



**Oxnard Union  
High School District**

Students First: every day, every school, every classroom

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309 South K Street • Oxnard, California 93030 • (805) 385-2561 • FAX (805) 247-9001

June 25, 2014

RECEIVED

JUN 30 2014

VENTURA COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

The Honorable Brian J. Back  
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of Ventura  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: **Grand Jury Report Dated April 21, 2014**  
**“PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS PROCESSES”**

Dear Judge Back:

Enclosed please find the Oxnard Union High School District’s response to the Grand Jury report dated April 21, 2014, “Public Charter Schools Processes.” We trust that the document fully responds to both the Grand Jury’s findings and recommendations.

If you have any questions regarding the information presented in this response, please contact Dr. Gregory O’Brien, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, at 805-385-2521, or [greg.obrien@ouhsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:greg.obrien@ouhsd.k12.ca.us).

Sincerely,

Socorro López Hanson, President  
Oxnard Union High School District Board of Trustees

CC: Foreperson, Ventura County Grand Jury, 2013-14  
Oxnard Union High School District, Board of Trustees  
Dr. Gabe Soumakian, Superintendent, OUHSD



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VENTURA COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

## Response to Grand Jury Report Form

**Report Title:** Public Charter Schools Processes

**Report Date:** April 21, 2014

**Response by:** Socorro Lopez Hanson Title: Oxnard Union High School District Board President

Unforgettable

### FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: FI-06; FI-07; FI-08;
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: FI-03; FI-09  
(Attach a statement specifying any portion of the findings that are disputed;  
Include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-04 have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered R-01; R-02; R-03 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 25, 2014

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_



Number of pages attached: 2



**Response to Grand Jury Report Form**  
**Statements to Findings and Recommendations**  
***PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS PROCESSES***

*April 21, 2014*

**FINDINGS WITH WHICH WE AGREE:**

**FI-06. Charter School websites do not contain complete and/or accurate reporting of monies spent and programs offered for each student. Missing information makes it difficult for parents and families to make an informed choice. (FA-13, FA-14)**

We agree with this finding. While both ACE Charter School and CAPE Charter School have informative websites, Oxnard Union High School District will work with the administrators at both schools to ensure each website contains the complete and accurate reporting of monies spent, and the programs offered for each student. Charter School administrators will work with the Ventura County Office of Education and the collaborative charter network to see how other charter schools are reporting information to parents and the community.

**FI-07. All but two charter school websites include some reference to SARC testing results. The format of the websites is inconsistent and the information is incomplete. (FA-13, FA-14)**

We agree with this finding. All public schools are required to prepare and disseminate a SARC. While CAPE Charter School does have a SARC on their website, it is difficult to find and its link is not labeled as the SARC. Oxnard Union High School District will work with the administrators at both schools to ensure a SARC is created, contains current student data, and is made easily available on the website.

**FI-08. At the four charter school toured, there is low turnover of teaching staff despite the fact teachers are not tenured. (FA-07, FA-08)**

We agree with this finding and consider this to be very positive.

**FINDINGS WITH WHICH WE PARTIALLY AGREE:**

**FI-03 Charter schools which include a strong parental element in their founding structure appear to achieve more traditional success. Parental involvement is critical to the charters' measured success. (FA-05, FA-18)**

We agree that parental involvement is critical to the charter's measured success. We believe that both ACE and CAPE have developed strong bonds with their parents and community, and both are working tirelessly to improve them. Oxnard Union High School District will work with administrators from ACE and CAPE as well as the Ventura County Office of Education to ensure that both sites have a written plan that complies with VCBOE policy.

**FI-09. Some charter schools do not aggressively pursue additional funding opportunities. (FA-17)**

We partially agree with this finding. CAPE Charter School received a two-year grant in the amount of \$450,000 from the State of California for classroom technology. Oxnard Union High School District will encourage both ACE and CAPE to pursue additional grant opportunities, working closely with the Ventura County Office of Education to learn about grants for which they are eligible.

**RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED:**

**R-04. The Grand Jury recommends that school districts in the County, as well as the Ventura County Office of Education, continue to offer and support charter schools as an educational option for students.**

The Ventura County Office of Education provides support to districts and charter schools. The Oxnard Union High School District will work with administrators from ACE and CAPE to take advantage of the collaborative network of charter schools that has been established by the county as platform to share best practices.

**RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED, BUT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE FUTURE:**

**R-01. The Grand Jury recommends that the Ventura County Office of Education, 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).**

The Oxnard Union High School District will ensure that ACE and CAPE work with the Ventura County Office of Education on the uniform standards of reporting on their website that are currently being developed. Both schools will learn about these standards through their active participation in the county's collaborative network of charter schools.

**R-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)**

Oxnard Union High School District will collaborate with the Ventura County Office of Education on the creation of recommendations as to the best means of attaining website compliance and accuracy, and will monitor each charter school's website, at least annually, for compliance with these recommendations.

**R-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 Oxnard Union High School District will collaborate with the Ventura County Office of Education to create recommendations for increasing and monitoring parent involvement at ACE and CAPE.

June 25, 2014

Board President, Socorro Lopez-Hanson  
Board Members, Dr. Gary Davis, Dr. Steve Hall, John Alamillo, Wayne Edmonds  
District Superintendent, Gabe Soumakian

As a Retiree Association we are looking forward to hearing the results of the latest actuarial study. We anticipate hearing that the actual value of the fund has grown. At the same time, due to a variety of reasons, there seems to have been a fairly significant reduction in accrued liability. This is all good news. I believe we now have a finite number of retirees covered by this Trust which according to my understanding, makes this and future actuarial calculations more accurate and reliable.

Our Association still maintains the belief that there are ways in which the Trust could accomplish its primary goal of becoming completely self funded. The conversion to the new retiree medical plan has saved the District significant amounts of money. These savings could and should be used to pay down the unfunded liability of the Trust.

It is important to keep the intent of the trust foremost in our minds. The intent of the Trust, from its inception, was to build up funds to fully meet the District's unfunded obligations to pay for retiree benefits to eligible District employees and retirees.

It is also extremely important that all stake-holders understand the role of members of the Trust Board. Their allegiance is not to whoever appointed them, but to the trust itself. The Trustees have a fiduciary obligation to administer the Trust in accordance with its purpose and intent and with the terms of the Trust Agreement. The Trustees shall be free from compromising influence and loyalties. A trustee shall fulfill his or her best responsibilities solely on behalf of the mission of the Trust.

Respectfully,

Dick Bellman, President  
OUHSD Retirees' Association

