



BUENA PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

6885 Orangethorpe Avenue, Buena Park, California 90620-1398
(714) 522-8412

FAX (714) 994-1506

Administration:
Mr. Lew Becker, Superintendent
Mr. Greg Magnuson, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Bonnie Bell, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

Governing Board:
L. Carole Jensen, President
Samuel Van Hamblen, Clerk/President Pro Tem
Elizabeth Swift, Ed.D., Member
Jerry Kong, Member
Barbara Michel, Member

July 21, 2008

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

The Honorable Nancy Wieben Stock:

RESPONSE TO ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT

I have reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury Report and have responded to the findings and recommendations as requested in accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05.

FINDINGS

F-1 Orange County Charter schools meet the intent of the Education Code 47600-47664 by providing parents and pupils a choice in educational opportunities, emphasizing specific learning experiences, and aiding at-risk or academically low-achieving students.

I agree with finding F-1 in the report.

F-2 The number of charter schools in Orange County is not growing commensurate with the overall growth of charter schools in California.

Based on the information provided in the Grand Jury Report, I agree with finding F-2.

F-3 The Orange County school districts' oversight costs, in some districts, exceed the authorized 1% reimbursement.

The Buena Park Elementary School District does not have any charter schools and does not have information regarding the oversight costs that are incurred by other districts in the county.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

I agree with recommendation R-1.

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.

I agree with recommendation R-2.

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

I agree with recommendation R-3.

Sincerely,



Lew Becker
Superintendent