



December 1, 2004

B Lewis Avera Jr., Forcperson
Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, California 92701

Dear Mr. Avera:

The Brea Olinda Unified School District wishes to cooperate with the Orange County Grand Jury and respond to the report entitled "Combating Truancy in Orange County". Your office requested we respond specifically to:

Findings #8, #15, and #19
Recommendations #14

***Finding #8:** In 2002-03, only 10 of the 27 school districts were represented on the County (Department of Education) SAR Board. In 2003-04, that number has increased by one to 11. Membership on the County SAR Board is open to all County school districts, and all school districts – even those without SAR Boards – would benefit by their participation.*

Response: The Brea Olinda Unified School District does have Orange County SAR Board membership. However, for the past two years the representative has not been able to attend any meetings. As a small district there are shared responsibilities; the SAR Board chairperson also serves as the Principal of our continuation high school, Director of Student Services, and the Homeless Coordinator. The BOUSD SAR Board chairperson did attend one meeting this current year (2004-05) and will continue to make every attempt possible to attend the County SAR Board meetings in the future. She regularly attends county CWA meetings. Information that is shared at the SAR meeting is forwarded to the district representative, including meeting notes and handouts, e-mail, and newsletter/hard copy communications. This information is then communicated to the management team of the Brea Olinda Unified School District.

1 Civic Center Circle, Level II • P.O. Box 300 Brea, California, 92822-0300 • (714) 990-7800; FAX (714) 529-2137

BOARD MEMBERS: Teresa Hampson, *President*; Denise Keller, *Vice President*; James "Bud" Reed, *Clerk*; Dorothy Allen, Russ Kline, Joe Rollino, Susie Sokol.
ADMINISTRATION: Tim Harvey, *Superintendent*; Anne Fletcher, *Asst. Supt./Human Services*; A. J. "Skip" Roland, Ed.D., *Asst. Supt./Business Services*

Finding #15: *School districts that limit or curtail their participation on the County SAR Board because of budgetary constraints may not be aware of the opportunity for reimbursement, through State or federal funding, afforded by Education Code section 48323.*

Response: The Brea Olinda Unified School District, as well as other school districts throughout the county, has had to make budget cuts over the past few years. We are always interested in seeking new sources of revenue for our programs. We will certainly continue to look into the possibility of additional state or federal funding opportunities in order to fund the activities of the County SAR Board.

Finding #1: *Periodic training of school administrators in preparing SARB-referral documentation packages would be beneficial.*

Response: The County SAR Board is planning a workshop to provide training to school administrators in preparing SARB referral documentation packages and the BOUSD SAR Board chairperson will be attending in January. Upon returning, she will update our local procedures and then train site administrators in preparing SARB-referral packets.

Recommendations #14: *All Orange County school districts become aware of the opportunity for reimbursement through State or federal funding, afforded by California Education Code 48323, for participating on the County SAR Board.*

Response: The Brea Olinda Unified School District will research Education Code 48323 to see if they can receive reimbursement for participation in the County SAR Board.

If you have any additional questions regarding these responses to the Grand Jury report, please contact Mrs. Carol Christman, Brea Olinda Unified School District SAR Board Chairperson, at (714) 990-7882.

Sincerely,


Tim Harvey
Superintendent