/OPUSDgrandjury2019>

While OPUSD complies with the ‘*may*’ provision in California Education Code 51938(4)(c) through the OPUSD Annual Notice of Parent Rights & Responsibilities, OPUSD **does not** administer sexual behavior surveys to students.

RECOMMENDATION 7: The Grand Jury recommends that school districts provide a more complete explanation in the annual parent/guardian notification of any surveys to be taken concerning sexual behavior of students.

While OPUSD complies with the ‘*may*’ provision in California Education Code 51938(4)(c) through the OPUSD Annual Notice of Parent Rights & Responsibilities, OPUSD **does not** administer sexual behavior surveys to students.

The *Notice of Rights and Responsibilities* can be found in the Google Drive folder here: <http://bit.ly/OPUSDgrandjury2019>