

Cuyama Joint Unified School District

P. O. Box 271, New Cuyama, California 93254

(661) 766-2482 • Fax: (661) 766-2255

www.cuyamaunified.org

Superintendent/Principal
Roland Maier

August 9, 2012

Chief Business Officer
Chris Rahe
Administrative Assistant
Whitney Goller

The Honorable Judge Brian Hill
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Santa Barbara County
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Re: Cuyama Joint Unified School District
2011-12 Santa Barbara Grand Jury Report; Dated June 7, 2012
"Reducing Truancy Throughout the County"

To the Honorable Judge Brian Hill:

Pursuant to the requirements of California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Cuyama Joint Unified School District ("Respondent" or "school district") provides the following comments on the findings and recommendations.

Finding 2: Between 2000 and 2008, Santa Barbara County had an effective truancy program under the direction of the Santa Barbara County Office of the District Attorney. During that time, the truancy rate averaged 20 percent.

Response: Respondent presently has no independent bases to agree or disagree with this finding. For purposes of this response, Respondent accepts the finding of the Grand Jury as correct.

Finding 3: After the termination of the program, truancy rates increased to a high of 30.76 percent in Santa Barbara County in 2010-11 and exceeded the truancy rate for the State of California for three years in a row.

Response: Respondent presently has no independent bases to agree or disagree with this finding. For purposes of this response, Respondent accepts the finding of the Grand Jury as correct.

Finding 5: Reducing truancy rates at the secondary school level would result in significantly increased revenues to the school districts.

Response. Respondent agrees that reducing truancy would result in increased ADA.

Recommendation 1: That each secondary school district be responsible for establishing and operating its own truancy reduction program that conforms to the legal requirements of the State of California's Education Code by the beginning of the 2012-13 school year.

Response: Implemented. This recommendation is consistent with the current policy and practices of the school district.

Recommendation 4: That all secondary school districts document their efforts to address truancy in a manner that can be used by the Office of the District Attorney, if and when legal proceedings are initiated.

Response: Implemented. The school district maintains its records pursuant to the requirements of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations and the Education Code which in turn is adequate for Evidence Code purposes. The school district stands ready to assist the Office of the District Attorney as may be requested in any particular matter.

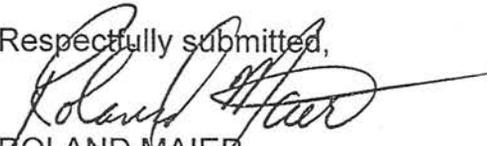
Recommendation 5: That all secondary school districts estimate the amount of money lost in the 2011-12 school year due to truancy and report this information to their school boards, the Santa Barbara County Education Office and the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors.

Response: Will be implemented by Respondent prior to the end of this calendar year.

Recommendation 6: That all secondary school districts track any reduction in truancy after the implementation of the truancy reduction program and calculate the increase in revenue resulting from such reduction and report this information to their school boards, the Santa Barbara County Education Office and the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors.

Response: Will be implemented by Respondent in a timely manner.

The Governing Board of the Cuyama Joint Unified School District and its Superintendent appreciate the concern and efforts of the Grand Jury to reduce truancy and look forward to working with the Office of the District Attorney regarding same.

Respectfully submitted,

ROLAND MAIER
Superintendent