



La Habra City School District

500 North Walnut, La Habra, California 90631-3769

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Administrative Services

August 26, 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 was Superintendent of the La Habra City School District during and up until June 30, 2008 (the date of my retirement from the District) at which time the Grand Jury Report on "Are Charter Schools Getting Passing Grades?" was released and required responses to said report submitted on or before August 26, 2008. Due to my replacement having to do double duty until that time a new assistant superintendent could be hired and trained for assuming District Personnel and Instruction responsibilities, I felt that it was my duty to provide the required responses to the Grand Jury report. I had been subpoenaed to be a witness in an upcoming civil trial and have been preparing myself for this difficult task and allowed this Grand Jury response to be late by one day. I sincerely apologize for this and hope that my omission will not reflect on the La Habra City School District.

On behalf of the La Habra City School District in accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the responses to the Grand Jury Report are as follows:

Findings:

F-1: Based on the information presented in the report, it is assumed 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. As far as the degree charter schools are aiding at-risk or academically low-achieving students per the report is difficult to determine.

F-2: Based on the information presented in the report, it is believed that the 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 an accurate conclusion.

F-3: Based on the information presented in the report, it is believed that the Grand Jury finding that school districts' oversight costs of charter schools in some districts exceed the authorized one percent reimbursement is accurate.

Recommendations:

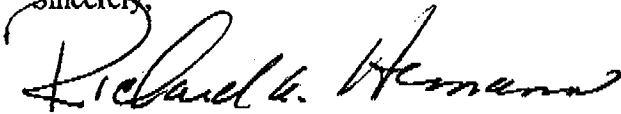
R-1: It is agreed that Orange County school districts and the Orange County Superintendent of Schools have and will continue to offer expanded choices for educational opportunities as required in the Education Code. This would be interpreted specifically to include authorizing quality charter schools as an option to provide additional choices, particularly for at-risk and academically low-achieving students.

R-2: It is agreed that chartering authorities should follow the intent of legislation by allowing the establishment of charter schools provided that they meet state requirements.

R-3: It is further agreed that local schools districts must provide adequate oversight of charter schools despite the fact that state law does not allow for full reimbursement of said oversight.

Hopefully this report reaffirms the Orange County community's overall satisfaction with the educational options presently provided within the county's school districts.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Hermann, Ed.D.
Retired Superintendent

C.c. Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701