

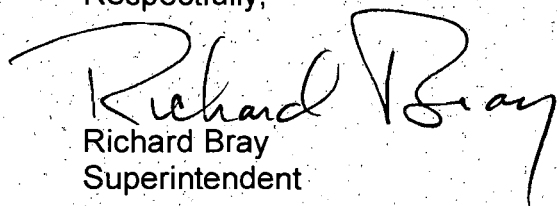
May 27, 2009

The Honorable Kim Dunning  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Dunning:

As requested, attached are the responses to the recommendations from the Tustin Unified School District. If you need further clarification, please contact Frank Southern, Director of Student Services, at (714) 730-7301, Ext. 326.

Respectfully,



Richard Bray  
Superintendent

RB/cmc  
Enclosures (8)

c: Orange County Grand Jury

Tustin Unified School District  
Response to the 2008-2009 Orange County Grand Jury Report  
"Education of Parents in the Development of Strategies to Keep Their Children Out of Gangs"

**FINDINGS**

**Grand Jury Finding F.1**

The early gang prevention and intervention efforts provided by the Probation Department, the District Attorney's Office, and such collaborative efforts as the Pio Pico Collaboration are extremely cost effective when compared to the growth of gangs in Orange County and the subsequent cost of prosecution and incarceration of gang members.

**Response to Finding F.1**

The Tustin Unified School District maintains a collaborative relationship with the Probation Department and the District Attorney's Office in the effort to provide gang prevention and intervention practices.

**Grand Jury Finding F.2**

The most effective way to prevent children from joining gangs, in most cases, is to work with parents of young children to teach them to spot danger signs for gang activity and to help them develop effective strategies to keep their children from joining gangs.

**Response to Finding F.2**

The Tustin Unified School District agrees that working with parents of young children to educate them about the perils of joining gangs is an effective prevention strategy.

**Grand Jury Finding F.3**

The most effective time to begin gang prevention efforts is when children are in elementary school.

**Response to Finding F.3**

The Tustin Unified School District agrees that early intervention regarding gang membership is effective for elementary age youth.

#### **Grand Jury Finding F.4**

The most effective gang prevention and intervention programs are done by a collaboration of government agencies and private organizations and it is important for governmental entities to support such collaboratives.

#### **Response to Finding F.4**

The Tustin Unified School District agrees that successful gang prevention and intervention strategies involve community partnerships that marshal critical resources to support parents and youth.

#### **Grand Jury Finding F.8**

The Pio Pico Collaboration needs to gain certification so that it may be used as a model program for other cities and school districts throughout Orange County.

#### **Response to Finding F.8**

The Tustin Unified School District agrees that researched-based gang prevention and intervention programs should be considered as model programs for replication throughout the county.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Grand Jury Recommendation R.1**

Provide funding and assistance for certification of the Pio Pico Collaboration's Gang Intervention and Prevention Program so that it can be exported to other cities and school districts throughout Orange County.

#### **Response to Recommendation R.1**

The Tustin Unified School District is currently reviewing funding for all prevention and intervention programs. Due to the State's deteriorating financial condition, the budget forecast is unclear and available dollars are uncertain at this time. Each district's Board determines how to spend their scarce resources.

### **Grand Jury Recommendation R.2**

Provide funding to aid in the reproduction of the Pio Pico materials for export to other school districts and cities in Orange County with heavy gang activity and provide funding for coordination of this effort to export materials and technology.

### **Response to Recommendation R.2**

The Tustin Unified School District is currently reviewing funding for all prevention and intervention programs. Due to the State's deteriorating financial condition, the budget forecast is unclear and available dollars are uncertain at this time. Each district's Board determines how to spend their scarce resources.

### **Grand Jury Recommendation R.5**

Recommend that school districts with high numbers of at-risk children join forces and exchange information on how to begin gang prevention and intervention programs, how to expand existing programs by working cooperatively, and how to export proven practices to other districts that would benefit from them.

### **Response to Recommendation R.5**

The Tustin Unified School District maintains a collaborative relationship with the Probation Department, the District Attorney's Office, local law enforcement, school districts, and parents in the effort to provide research-based gang prevention and intervention practices.