



"Equity and
Excellence"

Ocean View School District

17200 Pinehurst Lane
Huntington Beach
California 92647-5569
714/847-2551
Fax: 714/847-1430
Web: www.ovsd.org

District Superintendent
James R. Tarwater, Ed. D.

Board of Trustees
Barbara Boskovich, President
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August 6, 2004

Frederick P. Horn
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Horn:

On June 4, 2004, the Ocean View School District received a copy of the Grand Jury report, "Childhood and Adolescent Obesity: Making the Orange County Schools Part of the Solution." The purpose of this correspondence is to respond to each of the findings and recommendations of the report.

I hope you will find these responses to be helpful in addressing the Grand Jury recommendations.

Sincerely,

James R. Tarwater, Ed.D.
Superintendent

enclosures

c: Orange County Grand Jury - T.W. Staple, M.D., Foreman



OCEAN VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT
Huntington Beach, CA

Response to 2003-2004 Orange County Grand Jury Report
“Childhood and Adolescent Obesity: Making the Orange County Schools Part of the Solution”

Findings	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Implementation Timeline
<p>Finding 1 State Senate Bill 19, partly amended by the California Childhood Obesity Prevention Act, authorized school districts to establish a Child Nutrition and Physical Activity Committee to help coordinate functions and activities that address students' obesity problems.</p>	<p>Each Orange County school district establish a Child Nutrition and Physical Activity Committee to help coordinate functions and activities that address students' obesity problems.</p>	<p>The recommendation has been implemented. For the past 10 years the District's Instructional Advisory Council (IAC) with Health At Risk and Physical Education representatives work to address childhood obesity issues. See attached page for additional information. (1)</p>	<p>Ongoing - Continue for 2004-2005 school year.</p>
<p>Finding 2 All food and beverages prepared by school food services in Orange County schools, or supplied under contract by outside vendors and served on the school campuses, are regulated by federal and state requirements.</p>	<p>School districts in Orange County continue to ensure that food and beverages served on school campuses meet federal and state requirements.</p>	<p>The recommendation has been implemented. The Director of Food Services monitors all food and beverages served to students and ensures all items meet Federal and State requirements.</p>	<p>Ongoing - Continue for the 2004-2005 school year.</p>
<p>Finding 3 A study in Poway has shown that the greatest improvement in the physical fitness of students occurred when the physical education program was supervised by a Physical Education Specialist.</p>	<p>Orange County school districts appoint nutrition and physical education specialists who can train classroom teachers in the essentials of their specialties.</p>	<p>The recommendation has been implemented. Student nutrition is monitored through the District's expanded Physical Education Instructional Advisory Committee. See attached page for additional information. (2)</p>	<p>Ongoing - Continue for the 2004-2005 school year.</p>
<p>Finding 5 Various government grants are available to the schools to help finance and improve the schools' nutrition and physical education programs.</p>	<p>Orange County school districts apply for state and federal grants available for improving physical education and nutrition programs.</p>	<p>The recommendation has been implemented. OVSD applied for and received the Physical Education for Progress (PEP) Grant. See attached page for additional information. (3)</p>	<p>Continue PEP program for the 2004-2005 school year.</p>



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<p>Finding 6 Most school districts, faced with budgetary cuts and greater priority on higher academic standards, have gradually decreased their emphasis on physical education.</p> <p>The Ocean View School District disagrees with this finding.</p>	<p>Orange County school districts make available their playgrounds and outdoor facilities before and after school hours for their students under the supervision of interested faculty members and parents.</p>	<p>This recommendation has been partially met. OVSD has a district Sports Coordinator who organizes after-school intramural sports activities for middle school students. Playgrounds and outdoor facilities are used after school hours four days a week for students involved in the sports program under the supervision of physical education teachers and coaches. The District also has physical education specialists who travel to the elementary schools on a weekly basis. These credentialed specialists utilize playgrounds and outdoor facilities during the school day. All schools in the District make their playgrounds and outdoor facilities available before school, under the supervision of credentialed teachers, prior to the start of the school day every day of the week.</p>	<p>Ongoing - Continue for the 2004-2005 school year.</p>



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<p>Finding 7 Food items provided by the schools' food services are not labeled with their caloric values and nutritional composition; nor is such information posted in the food-serving area.</p> <p>The Ocean View School District disagrees with this finding.</p>	<p>Orange County school districts ensure that either food items sold on their campuses be labeled with the caloric values and nutritional composition or that such information be posted in the food-serving areas.</p>	<p>This recommendation has been partially met. The majority of items served at our schools are labeled with caloric values and nutritional composition. Examples of labeled items are milk, water, juice, yoghurt, cereal, snacks and packaged entries. District will continue planning to implement a program during the 2004-2005 school year to provide nutrition information postings for those items not currently labeled with caloric values and nutritional composition.</p>	<p>The program will be in place by June 2005.</p>
<p>Finding 8 Body Mass Index is not fully utilized as an assessment tool by schools' nutrition and physical education programs, but is used as appropriate by school nurses for clinical purposes</p> <p>The Ocean View School District partially disagrees with this finding.</p>	<p>Orange County school districts incorporate instruction on the Body Mass Index into the nutrition and physical education programs and encourage students to share this information with their families.</p>	<p>The recommendation has been partially implemented. Body Mass Index (BMI) is assessed through the state's mandated fitness testing. Mandatory testing occurs in grades 4 and 7. All middle school students are assessed. See attached page for additional information. (4)</p>	<p>Ongoing - Continue for the 2004-2005 school year.</p>



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR FINDINGS

(1) Finding 1

As part of the Physical Education Program (PEP) grant the Physical Education (P.E.) Instructional Advisory Committee (IAC) was expanded to include not only the district nurse but the Food Service Director. By working together, the district has established a commitment to implement the CA Dairy Council nutrition curriculum across grade levels 1-8.

In addition, the Instructional Advisory Committee developed a tool to help student monitor health and wellness also beginning in grade 1. Full implementation is expected by the 2004-2005 school year. Additionally, elementary school site have used pedometers to begin a “Walk Across America” program. Students and teachers spend ten minutes walking together each day and are monitoring the total number of miles accrued. The goal is to make it across the country from Disneyland to Disneyworld.

(2) Finding 2

Student nutrition is monitored through the expanded P.E. and IAC. Nutritional habits are integrated into the curriculum at each grade level using the Dairy council nutrition curriculum. Student in grades 4 and 5 regularly participate in physical education which is taught by a qualified physical education specialists. Specialists are included in district physical education staff development, and have contributed to the district’s design for physical education. This design promotes the continuity in the instructional program and ensures that physical fitness goals are being met.

(3) Finding 5

The following are the four major goals of the PEP grant:

1. Expansion of the integrated curriculum committee to include health, physical education and nutrition
 2. Professional Development
 3. Implement student portfolio for health/wellness
 4. Purchase of Technology/Equipment
- Components of the PEP grant also includes the SPARK program with a nutrition component.

(4) Finding 8

The BMI is a mathematical calculation (ratio of height:weight). The number correlates a person’s physical stature with mortality ratio based on actuarial studies. This provides student with an idea of their fitness level. To assist with instruction, the PEP grant purchased Tanita scales that electronically measure BMI for each student in a non-invasive way. The technology is called Bio Impedance Analysis. Students will learn their body fat percentage as well as BMI.

In addition, District Nurses use the BMI for screening Type 2 Diabetes.