



Learning for a Lifetime

July 22, 2004

T. W. Staple, M.D., Foreman
2003 – 2004 Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, California 92701

Dear Dr. Staple:

The Fullerton School District appreciates the interest shown by the Orange County Grand Jury concerning the issues of school attendance and obesity. The time taken by the Orange County Grand Jury to study these issues and make recommendations is also to be acknowledged. The Fullerton School District values input and information from an outside perspective. That additional perspective often generates new thought and ideas that may result in action or new practices. While the Fullerton School District wishes to be cooperative with the Orange County Grand Jury and respond to its findings, the Fullerton School District believes that the Grand Jury lacks jurisdiction over the issues of truancy and obesity as indicated by the California Attorney General opinion. See 78 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 290 (1995).

Response to Finding 1

The Fullerton School District agrees with the Grand Jury's recommendation to upgrade the school district's web site with respect to expectations for student attendance. We are discussing with our Information Services Department way in which to upgrade our web site within our limited resources. We will also look into whether Federal or State grants may be available for this purpose.

Response to Finding 8

The Fullerton School District participates in the meetings of the County School Attendance Review Board. Dr. Robert Hobson, Coordinator of Personnel Services and Child Welfare and Attendance represents the Fullerton School District at these meetings. The Orange County Office of Education is in the process of streamlining and coordinating several county-wide meetings to better accommodate the time and schedules of district personnel who perform multiple functions. This coordination should help reduce scheduling conflicts, and travel time for persons with multiple functions and overlapping responsibilities.

Page 2

T. W. Staple, M.D., Foreman

July 22, 2004

Response to Finding 14

The Fullerton School District actively participates in the Orange County School Attendance Review Board. School districts as well as all county agencies have had to make serious budget cuts in the last few years and we anticipate having to make additional cuts in the coming year as well. The Fullerton School District is always interested in seeking new sources of revenue for our programs. We will certainly look into the possibility of additional State or Federal funding that may be available to fund the activities of either County School Attendance Review Board or the Fullerton School District School Attendance Review Board.

Response to Finding 19

The Orange County School Attendance Review Board is in the process of planning a workshop to provide school administrators with training in the preparation of SARB referral documentation packages. The Fullerton School District will ensure that its site administrators are active participants in that training.

Response to Finding 20

The Fullerton School District is an active participant in the Truancy Response Project. We find the commitment and efforts of the District Attorney's Office, and specifically Assistant District Attorney Kathleen Trudell, to be of great value and assistance.

The Fullerton School District agrees with the Grand Jury's statement that "Regular and on-time attendance is vital to a student's success in school." We believe the findings contained in the final report provide documentation of the efforts made by the staff of the Fullerton School District to see that all children attend school on a regular basis. It is hoped that our responses to these specific findings help to clarify our continuing commitment to the importance of school attendance for all children.

Sincerely,



Cameron M. McCune, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Cc: Ronald D. Wenkart
General Counsel
Orange County Dept. of Education