



July 17, 2008

Nancy Weiben Stock
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: Orange County Grand Jury Report – *Are Charter Schools Getting the Passing Grades?*

I have reviewed the submitted copy of the 2007-2008 Orange County Grand Jury Report entitled *Are Charter Schools Getting Passing Grades*. In accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, each finding is to be responded to by the governmental entity to which it is addressed. My responses to the recommendations are as follows:

R-1: *Orange County school districts and Orange County Superintendent of Schools continue to offer expanded choices for educational opportunities, as required by the State Education Code, by utilizing charter schools as an option to provide additional choices, especially for at-risk and academically low-achieving students.*

Required Response to R-1: We agree with the finding. We uphold the provisions of the Education Code and will individually evaluate every charter request against the approval criteria provided in state law, regulations and case law. Additionally, parents are free to place their children at local charter schools without constraint.

R-2: *The chartering authorities should follow the intent of the legislature by encouraging the establishment of charter schools by granting more charter school petitions provided they meet the State requirements.*

Required Response to R-2: We agree with the finding. We will evaluate each charter petition against the approval criteria provided in state law, regulations, and case law. Charter school petitions that meet all of the state requirements will be accepted by the Board of Education.

R-3: *Local school districts provide adequate oversight of charter schools even though State law does not allow for full reimbursement for oversight.*

Required Response to R-3: We agree with the finding. We will work cooperatively with a charter school to reach signed Memos of Understanding in the areas of fiscal, personnel, and curricular oversight.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A.J. Roland". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

A.J. "Skip" Roland
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

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