

Fountain Valley School District
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From the Office of the Superintendent

August 14, 2008

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

Dear Judge Wieben Stock:

Finding F-1:

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

The Fountain Valley School District agrees that charter schools can be of benefit to parents who seek a specific educational focus or philosophy for their child. The population of children within Orange County is diverse and additional choices are valuable for parents who choose to explore a charter school within the realm of public education.

Finding F-2:

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

The Fountain Valley School District has never received a petition for charter, and we believe this is due greatly to the satisfaction level of our stakeholders. Within the boundaries of our District, we feel confident that community response would not warrant the time and expense of the application process, and believe that the majority would believe this to be true throughout Orange County. The public satisfaction in Orange County's school districts is high, and as such, the Grand Jury's findings concerning low county growth of charter schools is probably true.

Our mission is to promote a foundation for academic excellence, mastery of basic skills, responsible citizenship, and a desire by students to achieve their highest potential through a partnership with home and community.

Finding F-3:

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

The Fountain Valley School District believes the findings of the Orange County Grand Jury to be true.

Recommendation R-1

Orange County Districts continue to offer expanded choices for educational opportunities as required by State Education Code, by utilizing charter schools as an option to provide additional choices especially for at-risk and academically low-achieving students.

The Fountain Valley School District agrees with the findings and would be supportive of parental choice for charter schools for their child.

Recommendation R-2

Chartering authorities follow the intent of the legislature by encouraging the establishment of charter schools by granting more charter school petitions provided they meet State requirements.

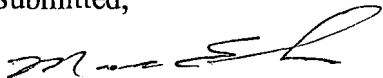
The Fountain Valley School District agrees with the recommendation that chartering agencies should abide with the intent of legislation so long as State requirements are met.

Recommendation R-3

Local school districts provide adequate oversight of charter schools even though State law doesn't allow for full reimbursement for such oversight.

The Fountain Valley School District agrees with the recommendation and would be in full agreement to work agreeably and helpfully with a charter school in all areas of oversight to help with smooth operation and to best serve the students and community.

Submitted,



Marc Ecker, Ph.D., Superintendent
Fountain Valley School District
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c: Orange County Grand Jury ✓