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"100 Years of Excellence"

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August 8, 2008

Hon. Nancy Wieben Stock, Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, California 92701

Subject: **Grand Jury Response Regarding Charter Schools**

Dear Judge:

This letter will serve as a response from the Cypress School District regarding the Grand Jury Report, "Are Charter Schools Getting Passing Grades?"

Findings

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

Response: Cypress School District agrees with this finding by the Grand Jury.

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

Response: Cypress School District accepts this finding as presented by the Grand Jury, absent information to the contrary.

F.3 The Orange County school districts' oversight costs, in some districts, exceed the authorized one percent reimbursement.

Response: Cypress School District accepts this finding as presented by the Grand Jury, absent information to the contrary.

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- R.1 Orange County school districts and Orange County Superintendent of Schools continue to offer expanded choices for 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.

Response: We agree with the finding. The Cypress School District is committed to offering choice in educational opportunity for the students of our District.

- 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.

Response: We agree with the finding. The Cypress School District will follow all legal requirements when reviewing petitions for charter schools.

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

Response: We agree with the finding. The Cypress School District will provide required oversight for any charter school within its jurisdiction.

Sincerely,



Sheri Loewenstein
Superintendent

/jb

cc: Orange County Grand Jury
Orange County Department of Education