August 4, 2014

The Honorable Glenda Sanders
Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701


To the Honorable Glenda Sanders:

In accordance with California Penal Code section 933.05, the Orange County Grand Jury has requested that the Santa Ana Unified School District (“District”) respond to Findings 8, 9, 10, 11 and Recommendation 2, in the 2013-14 Orange County Grand Jury Report entitled, “Juvenile Offenders and Recidivism: Orange County Solutions.”

Finding 8: The recently established collaborative teams of the Community Day School, Santa Ana Unified School District, Orange County Probation, and various community services, are working as a cohesive team within the budget limitations of this pilot program.

Response to Finding 8: The District agrees with this finding and is pleased to be working with exemplary partners such as the Orange County Probation Department and the many community agencies who have committed their time and resources to this program. We value and prioritize collaborative efforts that reduce juvenile recidivism and increase academic success for our students.

Finding 9: The Probation Department and Santa Ana Unified School District staffs are dedicated to behavioral modification treatments. Additional staff and programs are needed to provide psychological therapies for many juveniles.

Response to Finding 9: The District agrees that behavior modifications and other psychological therapies could benefit at-risk students attending Community Day School. For that reason, the District and several community partners of the Community Day School pilot program have collaborated and leveraged resources to increase therapeutic services as of September 2, 2014.

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Finding 10: To date, the pilot program of Community Day School is not academically accredited.

Response to Finding 10: The District agrees to continue its effort to seek WASC accreditation for Community Day School.

Finding 11: OCPD indicated their intention to replicate the Community Day School to other areas of Orange County, upon successful completion of the pilot program.

Response to Finding 11: The District agrees replication could be beneficial to students throughout Orange County and would be willing to provide information that may assist with that process.

Recommendation 2: The Santa Ana Unified School District, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Orange County Probation Department should continue to seek academic accreditation for the Community Day School.

Response to Recommendation 2: The District agrees to continue its effort to seek WASC accreditation for Community Day School.

If you have any further questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Heidi Cisneros, Executive Director, Pupil Support Services at (714) 433-3484.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Miller, Ph.D  
Superintendent

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