

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

Dennis M. Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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July 10, 2008

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

Dear Judge Wieben Stock:

RE: Orange County Grand Jury Report – Are Charter Schools Getting 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 findings are as follows:

FINDINGS

- F-1: Based on the information presented in the report, I assume that the Orange County Grand Jury finding that Orange County charter schools meet the intent of the Education Code by providing parents and pupils choice in educational opportunities, emphasizing specific learning experiences is accurate. I cannot determine by the report the degree to which these charter schools are aiding at-risk or academically low-achieving students.
- F-2: Based on the information presented in the report, I assume that the Orange County Grand Jury finding that the number of charter schools in Orange County is not growing commensurate with the overall growth of charter schools in California is accurate.
- F-3: Based on the information presented in the report, I assume that the Orange County Grand Jury report that Orange County school districts' oversight costs in some districts exceed the authorized 1 percent reimbursement per this finding is accurate.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R-1: The respondent agrees.

I believe Orange County school districts and the Orange County superintendent of schools have and will continue to offer expanded choices for educational



opportunities as required in the state Education Code by authorizing quality charter schools as an option to provide additional choices, especially for at-risk and academically low-achieving students.

- R-2: The respondent agrees.

The chartering authorities should follow the intent of legislation by allowing the establishment of charter schools provided that they meet state requirements.

- R-3: The respondent agrees.

Local school districts must provide adequate oversight of charter schools despite the fact that state law does not allow for full reimbursement of such oversight.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "S".

Dennis M. Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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