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Phone 805.777.7999 Fax 805.777.7998

## **Response to Grand Jury Report**

**Report Title: Charter School Implementation of State Mandated Sex Education –AB 329**

Report Date: April 2, 2020

Response by: Claudia Weintraub Title: Director

### **Findings/Conclusions**

#### **We disagree with the Facts/Conclusions numbered:**

FA01:

We believe that we complied.

FA02:

We have a policy in place that has been board approved since the start of the 19-20 school year.

FA03:

We have a full curriculum in place that also introduces information on Human Trafficking. See page 42-43 of our attachment. We did not draft this curriculum but used one that is already published. We therefore changed our answer for Question #2 from “no” to “yes”.

FA04:

We provided that information to our parents. See page 37 of our attachment.

FA05:

We advised parents of partial opt-outs. We added specific language on the Human Trafficking opt-out to the last paragraph of our English and Spanish parent letter. See attached revised version of our parent letters.

FA06:

Fully complied.

FA07:

The CDE did not require an opt-out form return form to be sent to parents. To the contrary, they confirmed in an email to us that this would violate the California Healthy Youth Act. It was simply stated that we needed to advise the parent or guardian that they have the right to excuse their child and that they must state their request in writing. We advised the parent of that in our parent letter in English and Spanish.

FA08:

We added a notice regarding any survey to our parent letter. See attached revision of the parent letter to this notice.

**Recommendations:**

RE01:

We have policies, practices and curriculum in place and did so for the entire 19-20 school year.

RE02:

We are and have been providing parents/guardians with the notification of the curriculum.

RE03:

We complied with that. A statement of an alternate curriculum is in the notice.

RE04:

We addressed this in the Parent Letters advising parents that they can either come on campus and view the curriculum or review the information on the website.

RE05:

We complied with that and did advise our parents that they may opt out their child from any part of the curriculum or surveys, while allowing the child to participate in others.

RE06:

We already provide them with an alternate educational curriculum from Prentice Hall Health that meets the alternate curriculum requirements.

RE07:

We were not planning on taking any surveys, but will have one to view on our website for the 20-21 school year.

**Suggested Questions for Charter School  
Response to Grand Jury Inquiry about CHYA at ROA**

- 1. Has the Charter School drafted a written policy and procedure to implement AB 329, the California Healthy Youth Act, including information on human trafficking as required by AB 1227?**

Yes

**If so, when was the policy distributed?**

August 2019

**Please provide a copy of the written policy and procedure.**

(See APPENDIX A)

- 2. Has the Charter School drafted curriculum that meets the requirements of AB 329 and AB 1227, concerning the California Healthy Youth Act and Human Trafficking?**

*Yes. River Oaks Academy uses the already published, online curriculum titled "HS Contemporary Health" created by Edgenuity. For families of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, who have opted out of the CHYA requirement, we supply the student with the Prentice Hall Health curriculum. If students in grades 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> have not yet met the Health course graduation requirement, then the same applies to these students, as well (i.e., they would either take the full health course on Edgenuity; or [if opted out], they would take the Prentice Hall Health course.)*

*Our California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA)-trained teacher, Leanne Staback, modified the Edgenuity course for our middle school students so that they will only be taught the portions of the HS Contemporary Health course required for middle school students by the CHYA.*

*Mrs. Staback also modified the Edgenuity course for our high school students who have already taken the traditional health course in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, so that they will only be taught the portions of the HS Contemporary Health course required for high school students by the CHYA.*

**Please provide a copy of the curriculum.**

(See APPENDIX B)

**3. Please provide the methods implemented for giving notification to parents or guardians of students that the student will be introduced to curriculum required by AB 329.**

*The method used for giving notification to parents or guardians of students that the student will be introduced to curriculum required by AB 329 was via written notice – in English and Spanish – in their back to school packets, along with in-person discussions with their child(ren)'s Supervising Teacher. The parent letter and survey will also be available online via the school website by the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.*

**Please provide a copy of the notice given to parents or guardians of students advising of instruction required by AB 329.**

*(See APPENDIX C)*

**4. What methods are followed for verification that parents or guardians have received actual notice of the fact the sexual health curriculum required by AB 329 will be given to the student and the substance of that curriculum. If a written document acknowledging receipt is returned, please provide a copy of the document returned.**

*The letter is included in the Back-to-School packet handed to parents or guardians, in person, by the students' Coaching Teacher. The curriculum and course options are also discussed in person with the parent or guardian. The CHYA teacher, Leanne Staback, has also posted the content covered on her school website, which has also been shared with all families of 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.*

**5. Does the notification of sexual health curriculum given to parents or guardians of a student include notice of the option of the parent or guardian of the student to have the student excluded from presentation of the curriculum concerning sexual health? Due to the California Department of Education, we cannot provide an "easy to complete opt out form for parents" to fill in.**

*Yes.*

**6. Does that notification advise that for the student, if excluded from the curriculum concerning sexual health, substantial education materials or experience will be substituted?**

*Yes.*

**Please provide a copy of the alternative curriculum to be provided to any student whose parents or guardians have opted out of the sexual health curriculum.**

*Please refer to Appendix B for the curriculum.*

- 7. Does that notification advise that for the student, if excluded from the curriculum concerning sexual health, no academic penalty will attach to the exercise of the option to be excluded. Please provide a copy of the notification given to the parents or guardians of the student.**

Yes.

**Please provide a copy of the notification given to the parents or guardians of the student.**

*See the next page for copies of the parent letter in English and Spanish.*

## Boehmer, Richard

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**From:** Claudia Weintraub <claudia.weintraub@roavc.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2020 8:16 AM  
**To:** Boehmer, Richard  
**Subject:** Fwd: Scanned image from MX-2651  
**Attachments:** noreply\_20200708\_092230.pdf

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

Hello,

We have been trying to send our response, however, it seems that the previous' Foreperson's email is no longer in use and we did not have another name to send this to.

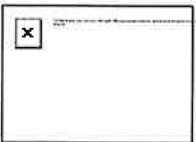
So, we are sending it to you.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Warmly,  
Claudia

Claudia Weintraub  
Director



**a Personalized Learning Public Charter School**  
[www.riveroakscharter.com](http://www.riveroakscharter.com)  
(805) 777-7999 Office  
(805) 300-3157 Cell (emergencies only, please)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Claudia Weintraub <claudia.weintraub@roavc.com>  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 10:29 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Scanned image from MX-2651  
**To:** Margolis, Anida <anida.margolis@ventura.org>

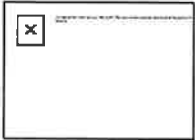
Hello,

Attached, please find our Responses to the 2019-2020 "Final Report-Charter School Implementation of State Mandated Sex Education-AB329" (April 2, 2020) and "Oversight of Charter Schools Authorized by Ventura County School Districts and the Ventura County Office of Education" (April 6, 2020).

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions.

Warmly,  
Claudia

Claudia Weintraub  
Director



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