March 1, 2013

The Honorable Thomas J. Borris
Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Westminster School District’s (WSD) Response to 2011-12 Orange County Grand Jury Report, “Anti-Bullying Programs in Orange County Schools”

To the Honorable Thomas J. Borris:

In August of 2012, the Westminster School District submitted its response to the Orange County Grand Jury’s letter dated June 26, 2012 concerning its findings in the report titled “Orange County Grand Jury Report: Anti-Bullying Programs in Orange County Schools.” The District’s response included action plans to address the concerns noted in the Orange County Grand Jury’s Report.

On June 21, 2012, the Westminster School District Board of Trustees adopted a new Bullying Board Policy #5131.2 that created a universal definition of “bullying” based on Education Code 48900(r).

Since the submission of our report the following actions were completed:
On September 18, 2012 the following information was discussed with the Certificated and Classified Management Team:

- The Bullying Board Policy and Administrative Regulations
- The Bullying Policy and Procedures Checklist to ensure compliance
- The Discrimination, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Posters
- The updated Uniform Complaint Procedure (UCP)
- Explicit protocols for documenting incidents in the Aeries Student Database
- Schoolwide “Stop, Walk, Talk” Intervention strategy to prevent bullying

On November 13, 2012, the focus of the Principal Academy included a presentation on the legal requirements for immediate response to bullying. Staff was also instructed on documentation protocols in the district student database. Site administration was instructed to implement the same training with all certificated and classified staff. These trainings occurred between December 7, 2012 and January 31, 2013. Staff will receive annual training, and evidence of follow through will be collected by the Compliance Officer of the Safe Schools, Healthy Students Department. These protocols will be included in each school’s Comprehensive School Safety Plan.

Additionally, a letter informing staff, parents, and students of the Uniform Complaint Procedure (UCP) was sent to all staff, parents of students and students on December 20, 2012. It is also posted on our website main page in three languages. On February 14, 2013, UCP policy was updated to include more explicit language provided by California Department of Education.

Finally, all seventeen of WSD’s school sites will continue to implement a comprehensive systemic response to all forms of bullying, harassment, discrimination, and other unsafe behaviors with the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system.

Sincerely,

Richard Tauer,
Superintendent