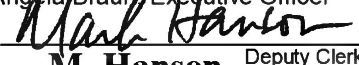


September 15, 2026

Hon. Patricia Kelly

Presiding Judge, Santa Barbara County Superior Court

Via email: pkelly@sbcourts.org

FILED
SUPERIOR COURT of CALIFORNIA
COUNTY of SANTA BARBARA
09/16/2026
Angela Braun Executive Officer
BY 
M. Hanson Deputy Clerk

2025-26 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury

Via email: sbcgj@sbcourts.org

Re: Response of Peabody Charter School to the Grand Jury Report “Public Participation Without Barriers: Brown Act Clarity at School Board Meetings”

Dear Judge Kelly and Members of the Grand Jury:

Peabody Charter School (“School”) received the report “Public Participation Without Barriers: Brown Act Clarity at School Board Meetings” (“Report”) on June 20, 2026. Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the School submits the following response to the Findings and Recommendations assigned to it in the Report’s Table of Applicability of Findings and Recommendations: Findings 1, 3, and 4, and Recommendations 1, 3a, 3b, and 4.

Finding 1: Some education governing boards’ agendas and public comment instructions imply that members of the public must complete a speaker card, sign-up sheet, online form, or provide identifying information in order to speak at a public meeting.

Response: Agree.

Recommendation 1: The Grand Jury recommends that each education governing board, where listed in Table 1 below, review agenda language and public comment instructions to plainly state that speaker cards, sign-up sheets, and online forms are optional tools used solely to help organize public comment, and to affirm that any person may address the board during public comment periods without providing a name, address, or other personal identifying information. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Response: Has been implemented.

Implementation summary: The School’s existing Speaker Card for General Public Comment already designated the name field as optional, consistent with the requirement that speakers not be compelled to provide a name as a condition of speaking. To make this even clearer to the public, the School reviewed and revised both its Speaker Card and its agenda cover page guidelines (“Oral Communications to the Board by Staff, Parents and Citizens”) to state plainly that the speaker card and the Request to Speak forms themselves are optional tools, and that a person is not required to complete any form in order to speak. The Speaker Card now explicitly states that a person does not need to fill out a card to speak and may instead raise their hand to indicate that they would like to provide public comment. The agenda cover page guidelines now state that the blue Request to Speak form and the yellow Request to Speak on Specific Agenda Items form are each “available but not required.” These clarifications were completed and adopted for use at Board meetings as of June 2026.

Finding 3: Some governing boards provide no way to participate remotely while public comment is officially open.

Response: Agree.

Recommendation 3a: The Grand Jury recommends that each education governing board, where listed in Table 1 below, provide video conferencing for remote participation, which can also be used as a broadcast archive. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Response: Will not be implemented.

Explanation: Pursuant to Education Code section 47604.1 the School is not required to provide video conferencing for remote participation at Board meetings or to archive such video conferences. Additionally, Peabody Charter School is a small, single-site TK–6 charter school with limited administrative and technical staff. The School does not have the staffing or budget resources to implement and reliably operate live video conferencing for Board meetings, manage remote public comment in real time, and record and archive meetings electronically on an ongoing basis. Moreover, the School draws from a parent population that lives in close proximity to the school site where Board meetings are held, which facilitates in-person attendance and participation. The School will continue to evaluate this recommendation as resources allow.

Recommendation 3b: The Grand Jury recommends that, where remote participation is offered, agendas clearly explain how the public may observe and provide comment remotely at any time public comment is open. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Response: Will not be implemented.

Explanation: Because the School does not currently offer, and is not implementing, remote participation for the reasons stated in its response to Recommendation 3a, this recommendation does not currently apply. Should the School's capacity to offer remote participation change in the future, it will ensure that agenda language clearly explains how the public may observe and comment remotely.

Finding 4: Some governing boards do not consistently post meeting minutes in a clear and easy-to-find location, which makes it harder for the public to track board actions over time.

Response: Agree.

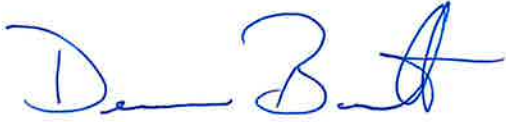
Recommendation 4: The Grand Jury recommends each governing board adopt a written practice for promptly posting approved minutes on its website. As a best practice, approved minutes should be posted within five business days after approval, with past minutes kept in an accessible online archive. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Response: Has been implemented.

Implementation summary: While the posting of Board meeting minutes by a California public charter school is not statutorily mandated, the School has established a written practice ensuring that approved Board meeting minutes are posted to the School's website within five business days of approval, with past minutes maintained in an accessible online archive. This practice was established by the end of June 2026.

The School appreciates the Grand Jury's review and the opportunity to strengthen transparency and public participation at its Board meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dem Barnett", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Demian Barnett, EdD
Superintendent/Principal
Peabody Charter School
4925-6653-8678, v. 2

