

OCT 24 2019

Ventura County
Grand Jury

Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 477-1600
Fax: (805) 658-4523

grandjury.countyofventura.org

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: School Implementation Sex Education Programs

Report Date: April 10, 2019 (received May 7, 2019)

Response by: Carol L. Bjordahl Title: Assistant Sup - Admin services

FINDINGS / CONCLUSIONS

- I (we) agree with the findings / conclusions numbered: ~~FA-02, FA-04~~ See Attached
- ✓ I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings / Conclusions numbered: See attached

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings / Conclusions that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered See attached have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions and date completed.)
- Recommendations number See have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a time frame for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
- Recommendations numbered none will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

Date: 10/21/19

Signed: Carol L. Bjordahl

Number of pages attached: 33

Office of Student Services

June 30, 2019

Ms. Kathleen Diamond, Foreperson
2018-2019 Ventura County Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Pleasant Valley School District Response to 2018-2019 Grand Jury Report School Implementation of Sex Education Programs

Dear Ms. Diamond,

On May 8, 2019, Pleasant Valley School District ("PVSD") received the report from the 2018-2019 Grand Jury titled School Implementation of Sex Education Programs. This letter and attached Exhibits will serve as Pleasant Valley School District's official response to that report.

PVSD agrees with the following findings/conclusions:
FA-01, FA-02, FA-04, C-01, C-03, and C-04

PVSD does not agree with the following findings/conclusions:

FA-03 - *The Grand Jury found that only Muḗu provided information to the parents or guardians that their children could be excused from participation in all or in part of the sex-education instruction.*

As noted in PVSD's response dated November 26, 2018, PVSD informs parents of this in the following manner:

- *Annual Notification done as part of re-enrollment annually (Attachment A)
- *Written Notification done every fall, sent to all 7th grade parents (Attachment B)
- *Written Notification done every February, prior to instruction starting (Attachment C)
- *Web page notification that is visible continuously (Attachment D)

FA-05 - *The Grand Jury found that in there in their annual handbook to parents or guardians, only Conejo, Port Hueneme Unified School District (Port Hueneme), Oxnard Union and Muḗu informed parents or guardians of their right to review any and all materials to be utilized in instruction of the sex-education classes at the beginning of the school year or the beginning of a child's enrolment. Only Oxnard Union provided a website to conveniently review the curriculum.*



As noted in PVSD's response dated November 26, 3018, PVSD includes this information in the Annual Notification. It is Item number one under the statement "Parents or legal guardians have the right to:" (Attachment A).

As noted in PVSD's response dated November 26, 3018, PVSD informs parents that the videos are available for checkout from the Camarillo Public Library year round.

FA-06 - The Grand Jury found that information regarding sex-education curricula and surveys sent to parents or guardians in the schools' general handbooks were not easily found.

The initial request for information did not request specific school handbooks. However, if this finding is referring to the Annual Notification, PVSD's Annual Notification is written alphabetically which is one of the easiest methods of finding a subject.

FA - 07 - The Grand Jury found that only Oxnard, Ventura Unified School District (Ventura), Somis, Ojai School District (Ojai) and Port Hueneme provided a form that could be returned to the district enabling a parent or guardian to conveniently provide a written request that the child opt out from the sexual-education instruction or surveys concerning sexual behaviors.

As noted in PVSD's response dated November 26, 3018, PVSD sends home a letter to each parent of 7th graders that has a portion to return to the District enabling the parent to opt out of some or the entire curriculum (Attachment C).

C-02 - The Grand Jury concluded that school district's policies, practices and procedures fail to provide sufficient details of the sexual-health education and HIV/AIDS prevention class curriculum, or the content of the sexual-behavior surveys. This makes it difficult for parents or guardians to easily access understand and make decisions about whether their children should be excused from or included in the sexual-education classes or surveys on sexual behavior.

PVSD goes beyond informing parents and letting parents access the curriculum to make an informed decision by doing the following:

- *Notifying parents in the fall that the curriculum will be taught and letting them know they can preview the material at a parent viewing nights, through the Camarillo Library, or at the District office.

- *Any curriculum that can be posted on the District website is. Due to copyright laws, actual curriculum cannot be posted.

C-05 - The Grand Jury concluded that all districts (except Oxnard Union, Ventura, Somis, Ojai and Port Hueneme) do not provide a separate written form for parents or guardians to conveniently opt-out their students from all or part of the curriculum on sexual-health education or surveys on sexual behavior.

As noted in PVSD's response dated November 26, 2018, PVSD sends home a letter to each parent of 7th graders that has a portion to return to the District enabling the parent to opt out of some or the entire curriculum (Attachment C).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations numbered R-01, R-05, R-06 and R-07 have been implemented and were implemented prior to the May, 2019 report.

Recommendation numbered R-02 was partially implemented prior to the May 2019 report as this information was on the website and in the Annual Notification. It will be implemented fully by adding it to the separate communication that is sent home in October and February regarding the sex-education curriculum.

Recommendation numbered R-03 was not implemented but will be by February 2020. All teachers that teach this curriculum did have an alternative educational curriculum. An example is attached (Attachment E). Those have been collected and are being put into a repository for all teachers to access and will be made available to parents to preview.

Recommendation R-04 requires further analysis as due to copyright laws, only so much can be put on an electronic platform for parents to view from home. However as stated in the letter sent in October, there is many ways they can currently access the curriculum at present.

This concludes PVSD's response to the 2018-2019 Grand Jury report School Implementation of Sex Education Programs. Please let us know if you have any further questions or concerns.

Thank you,



Carol L. Bjordahl
Director of Student Services