

Subject: Re: Rock Tree Sky School - Ojai CA (Possible VCOE Intervention)
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 11:30:30 AM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Eva Lueck
To: Cesar Morales
CC: Misty Key

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of VCOE. Do not respond, click links, or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I will add that to my list of questions...I do not know what monies are being collected or by whom.

Eva

On Wed, Mar 15, 2023 at 1:36 PM Cesar Morales <CeMorales@vcoe.org> wrote:

Why are student paying?

Dr. Cesar Morales

On Mar 15, 2023, at 10:17 AM, Eva Lueck <evalueck@gmail.com> wrote:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of VCOE. Do not respond, click links, or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This program is a bit of a mystery to me...I will discuss it more with Sherill...Tiffany was not willing to discuss it in detail. What I have so far is that as of P1 there were 149 students enrolled and they generated 142.5 ADA at P1...a very impressive attendance rate (it seemed too good). I was waiting to see if the auditor's had any comments on the program. My belief was it was a program operating under Independent Study regulations and that is an area the auditors are required to audit.

However, the audit states on page 89 "The District does not offer an Independent Study-Course Based program; therefore, we did not perform any procedures related to the Independent Study -

Course Base Program." There were no findings related to Summit/RockTreeSky. I have a message out to the auditor to ask for clarification.

The payments to Rock Tree Sky are: 2020-21 \$383,800 2021-22 \$316,400 and in 2022-23 there is a purchase order for \$446,400. It looks like they are averaging \$50,000 a month and this purchase order will ultimately be increased. I requested a copy of the contract with RockTree Sky but have not received one.

In summary, the revenue generated is around \$1.6 million...the expenses are 5 teacher fte (\$500,000), management oversight and materials (cost not identified), and RockTree Sky probably \$500,000 to \$550,000 this year.

I really have not gotten anyone to address the actual structure of the program...group classes vs. individual class work, etc. It is a program that seems to be considered "sacred".

Best, Eva

On Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 9:35 PM Misty Key <MKey@vcoe.org> wrote:

Interesting

On Mar 14, 2023, at 6:33 PM, Cesar Morales <CeMorales@vcoe.org> wrote:

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 5:48 PM
To: Cesar Morales <CeMorales@vcoe.org>
Subject: Rock Tree Sky School - Ojai CA (Possible VCOE Intervention)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of VCOE. Do not respond, click links, or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Cesar,

Reaching out as I've been following the OUSD meetings over the last few months. I wanted to message you directly about concerns regarding Rock Tree Sky school, a "vendor" to OUSD.

This "school" employs the least credentialed, most unreliable "educators" possible. It leaches money from OUSD (which is vital to so many student's needs) for them to play house at the former Summit Elementary school location. High School graduates who come from RTS can't even write a legible essay and are not required to complete educational requirements that they "don't feel like doing"; instead they are taught how to feed goats and water plants. Apart from alleged drug use on campus, there is also minimal (if any?) standardized testing, the students are paying out of pocket AND being subsidized by OUSD for a lackluster education which is more akin to being babysat than any formal educational program.

I please ask you to consider this in evaluating/approving a budget for OUSD. \$500,000/year seems to be allocated to this pastime of several former OUSD teachers for Rock Tree Sky - and a lifetime of frustration for all of its former students. This money would better be utilized for the middle/high school in downtown Ojai. Thank you for reading - please also keep my email in confidence as Ojai is a small community.

Best,

