

Ceres Unified School District

ADMINISTRATION
AMY PETERMAN, Ed.D.
Superintendent

BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION
KRISTI BRITTON, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

July 31, 2026

RECEIVED

AUG 28 2026

Honorable Sonny Sandhu, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Stanislaus
P.O. Box 3488
Modesto, CA 95353

BY: _____

Re: Response of the Ceres Unified School District Governing Board to Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury Report No. 26-27GJ, "*Obligations, Obstacles, and Opportunities in School Bond Oversight*" (Released June 17, 2026)

Dear Judge Sandhu:

Pursuant to California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Governing Board of the Ceres Unified School District (the "District") submits the following response to the Findings and Recommendations of Civil Grand Jury Report No. 26-27GJ that the Grand Jury has directed to the District. The District has limited its response to those Findings and Recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of its Governing Board, and addresses each in the format prescribed by Penal Code section 933.05.

FINDINGS

Finding 1: Many school districts in Stanislaus County lack required transparency regarding school bonds because they fail to fully comply with Ed Code mandates.

Response to Finding 1: The District partially disagrees with Finding 1 as it pertains to the District. The District does not dispute the Grand Jury's general observation regarding county-wide transparency practices. However, to the extent Finding 1 is read to apply to the District, the District disagrees in part. As the report itself reflects, the District was found compliant with the requirement to post Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee ("CBOC") meeting minutes. The District's CBOC was newly formed following passage of Measure Y on November 5, 2024, with members appointed in February 2025. Accordingly, the CBOC had not yet reached the point at which its first annual report was due, and the first financial and performance audits will reflect FY 2025-26 data when released, as the report acknowledges. The District agrees with the Finding only insofar as the accessibility of bond and CBOC information on its website can be improved, as discussed in the District's responses to the Recommendations below.

Finding 2: Stanislaus County CBOCs frequently do not have appropriate membership as required by Ed Code. Some CBOCs lack members representing each qualifying group, and/or members are regularly serving terms longer than specified in the bylaws.

Response to Finding 2: The District partially disagrees with Finding 2 as it pertains to the District. The District's CBOC consists of seven members appointed by the Board of Trustees in

"Committed to Excellence, Responsive to Every Student"

P.O. Box 307 • Ceres, CA 95307 • Phone: (209) 556-1560 • Fax: (209) 537-7301

Ceres Unified School District

ADMINISTRATION

AMY PETERMAN, Ed.D.
Superintendent

BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION

KRISTI BRITTON, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

February 2025, consistent with the minimum membership required by Education Code section 15282. The report states that the Grand Jury was "unable to determine" whether all qualifying groups are represented and was likewise unable to determine the applicable term lengths; the report does not affirmatively find that the District's CBOC lacks required qualifying-group representation or that any member has exceeded a term limit. Because the CBOC was seated only in February 2025, no member could yet have exceeded the applicable term limit. The District agrees that publicly confirming qualifying-group representation and term information would enhance transparency, and addresses this in its responses to the Recommendations below.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: The governing board of the district should instruct its Superintendent to comply with Ed Code pertaining to CBOCs by December 31, 2026, including posting minutes, posting annual performance and financial audits, and posting annual CBOC reports on the district's website as cited by Ed Code section 15280(b).

Response to Recommendation 1: This recommendation has been implemented and will be further implemented on the timeframe requested. The Governing Board has directed, or will direct at its next regular meeting, the Superintendent to ensure full compliance with Education Code section 15280(b). The District will establish a dedicated, clearly labeled Measure Y/CBOC page on its website and will post CBOC meeting minutes, and the annual CBOC report and the annual financial and performance audits as each becomes available for the newly formed committee. The District anticipates completing these website enhancements by December 31, 2026.

Recommendation 2a: The governing board of any district lacking full membership should appoint additional members to their CBOC committees to comply with both Ed Code section 15282 and their respective CBOC bylaws by December 31, 2026.

Response to Recommendation 2a: This recommendation has been implemented to the extent applicable to the District. The District's CBOC already has the seven members required by Education Code section 15282. To address the Grand Jury's inability to confirm qualifying-group representation, the District will review and publicly document each member's qualifying-group affiliation, and will fill any vacancy or unrepresented qualifying group should one be identified, by December 31, 2026.

Recommendation 2b: The governing board of the district should review CBOC membership to determine if long-serving members have exceeded their term limit stated in both Ed Code section 15282 and their respective CBOC bylaws, with remediation completed by December 31, 2026.

Response to Recommendation 2b: This recommendation will be implemented. Because the District's CBOC members were appointed in February 2025, no member has yet served

"Committed to Excellence, Responsive to Every Student"

Ceres Unified School District

ADMINISTRATION

AMY PETERMAN, Ed.D.
Superintendent

BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION

KRISTI BRITTON, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

beyond the applicable term limit. The District will nonetheless adopt and document a standing process to review CBOC member terms against Education Code section 15282 and the District's CBOC bylaws, and to remediate through reappointment or replacement as needed. The District anticipates completing this review and documentation by December 31, 2026.

The District appreciates the work of the Grand Jury and its attention to bond oversight and transparency. The District remains committed to the responsible stewardship of Measure Y funds and to full compliance with the Education Code.

Respectfully submitted,



David McConnell, President
Board of Trustees
Ceres Unified School District

Cc: Cynthia Young, Foreperson
2025-2026 Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury
P.O. Box 3387
Modesto, CA 95353
cgj@stanct.org

"Committed to Excellence, Responsive to Every Student"

P.O. Box 307 • Ceres, CA 95307 • Phone: (209) 556-1560 • Fax: (209) 537-7301