



THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR  
SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
TED STILWILL, DIRECTOR

(Cite as 19 D.o.E. App. Dec. 172)

Re: Response to the request for reconsideration of the Ogden Three-Four Year Children at Risk and Their Families Grant

To: Sue Seitz, Counsel for Ogden Community School District  
Nancy Schnurr, Consultant, Iowa Department of Education  
Review by: Jim Graeber, Consultant, Iowa Department of Education; Director's  
Designee  
Review Date: November 30, 2000

• **How was the grant application sent?**

- A. Ogden asserts that they didn't know that only one District would be funded. In the first place, more than one school could have been funded. In the second place, that should not have made a difference to you as a grant applicant.
- B. Ogden claims only one page of the budget was sent to them. I don't think there is any way for me to determine what was sent and what may have been misplaced after it was sent.

• **There are several occasions when Ogden asserts that information in the Grand application is not factual.**

- A. Normal grant application procedures assume that the applicant is telling the truth in the application. Any misrepresentations would most likely not be discovered until site visits are done. Therefore, Ogden's assertions that Grand's application contained percentages, "not supported by documentation" or "inflated figures" if true, would not be discovered until a later date. To overrule the reading of the grant based on your assertions I would have to make two assumptions:
  - 1. Your figures concerning Grand's grant are correct and Ogden's are incorrect.
  - 2. That all of Ogden's figures are correct in your application.Grant readers regularly make these content decisions as they score grants.

• **Administrative cost**

- A. Ogden allocated 12% of the grant for "administrative cost" for the principal's salary. I would consider it extremely unusual to take 12% (or even 10%) of any grant to pay the salary of a principal who would have been in place with or without the grant.

- B. Ogden stated that Grand's administrative cost was higher than what Ogden reported on the budget page. A major difference between the two applications is that Ogden was taking all the money from the grant and Grand was taking \$2,700.00 from the grant and providing in kind funding of \$3,000.00.

- **Evaluation Requirement**

- A. You stated that the readers said Ogden "did not address the evaluation requirement". What I inferred from the Child Development Coordinating Council's minutes of August 23, 2000, was that Ogden did not address evaluation "in the budget".

- **Entire Amount**

- A. I cannot determine that Grand had any advantage or advanced knowledge in this area that Ogden didn't have.

- **Ogden's assertion that their application was "at least equal to" Grand in Parent Involvement and Certified Teacher**

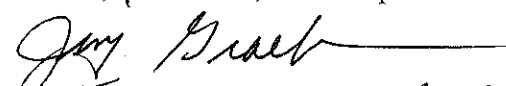
- A. Since I did not see the scoring sheet for these specific areas I cannot comment on them directly. However, of the 7 individuals who read the grants, 5 scored Grand higher than Ogden. I would consider the difference in the averages of all the scores between the 2 schools to be significantly favorable to Ogden.


- **Summary**

Based on my careful review of the material given to me I do not recommend to the Council that they reconsider any part of their decision. While Ogden probably has needs and a desire to help children, I see no just cause to reverse the decision to award the grant to Grand.

November 30, 2000

Jim Graeber, Consultant, Iowa Department of Education; Director's Designee

  
Ted Stilwell, Director, Iowa Department of Education

  
cc: Superintendent William Roederer, Ogden CSD