



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: Charter School Implementation of State Mandated Sex Education - AB 329

Report Date: May 2020

Response by: Doreen Learned Title: Director of Operations, CAPE Charter School

#### FINDINGS / CONCLUSIONS

- I (we) agree with the Facts / Conclusions numbered: \_\_\_\_\_
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Facts / Conclusions numbered:  
C-01, C-02, C-03  
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Facts / Conclusions that are disputed;  
including an explanation of the reasons.)

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-03, R-05 have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions and date completed.)
- Recommendations number R-01, R-02, R-04, R-06 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a time frame for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered R-07 require further analysis.
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: 

Number of pages attached: 3



July 20, 2020

Via Email: [Anida.Margolis@ventura.org](mailto:Anida.Margolis@ventura.org)

Anida Margolis, Foreperson  
Ventura County Grand Jury  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**RE: Camarillo Academy for Progressive Education Response to Grand Jury Report,  
"Charter School Implementation of State Mandated Sex Education-AB 329"**

Dear Foreperson Margolis,

The Camarillo Academy for Progressive Education ("CAPE") is in receipt of your letter dated May 19, 2020, and the referenced Ventura County Grand Jury Report entitled, "*Charter School Implementation of State Mandated Sex Education-AB 329.*" In the report, the Grand Jury requested a response from CAPE regarding the following:

- 1) Conclusion (C-01): The Grand Jury concluded that none of the Required Charter Schools fully implemented the requirements of AB 329 and AB 1227.
- 2) Conclusion (C-02): The Grand Jury concluded none of the Required Charter Schools provided sufficient details of their sexual health education curriculum and surveys regarding sexual practices. This does not allow parents/guardians to easily access, understand and make informed decisions about whether to opt out their child from the curriculum or surveys.
- 3) Conclusion (C-03): The Grand Jury concluded that only one of the Required Charter Schools included a sign and return form with the notification of curriculum to make it easy for parents/guardians to opt out their child from participation in the sexual health curriculum or surveys.
- 4) Recommendation (R-01): The Grand Jury recommends the Required Charter Schools implement a set of policies, practices and curriculum by the beginning of the 2020-21 school year to meet the requirements of AB 329 and AB 1227.
- 5) Recommendation (R-02): The Grand Jury recommends the Required Charter Schools provide parents/guardians a notification of the curriculum on sexual health and human trafficking that includes a separate, easy-to-use opt out form for parents/guardians to sign and return.
- 6) Recommendation (R-03): The Grand Jury recommends the Required Charter Schools' notification to parents/guardians of sexual health curriculum include a statement that, should their child be opted out of that curriculum, an alternate curriculum will be offered with a description of that alternate curriculum.
- 7) Recommendation (R-04): The Grand Jury recommends the Required Charter Schools provide parents/guardians with a detailed and clear written explanation of the content of sexual health curriculum in a document separate from their policies handbook.
- 8) Recommendation (R-05): The Grand Jury recommends the Required Charter Schools specifically state in the notification to parents/guardians regarding the sexual health curriculum



that a parent/guardian may opt out their child from any part of the curriculum or surveys, while allowing the child to participate in others.

- 9) Recommendation (R-06): The Grand Jury recommends the Required Charter Schools provide alternative educational curricula to the opted out child from the sexual health curriculum that closely aligns with the Legislature's intent that instruction and materials provide pupils with "negotiation and refusal skills to assist pupils in overcoming peer pressure and using effective decision making skills to avoid high-risk activities.
- 10) Recommendation (R-07): The Grand Jury recommends that the Required Charter Schools provide a complete explanation in the parent/guardian notification of any surveys to be taken concerning the sexual behavior of a student. The full survey should be on the charter school's website or provided by the school upon request by the parent/guardian.

This letter is CAPE's response to the report. We will respond to each conclusion or recommendation by reference to the enumerated list above.

(C-01): CAPE has, in fact, fully implemented the requirements of AB 329 and AB 1227. CAPE uses the already published video-based curriculum from Human Relations Media. Additionally, the school makes an annual 7<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to the Museum of Tolerance where they receive specific information during a program on human trafficking and child labor.

(C-02): CAPE provides sufficient details of our sexual health education curriculum and surveys regarding sexual practices. Parents/guardians are informed of the contents of the comprehensive sexual health instruction by way of a Family Life Parent Notification Letter for both fifth and seventh grade students. Additionally, parents/guardians are given the opportunity to view the materials used in the curriculum at Parent Viewing Nights. CAPE contracts with Healthy Kids to provide the survey to 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students every other year. The results are reviewed during open session of a Board of Directors meeting. These tools allow parents/guardians to make informed decisions about the options for their children.

(C-03): CAPE includes a sign and return form with the notification of curriculum. Please see attachment.

(R-01): The CAPE Board of Directors will review policies, practices, and curriculum this summer to confirm they meet the requirements of AB 329 and AB 1227. If the requirements are not met, any non-compliant policies, practices, and/or curriculum will be amended so that the requirements of the two laws are met prior to the 2020-21 school year.

(R-02): CAPE will provide parents/guardians a notification of the curriculum on sexual health and human trafficking that includes a separate, easy-to-use opt out form for parents/guardians to sign and return during the 2020-21 school year.

(R-03): CAPE includes in the notification regarding the sexual health curriculum provided to parents/guardians the fact that students who opt out of the Comprehensive Sexual Health Education will be provided with an alternative setting during such instruction to engage in other educational activities that do not include the restricted sexual health information.



(R-04): CAPE informs parents/guardians of the contents of the comprehensive sexual health instruction in the Family Life Parent Notification Letter and provides the opportunity for parents/guardians to view the materials at Parent Viewing Nights. We will review and, if necessary, amend the Parent Notification Letter to ensure that it includes a detailed and clear written explanation of the content of sexual health curriculum.

(R-05): CAPE does specifically state in the Family Life Parent Notification Letter that a parent/guardian may opt out their child from any part of the curriculum or surveys, while allowing the child to participate in others.

(R-06): The CAPE Board of Directors will review and consider whether the alternative educational curricula provided to the opted out child from the sexual health curriculum closely aligns with the Legislature's intent that instruction and materials provide pupils with "negotiation and refusal skills to assist pupils in overcoming peer pressure and using effective decision making skills to avoid high-risk activities.

(R-07) CAPE will consider providing a complete explanation in the Family Life Parent Notification Letter of any surveys to be taken concerning the sexual behavior of a student. The full survey should be on the charter school's website or provided by the school upon request by the parent/guardian.

CAPE appreciates the work completed and the report submitted by the Ventura County Grand Jury regarding state mandated sex education. We continue to be a local leader in education and a provider of school choice for parents and students in Ventura County.

Sincerely,

Doreen Learned  
Director of Operations  
CAPE Charter School

Maryellen Lang  
Director of Education  
CAPE Charter School

## Landon, Carolyn

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**From:** Boehmer, Richard  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 12:43 PM  
**To:** Landon, Carolyn  
**Subject:** FW: Grand Jury Report Responses from CAPE  
**Attachments:** Cape\_Response\_Oversight.pdf; Cape\_Response\_sex-education.pdf

Carrie:

Please see the email and attachments below.

Rick

**From:** Maryellen Lang [mailto:maryellen.lang@capecharter.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** Boehmer, Richard <Richard.Boehmer@ventura.org>; Doreen Learned <Doreen.learned@capecharter.org>  
**Subject:** Grand Jury Report Responses from CAPE

**CAUTION:** If this email looks suspicious, DO NOT click. Forward to [Spam.Manager@ventura.org](mailto:Spam.Manager@ventura.org)

Hello Richard,

CAPE sent an email to both Dustin and Anida and it was returned. We also faxed the attached reports to your office on the fax number of your letterhead. Please find attached the reponses from CAPE for both the charter oversight and sex education.

Maryellen Lang  
Director of Education  
CAPE Charter School  
777 Aileen Street, Camarillo CA 93010  
805-384-1415  
[www.camarillocharter.org](http://www.camarillocharter.org)

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