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June 15, 2018

The Honorable John B. Ellis
Presiding Judge of the Solano County Superior Court
Hall of Justice
600 Union Ave
Fairfield, CA 94533

RE: 2017-2018 Grand Jury Report Entitled: Charter Schools in Solano County

Dear Judge Ellis:

The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) was named as an affected party in the 2017-18 Grand Jury Report titled *Charter Schools in Solano County* and, therefore, is required to respond under California Penal Code 933.05.

Below are SCOE's responses to the finding and recommendation contained in the Grand Jury Report.

Finding 1 – Parent Participation in charter schools is voluntary, not mandatory.

Response to Finding 1: SCOE agrees with the finding citing Education Code section 47605 subdivision (n) as follows: "A charter school may encourage parental involvement, but shall notify the parents and guardians of applicant pupils and currently enrolled pupils that parental involvement is not a requirement for acceptance to, or continued enrollment at, the charter school."

Recommendation 1 – Charter schools state on their websites and any related documentation, that parent participation is strictly voluntary and not required, per Education Code section 47605 subdivision (n).

Response to Recommendation 1: The recommendation will not be implemented at this time because it is not warranted, as SCOE has no charter schools of its own and no jurisdiction over the school districts' charter schools to ensure their websites include information regarding voluntary parent participation. Additionally, California Education Code section 47605(n) does not require charter schools to legally state on their websites that parent participation is voluntary.

Thank you for the opportunity to share how important it is to operate with transparency and clear expectations for our educational community.

Sincerely,

Lisette Estrella-Henderson
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education

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