

# Julian Union School District

P.O. Box 337 • Julian, CA 92036 • (760) 765-0661 • Fax (760) 765-0220

*"Our mission is to provide every student success in learning"*

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SAN DIEGO  
COUNTY GRAND JURY

September 17, 2019

To the Honorable Peter C. Deddeh, Presiding Judge of the San Diego County Superior Court,

I am writing on behalf of the Julian Union School District as its Superintendent in response to the Grand Jury report titled "Charter School Oversight by San Diego County Small School Districts."

The Julian Union School District takes its charter school oversight responsibilities very seriously. The District has a long-standing, healthy relationship with its authorized charter schools, first authorizing Julian Charter School 20 years ago. We take pride in our oversight and our responsibilities to families and students. Much has changed over the last two decades and we constantly review our programs and our oversight duties. We will continue to adapt as the Charter Schools Act and guidance from the California Department of Education changes.

We appreciate that the Grand Jury recognized the District's on-going commitment to meet the oversight requirements of the Charter Schools Act. (Finding 01.) As I explained to the Grand Jury, the District does more than the minimum legal requirements. The District has always felt that it should exceed these minimums to do effective oversight of charter schools. My responses reflect what the District already does to exceed these requirements, what the District has put in place since I was interviewed by the Grand Jury, and what the District plans to do to ensure we continue to provide quality oversight of charter schools.

Governing Board: Elaine Bicanic, Kevin Meacham, Mark Romero, Susan Slaughter, and Danielle Woodward  
Principal K-5: Scot Copeland • Superintendent: Brian Duffy

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Finding 02: The authorizing districts visits are too short and too infrequent for competent oversight.

Recommendation 19-37: Increase the duration and the frequency of visits to their charters beginning with the next (2019/20) school year.

We disagree with the report's blanket conclusion that charter school visits are too short and too infrequent for competent oversight. Nonetheless, the District is constantly seeking to improve its oversight of charter schools and is taking steps this school year to implement the Grand Jury's recommendation.

The District's practice has always been to visit sites more than the minimum of one visit per school year. However, these extra visits have not always occurred on a regular schedule. In the future, we will visit a charter school site a minimum of 3 times each school year spread out evenly over the school year.

Finding 03: limited oversight visits to home schools, primarily virtual or exclusively virtual schools are ineffective.

Finding 04: oversight visits to the charter schools lack direction and criteria-based plans.

Recommendation 19-38: Create and implement a formal, structured, criteria-based plan for guidance during visits to charters by the 2019/20 school year and continue these practices into the into the future.

Recommendation 19-39:

Investigate methods for observing and evaluating virtual learning as an extension of their charter visits by the 2019/20 school year.

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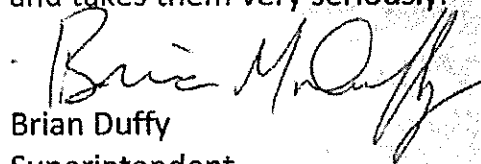
The District addresses Findings 03 and 04, and Recommendations 19-38 and 19-39, together because they are interrelated.

The District agrees that oversight visits to home school or primarily virtual charter school programs could be more effective. The District disagrees that its oversight visits lack direction, but agrees that they could follow more thorough, criteria-based plans. The District is adopting Recommendations 19-38 and 19-39.

Working with charter leaders and directors of online or virtual programs, our oversight visits will consist of meetings with teachers and parents of the program either in person, by video conference, or by phone to gather information. We will also review online or virtual resources as part of our evaluation.

The District has revised its visit checklist by reviewing the FCMAT template and modifying our form to include more criteria. This new checklist includes a more in-depth look at the program and/or facility. Much more information will be gathered about student programs and assessments. We have always had informal contacts with parents, but now we intend to have more formal interviews with students and parents involved in each program. We have also attended trainings and adopted the San Diego County Office of Education's template for Budget review. Both new Checklists are included with this response.

The Julian Union School District appreciates the Grand Jury's recommendations and takes them very seriously.



Brian Duffy

Superintendent

Julian Union School District

# Julian Union School District Observation

Charter School:

Date:

Type of facility:

State of facility or any notable observations:

Enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_students - ELL \_\_\_\_\_ students \_\_\_\_\_% SPED

Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Description of program:

Reason for visit:

Notable observations:

Parent contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Student name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Date of contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Direct \_\_\_\_\_

Parent information

The school is following its curricular and instructional plan as presented in the approved charter petition. The plan has been updated to include the new requirements regarding the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and requirements to adopt a local control accountability plan (LCAP). The plan includes the following: Implementing the Common Core State Standards

\_\_\_\_\_Improving student achievement, graduation rates, and school performance

\_\_\_\_\_Providing services for English learner (EL) students, low-income (LI) students, and students in foster care

\_\_\_\_\_Increasing student participation in college preparation, advanced placement, and career technical education (CTE) courses

\_\_\_\_\_Employing qualified teachers, providing sufficient instructional materials, and maintaining facilities

\_\_\_\_\_Providing opportunities for parent involvement

\_\_\_\_\_The school uses state standards-based instructional materials and includes an implementation plan for the new Common Core State Standards.

## **High School**

\_\_\_\_\_Parents are informed about the transferability of courses to other public high schools and the eligibility of courses to meet college entrance requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_The school has requested accreditation through the Western Association of Schools and colleges (WASC) or other sources.

## **504 Program**

\_\_\_\_\_The school has a process for determining a student's eligibility for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

\_\_\_\_\_The school develops and implements accommodation plans for students who are eligible under Section 504.

## **Special Education**

\_\_\_\_\_Appropriate placement for students who are enrolling with IEPs.

\_\_\_\_\_A system is in place school wide to identify and assess students for IEPs.

\_\_\_\_\_Compliance with special education timelines.

\_\_\_\_\_Students who are identified for special education are receiving services required by their IEPs.

\_\_\_\_\_The school uses instructional materials and other resources that address the specific needs of special education students.

\_\_\_\_\_Students identified for special education are receiving services from teachers holding the legally required credentials, certificates and/or authorizations.

## **English Language Learners**

\_\_\_\_\_The school follows a process to identify and reclassify students who are English learners.

\_\_\_\_\_The school has a person designated to ensure ELL students are assessed and monitored.

\_\_\_\_\_The school uses instructional materials that address the specific needs of English learners.

\_\_\_\_\_Students identified as English learners are receiving services from teachers holding the legally required credentials, certificates and/or authorizations.

## **Assessment**

\_\_\_\_\_The school participates in testing as required for all K-12 schools in California.

\_\_\_\_\_A review of data indicates that the school is on target to meet renewal requirements as set forth in EC 47607(b).

\_\_\_\_\_Assessment data is available for review by parents.

Other notes: