



SUPERINTENDENT

Christopher Downing, Ed.D.

Board of Education

Jackie Filbeck

Ryan A. Ruelas

Juan Gabriel Álvarez

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Dr. Jose Paolo Magcalas

September 14, 2023

The Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Anaheim Elementary School District's Response to the 2022-23 Orange County Grand Jury Report on *Russian Roulette: Fentanyl in Orange County*

To The Orange County Grand Jury:

The Anaheim Elementary School District (District) commends the Grand Jury for its time and attention devoted to studying this very important issue and publishing the Grand Jury Report dated June 21, 2023 titled: *Russian Roulette: Fentanyl in Orange County* (Report).

The District has thoroughly reviewed and considered the Findings and Recommendations in the Report. In accordance with California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Grand Jury has requested that the District respond to Findings and Recommendations made in the Report. The District responds to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations with the following:

Finding 2

Illicit fentanyl is a pervasive problem in Orange County.

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding 7

Orange County will benefit by establishing a chartered multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis in Orange County.

The District agrees with this finding.

Finding 8

As long as there is a demand, producers will find ways to supply drugs. Orange County cannot law enforce its way out of the fentanyl crisis. Education, prevention, and treatment are critical to reducing demand.

The District agrees with this finding.

Finding 9

There is a need to increase public awareness and acknowledgement of the risks of illicit fentanyl.

The District agrees with this finding.

Finding 10

Some educational institutions are not participating in available educational and preventive fentanyl/drug programs.

The District agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 1

By January 1, 2024, the Orange County Board of Supervisors should charter a multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented as it is directed to the Orange County Board of Supervisors and has a January 1, 2024 date for implementation. The District would participate in the "multi-agency Task Force" if invited.

Recommendation 5

By January 1, 2024, the Orange County Department of Education should develop a model fentanyl/opioid educational program to be offered to all K-12 school districts in Orange County.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented as it is directed to the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) and has a January 1, 2024 date for implementation. The District would implement a fentanyl/opioid educational program should OCDE develop one and offer it to our District.

Recommendation 6

By October 1, 2023, the Orange County Department of Education should promote the use of currently established and in-place fentanyl and drug-related educational programs offered by OC agencies such as Health Care Agency, OC Sheriff's Department, and non-governmental organizations to all K-12 school districts in Orange County.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented as it is directed to the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) and has an October 1, 2023 date for implementation. The District would implement educational programs recommended by OCDE.

Please accept the information provided herein as the District's responses to the Orange County Grand Jury's Factual Findings and Recommendation in the Report. Once again, we appreciate the time and attention that the Grand Jury devoted to this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracey Golden". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Tracey Golden
Senior Director of School Safety and Operations
Anaheim Elementary School District