



*"Preparing today's students to  
succeed in tomorrow's world"*

Monday, August 29, 2006

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

RE: Response to the Grand Jury Report, "Are Schools Feeding or Fighting Obesity?"

Dear Judge Stock:

Enclosed please find the Saddleback Valley Unified School District's required response to the Orange County Grand Jury report, "Are Schools Feeding or Fighting Obesity?"

The District has responded to required findings and recommendations in the report. We appreciate the efforts of the Grand Jury in this matter and support all efforts to address and improve student nutrition.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven L. Fish".

Steven L. Fish, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

fm/tjb

C: Orange County Grand Jury  
✓Attn: Donna Vinnacombe

**SADDLEBACK VALLEY  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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SUPERINTENDENT

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**SVUSD Response to Grand Jury Report dated June 12, 2006**  
**“Are Schools Feeding or Fighting Obesity?”**

**FINDINGS**

Under California *Penal Code* § 933 and § 933.05, responses are required to all findings. The responses are to be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. Based on the findings, the 2005-2006 Orange County Grand Jury has arrived at the following findings:

**6.1:**                    Control over competitive foods: Most school district food service directors do not have control over all food and beverages sold on school campuses. Most often excluded are competitive foods, *i.e.*, food and beverages sold through vending machines, student stores, and fund raising events.

*District Response:*    *We partially agree with the finding. Although the Food Service Director does not have absolute control over competitive food sales, Saddleback Valley Unified School District currently has the ability to discuss the situation with such pertinent groups as PTA/PTO and parent volunteer groups, etc. This allows for monitoring and compromise on items being sold and, thereby, mitigating most problems before they happen.*

**6.2:**                    Compliance with federal and state laws: Responding Orange County food service directors indicated their school districts are either in compliance with or will be in compliance with recently enacted federal and state laws addressing child wellness and obesity.

*District Response:*    *Agree. We are in compliance with federal and state laws.*

**6.3:**                    School nutrition programs: Some Orange County schools have developed creative nutrition programs that go beyond state and federal legislation to fight obesity.

*District Response:*    *Agree. We have developed some very creative programs, and we participate in the Orange County Department of Education’s collaborative endeavors in this area.*

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

In accordance with California *Penal Code* § 933 and § 933.05, each recommendation will be responded to by the government entity to which it is addressed. The responses are to be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. Based on the findings, the 2005-2006 Orange County Grand Jury makes the following recommendations:

**7.1:**                    Control over competitive foods: Orange County school districts should consider granting food service directors more control over sales of all food and beverages on district campuses. (See Finding 6.1)

*District Response:*    *This has been implemented in conjunction with the recently adopted Wellness Policy. The Food Service Director is the chief contact person regarding the types of foods groups may sell during the school day.*

**7.2:** Compliance with federal and state laws: School districts should ensure compliance with legislated actions and dates addressing child wellness and obesity. (See Finding 6.2)

*District Response: Compliance with federal and state laws: This has been implemented. All Federal and State laws have either been met or have been implemented with Board approval, earlier than the mandated compliance timeline.*

**7.3:** School nutrition programs: To fight obesity, Orange County schools should consider researching and developing nutrition programs that go beyond state and federal legislation. (See Finding 6.3)

*District Response: School nutrition programs: This has been implemented. We have programs designed to teach as well as to engage students in adopting healthy personal nutritional habits. Our nutritional education programs span the entire school year and all grade levels, elementary through high school. As part of implementation for both the newly adopted health textbook and the new District wellness policy, teachers will be receiving targeted nutrition instruction. We are encouraging teachers and all other staff to conscientiously serve as role models for our students in this area. In addition, the District is working with principals and parent groups to educate and promote good nutrition and quality activity for children.*