



Blochman Union School District

BENJAMIN FOXEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4949 Foxen Canyon Road
Santa Maria, CA 93454

(805) 937-1148 • FAX (805) 937-2291

January 31, 2014

Lauren Foreman
Santa Maria Times

Dear Lauren:

Trivium is an independent charter school with over 400 students. California *EC Section 47604.32* identifies the duties of a charter authorizing entity. Specifically, the charter authorizing entity must:

1. Identify at least one staff member as a contact person for the charter school.
2. Visit each charter school at least annually.
3. Ensure that each charter school under its authority complies with all reports required of charter schools by law.
4. Monitor the fiscal condition of each charter school under its authority.
5. Provide timely notification to the department if the charter is revoked or if the charter school will cease operation for any reason.

EC Section 47604(c) states that a charter authorizing entity that complies with its required oversight responsibilities is not liable for the debts or obligations of the charter school, or for claims arising from the performance of acts, errors, or omissions by a charter school that operates as or by a nonprofit public benefit corporation.

We are in full compliance with *EC Section 47604.32*. As for the special education issues, we have hired a special education consultant to work with Trivium to improve their special education services.

We are only aware of four parents who had issues with special education services at Trivium. Of those, two were resolved quickly and the other two are in the process of being resolved. We are unaware of any other complaints from parents. We are also aware of the complaint from one teacher who no longer works for Trivium. Trivium has assured us that they have returned all the teacher's items to her. Furthermore, our legal counsel has advised us that this is a personnel matter between Trivium and the teacher and that we should not become involved.

As to your questions regarding Trivium's board members, please note that Trivium is subject to an annual audit by independent auditors. It is the responsibility of these independent auditors to test for related party transactions. We are within our rights to rely on this audit report to disclose related party transactions. There is nothing in the education code that says we must conduct our own audit.

Finally, allocation of special education funding is handled by the Santa Barbara County SELPA office. We never receive any of this funding directly and we have no control over how they allocate the special education

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funds. You should contact the SELPA office if you have specific questions regarding how they allocate funding.

You mentioned that there has been a complaint filed against Trivium with the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury. If that is true, then perhaps we might all be better served if we let them do their job and allow them to properly investigate the allegations.

We at Blochman Union School District strive to ensure a quality education for all students. We take parent's concerns seriously and do our best to meet everyone's needs. However, we must administer our oversight of our charter schools within the guidelines set forth by the CDE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Doug Brown
Superintendent/Principal

Cc: Shannon Clay, Blochman Board President
Trisha Vias, Trivium Charter School
Jonathon Pearl, DWK Attorneys