



OXNARD SCHOOL DISTRICT

1051 South "A" Street • Oxnard, California 93030 • 805/487-3918 • www.oxnardsd.org

August 16, 2011

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LISA CLINE
Assistant Superintendent
Business and Fiscal Services

County of Ventura Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
ATTN: Ms. Donna J. Gaier, Chair
Mr. David H. Gale, Foreman

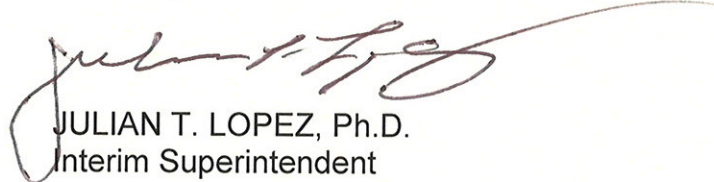
Re: Oxnard School District Response to Grand Jury Report on
School Bus Safety 2010-2011

Dear Ms. Gaier and Mr. Gale:

Oxnard School District is in receipt of your August 9, 2011 letter requesting another copy of our district's July 27, 2011 response to the Grand Jury Report on School Bus Safety. That copy is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (805) 487-3918, ext. 202.

Sincerely,



JULIAN T. LOPEZ, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent

JTL/lg
Enclosure (1)

Copy to: Lisa Cline, Assistant Superintendent, Business &
Fiscal Services
George Borges, Manager, Transportation

*Mission: "We guarantee that each student is academically competitive
and inspired to perseverant hope."*

mailed 7-29-11



OXNARD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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July 27, 2011

The Honorable Vincent O'Neill, Jr. ✓
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

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Re: Oxnard School District Response to Grand Jury Report on School Bus Safety 2010-2011

Dear Judge O'Neill:

ADMINISTRATION

JULIAN T. LOPEZ, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent

SEAN GOLDMAN
Assistant Superintendent
Human Resources and
Support Services

CATHERINE KAWAGUCHI
Assistant Superintendent
Chief Academic Officer

LISA CLINE
Assistant Superintendent
Business and Fiscal Services

Oxnard School District is in receipt of the subject report dated June 3, 2011. Following please find our response to said document.

FINDINGS WITH WHICH WE AGREE:

FI-07 The Grand Jury was unable to identify any single local agency responsible for collecting, collating, and reporting County school bus safety information on a countywide basis.

We agree that there is not one agency mandated to collect, collate and report school bus safety information on a countywide basis if the information being identified by the Grand Jury attempts to directly link student rider ship with school bus accidents. Public K-12 school districts in California are required to submit basic transportation program information to the California Department of Education on the "Form TRANS" each year along with the district's unaudited financial information. This public information includes the average number of students transported daily and total miles driven to/from school. School districts are not required to report accident information. However, as the report states, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is required to investigate school bus accidents. The report goes on to state that the CHP Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System includes school bus-involved collision data on a countywide basis, but does not identify individual information for each district or jurisdiction in the County. We recommend that the Grand Jury request that the California Highway Patrol database be expanded with a field to include the school district or jurisdiction associated with the bus. This simple change to an existing data collection system would provide the public with specific information

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relating to a single jurisdiction. When combined with the currently available data from the "Form TRANS", an interested party could obtain more specific information on the operation of a public school transportation program.

FINDINGS WITH WHICH WE DISAGREE:

FI-03 Not all districts maintain information on school bus safety statistics. Some districts do not track this information at all, while others rely on their contracted bus companies to do so.

We disagree with this statement because of its broad implications that school districts do not maintain records in accordance with established law. OSD is required to maintain and report specific information related to our student transportation program on the "Form TRANS." That form is included in the annual unaudited financial report available to the public and submitted to the California Department of Education. However, OSD is not required to maintain and report specific statistics related to school bus accidents. That requirement resides with the California Highway Patrol.

FI-04 Due to the lack of comparable, consistent school bus safety statistics provided by the districts, it is not possible to determine objective measures of school bus safety, such as accident rates. Thus, it is difficult to conclude that school bus transportation in the County is safe, as previously demonstrated at the national level. It is only possible to infer that school bus transportation in the County is safe from the information provided by the districts.

We disagree with this statement because of its broad implications that school districts do not maintain records in accordance with established law. Each school district in California is required by law to submit annual transportation information to the California Department of Education on the "Form TRANS." The California Highway Patrol is required to investigate school bus accidents and has a database capable of tracking the accidents by county. Both sets of data are available to the public and could be used to make an educated conclusion of the number of accidents per mile driven or per student served.

FI-05 School bus safety statistics, for districts or for individual schools, are not readily available to the public.

We disagree with this statement. We believe that the public has access to and can obtain all the school bus accident and transportation program information that the CHP and OSD are mandated to collect and report.


RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED

R-01 The VCOE should assume responsibility for the collection, collating, and reporting of County school bus safety information.

The California Highway Patrol is required to investigate all school bus accidents in the State of California. The CHP database reports those accidents by County. We do not believe that establishing another database, for which reporting would not be mandated by law, would provide the public with better information regarding school bus safety. Absent a mandatory statute, OSD does not plan, and has not been provided funding, to implement this recommendation at this time.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (805) 487-3918, ext. 202.

Sincerely,


JULIAN T. LOPEZ, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent

JTL/lg

Copy to: Robert A. Peskay, Foreman, Ventura County Grand Jury ✓
Lisa Cline, Assistant Superintendent, Business & Fiscal Services ✓
George Borges, Manager, Transportation ✓