



HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Van W. Riley, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

October 20, 2006

Superior Court - Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: **2005-2006 Orange County Grand Jury Report: "Are Schools Feeding or Fighting Obesity?"**

The following is the response to the findings and recommendations listed in the Grand Jury report.

Findings/Recommendations:

Finding 6.1: Control over competitive foods: Most school district food service directors do not have control over all food and beverages sold on school campuses. Most often excluded are competitive foods, i.e. Food and beverages sold through vending machines, student stores and fund raising events.

District Response: Based on the results of the report, this appears to be an accurate finding.

Recommendation 7.1: Orange County school districts should consider granting food service directors more control over sales of all food and beverages on district campuses.

District Response: The HBUHSD grants the food service administrator control over food and beverages sold or offered on school campuses through the school nutrition programs. The nutrition program has control over some of the vending machines. School district board policy limits competitive food sales on campus by student and adult organizations. Enforcement of existing policy often is a challenge for the site principal and the food service administrator. When we discover an inappropriate food sale, the food service administrator and/or the assistant superintendent of business inform the school site principal of the situation. The school principal is to cancel the sale or find another alternative fundraiser. Approved organizations have been requested to submit nutritional content of the foods and beverages they sell or offer on campus. Lists of foods meeting SB 12 standards have been distributed to school administrators and PTA representatives.

Our mission is to educate all students, responding to their diverse needs, using a challenging curriculum with multiple avenues of learning, to develop creative, responsible and productive members of our community.

Finding 6.2: Compliance with federal and state laws: Responding Orange County food service directors indicated their school districts are either in compliance with or will be in compliance with recently enacted federal and state laws addressing child wellness and obesity.

District Response: HBUHSD responded to the survey and we are in agreement with this finding.

Recommendation 7.2: School districts should ensure compliance with legislated actions and dates addressing child wellness and obesity.

District Response: HBUHSD intent is to be in compliance with all legislated actions on or before the effective dates addressing child wellness and obesity. The district board of trustees adopted the school wellness policy in June 2006. It is the goal of HBUHSD to implement policies that do not discriminate, exclude or discourage access of needy and non-needy students from the school meal programs.

Finding 6.3: School nutrition programs: Some Orange County schools have developed creative nutrition programs that go beyond the state and federal legislation to fight obesity.

Recommendation 7.3: School nutrition programs: To fight obesity, Orange County schools should consider researching and developing nutrition programs that go beyond state and federal legislation.

District Response:

The HBUHSD has participated in many nutrition and physical activity programs offered by the state and private organizations to address obesity. Our partners included students, teachers, health professionals and the community. The programs include:

1. **Project LEAN (Leaders Encouraging Activity and Nutrition)**
This project was designed to educate and expose students, teachers and the community to integrating nutrition and physical activity into the classrooms, daily lives and recreational activities. Training was conducted for teachers and students to take the lead in creating an environment and exposing others to nutrition and physical activity.
2. **SHAPE (Shaping Health As Partners in Education)**
Several presentations and lessons were developed to integrate into the classroom such as math, chemistry, physiology, economics, consumer and family and physical education.
3. **California Nutrition Network**
Specific scopes of work were developed to reach students, teachers, nurses, nutrition services staff and parents. Training, presentations and lessons have been developed and taught. These areas include basic nutrition, nutrition and disease, nutrition and academic performance, nutrition and physical activity performance plus many other topics. The academic and elective departments participating in nutrition education

has expanded to include special education, English, social science, art and photography, to name a few.

We are working with teachers to align applicable nutrition lessons with the California State Teaching Standards.

Several events were conducted to promote and market healthy living. These included, food demonstrations, surveys, Walk to School Day, National School Lunch Week, sports nutrition seminars, walk a thons, student Farmer's Market, a student nutrition advocate club, Milk Mustache Campaign to promote the importance of dairy product, and many other activities.

Collaboration with 5 A Day to promote the consumption of five fresh fruits and vegetables every day.

Expansion of the nutrition and physical activities to two other K-8 school districts whose students feed into the HBUHSD for grades 9-12.

4. California Fresh Start Program
HBUHSD participates in the CFSP, which promotes the consumption of fruits and vegetables by school children.
5. Nutrition Website
HBUHSD has implemented free access to our food and nutrition website to promote healthy nutrition and physical activity programs and resources. The website can be accessed by going to www.hbuhsd.org under the District Info heading. This site provides menus and nutritional information, nutrition presentations and flyers for teachers. In addition, nutrition tips for students and parents, nutrition resources for teachers, students, parents and community members. The website also has an Ask the R.D. page for people with nutrition related questions.
6. Effective 2007-2008 school year, a semester of health will be a required class for graduation in the HBUHSD.

Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (714) 903-7000 Ext. 4301.

Sincerely,



Stephen Ritter
Assistant Superintendent
Business Services

cc: Nancy Weibenstock
Presiding Judge