



Ojai Unified School District ^{Item 7.5.1 (2/15)}
August 14, 2019
414 East Ojai Avenue, P.O. Box 878, Ojai, CA 93024
(805) 640-4300 • Fax (805) 640-4419 • www.ojaiusd.org

August 7, 2019

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

Dear Ms. Diamond:

Enclosed please find the Ojai Unified School District's response to the Grand Jury report dated April 10, 2019, *School Implementation of Sex-Education Programs*.

In that report, the Grand Jury required responses regarding the following recommendations: R-01, R-02, R-03, R-04, R-05, R-06 and R-07.

If you have any questions regarding the information presented in this response, please contact Dr. Sherrill Knox, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, at 805-640-4300, or sknox@ojaiusd.org.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Morse, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Administration
Tiffany Morse, Ph.D., Superintendent
Sherrill Knox, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent Educational Services

Board of Education
Thayne Whipple, President
Shelly Griffen, Vice President
Jane Weil, Clerk
Kevin Ruf, Member
Michael Shanahan, Member

OJAI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: August 14, 2019 FOR: Action

TITLE: Response to Ventura County 2018-19 Grand Jury Report:
School Implementation of Sex-Education Programs.

EXHIBIT: Response to Ventura County 2018-19 Grand Jury Report
Grand Jury Final Report April 10, 2019

EXPLANATION:

On April 10, 2019, the Ventura County Grand Jury presented its recommendations to the Ojai Unified School District concerning public charter school processes. The Board is asked to approve the administration's response to the report, which indicates agreement or disagreement with Grand Jury's findings and recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Consideration of approval of the District's response to the Grand Jury

Motion by: Jane Weil Second by: Shelly Griffen Vote: Y 5 N 0 A 0

Yes: Members Griffen, Ruf, Shanahan, Weil and Whipple

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: School Implementations of Sex Education Programs

Report Date: April 10, 2019

Response by: Dr. Sherrill Knox

Title: Ojai Unified School District, Assistant Superintendent, Educational 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.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-01, R-05 and R-07 have been implemented.
- Recommendations numbered R-02, R-03, R-04 and R-06 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the 2019/2020 school year.
- Recommendations numbered (None) require further analysis.
- Recommendations numbered (None) will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

Date: August 7, 2019

Signed: 

Number of pages attached: 2



RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY SCHOOL IMPLEMENTATION OF SEX-EDUCATION PROGRAMS

During the 2018/2019 school year, the Ventura County Grand Jury initiated an investigation in school implementation of sex-education programs. Following an extensive review of existing conditions in the county, the Grand Jury released seven recommendations for school districts. All districts in the county are required to respond to the recommendations. The following is Ojai Unified School District's response to the recommendations:

R-01 OUSD provides initial notification to parents in the form of an Annual Notice of Parent Rights & Responsibilities handbook and Sexual Health Parent Notification Letters. These documents address the Grand Jury's recommendation regarding curriculum and surveys.

R-02 OUSD's Sexual Health Parent Notification Letters to parents or guardians does not state that no academic penalty will attach as a result of a parent or guardian excluding a child from sexual-education classes or surveys of sexual behavior. This will be implemented in the 2019/2020 school year.

R-03 OUSD agrees that it should 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 the knowledge and skills for making and implementing healthy decisions... including negotiation and refusal skills..." OUSD also agrees that the details of the alternative curriculum should be included in the notice to parents or guardians. This will be implemented in the 2019/2020 school year.

R-04 OUSD agrees that the district should provide a more detailed explanation of the content of sexual-education and HIV/AIDS curriculum and sexual-behavior surveys in an easily accessible format. This will be implemented in the 2019/2020 school year.

R-05 OUSD does 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 for sexual-education instruction and surveys.

R-06 OUSD agrees that it should 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. This will be implemented in the 2019/2020 school year.

Administration
Tiffany Morse, Ph.D., Superintendent
Sherrill Knox, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent Educational Services

Board of Education
Thayne Whipple, President
Shelly Griffen, Vice President
Jane Weil, Clerk
Kevin Ruf, Member
Michael Shanahan, Member

R-07 OUSD agrees that districts should provide a more complete explanation in the annual parent/guardian notification of any surveys to be taken concerning sexual behavior of students. However, OUSD complies with the 'may' provision in California Education Code 51938 (4)(c) and **does not** administer sexual behavior surveys to students.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sknox".

Sherrill Knox, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services