



Ojai Unified School District

414 East Ojai Avenue, P.O. Box 878, Ojai, CA 93024
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JUN 30 2014

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

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VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

June 16, 2014

Honorable Brian J. Brack
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: Grand Jury Report Dated April 21, 2014 "Public Charter Schools Processes"

Dear Judge Brack:

Enclosed please find the Ojai Unified School District's response to the Grand Jury report dated April 21, 2014, "Public Charter Schools Processes."

Please note that the District considered findings 1, 5, and 8 specific to the Ventura County Board of Education and Ventura County Office of Education and not applicable to our district. We have indicated this on the attached form.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Dannielle Pusatere, Assistant Superintendent, at 805-640-4300 x1015 or dpusatere@ojaiusd.org.

Sincerely,

Henry S. Bangser
Superintendent

C: Foreperson, Ventura County Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Ojai Unified School District, Board of Education

Administration

Henry Bangser, Ph.D., Superintendent
Dannielle Pusatere, Assistant Superintendent, Business and Administrative Services

Board of Education

Kathi Smith, President
Thayne Whipple, Vice President
Rikki Horne, Clerk
Linda Taylor, Member
Pauline Mercado, Ph.D., Member

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Public Charter School Processes

Report Date: April 21, 2014

Response by: Hank Bangser Title: Superintendent

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: FI-03; FI-04; FI-06; FI-07; FI-09
The District considers FI-01; FI-05; FI-08 to be non-applicable to Ojai USD.
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: FI-02
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefore.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered RI-03; RI-04 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered RI-01; RI-02 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

Date: June 16, 2014

Signed: 

Number of pages attached: 2

**Response to Grand Jury Report
Statements to Findings and Recommendations
Public School Charter Processes
June 10, 2014**

Ojai Unified School District

Findings with which we partially agree:

FI-02. Charter schools have options when looking for a chartering entity and the form of the charter school. (FA-02, FA-19)

We agree with FA-02. Pursuant to California Education Code Section 47605(j)(1), if a school board denies a petition, a petitioner may submit a petition to the county board of education. If a county board denies a petition, the petitioner may elect to submit the petition to the State Board of Education. In addition, a petition may be submitted directly to a county board of education for a charter school that will serve pupils for the county (California Education Code Section 47605.5).

We do not agree with FA-19. There are different forms of charter schools. There are classroom or site-based charter schools and non-classroom-based charter schools. The term Transition School is not a term used to define a charter school. A charter school can be a start-up charter or a conversion charter.

Recommendations that have been implemented:

RI-03. The Grand Jury recommends that all charter schools, especially those with historically low parental involvement, make every effort to encourage, define, and track parental involvement. (FI-03)

The charter school in the Ojai Unified School District boundary has significant parental involvement as indicated on their website. The Ojai Unified School District will recommend that the charter school track and report the parental involvement to the District during its review process.

RI-04. The Grand Jury recommends that school districts in the County as well as the VCBOE continue to offer and support charter schools as an educational option for students. (FI-01, FI-02)

The Ojai Unified School District recognizes that charter schools may assist districts in offering diverse learning opportunities for District students. The District will continue to consider any petition to establish a charter school within the District. The District will give careful consideration as to the potential of a charter school to provide students with a high-quality education that enables them to achieve their fullest potential.

Recommendations that have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future:

RI-01. The Grand Jury recommends that the VCBOE, in cooperation with other chartering entities in the County, issue standards for the websites of all chartered schools in the County. Standards should include uniform reporting of the monies spent per student, and current and accurate SARC/API results. (FI-06, FI-07)

We will cooperate with the Ventura Office of Education, if requested, in creating a template and standards for website reporting of finances of charter schools. The Ojai Unified School District will recommend that our Charter School follow the template or have available on the website the requested financial information and SARC/API results.

RI-02. The Grand Jury recommends that the chartering entity monitor each charter school's website for compliance and accuracy with the adopted standards. (FI-05, FI-06, FI-07)

If templates and standards are created by the Ventura County Office of Education, the Ojai Unified School District will recommend that our Charter School follow those recommended standards.

STH

OJAI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVED
VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

BOARD AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

JUN 26 2014

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDING JUDGE

MEETING DATE: June 24, 2014

FOR: Action

TITLE: Response to Ventura County 2013-14 Grand Jury Report:
Public Charter Schools Processes

EXHIBIT: Response to Ventura County 2013-14 Grand Jury Report:
Public Charter Schools Processes

EXPLANATION:

On April 21, 2014, 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:

Approve response to the Ventura County 2013-14 Grand Jury Report titled, *Public Charter Schools Processes*.

Yes: Kathi Smith
Rikki Horne
Linda Taylor

Motion by: Linda Taylor Second by: Kathi Smith Vote: Y 3 N 0 A 0

Absent: Thayne Whipple
Pauline Mercado

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