March 13, 2019

To: Board of Education

From: Aimee Eng

SUBJECT Resolution on Improving Community Engagement for Proposed School Changes

ACTION Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution 1819-0178 – Improving Community Engagement for Proposed School Changes - which recommends the Superintendent or designee consult with an ad hoc stakeholder group on recommendations for improvements to the criteria, Blueprint timeline and process, and school level engagement process from April 14 to June 30, 2019. In addition, for the 2019-20 year, the Board will postpone the future vote on Cohort 2 and will not, prior to August 15, 2019, vote to approve any additional mergers, closures or consolidations of OUSD schools that have not already been voted on by the Board. Finally, the Board would direct the Superintendent to present preliminary financial analysis prior to any vote on school changes and provide regular updates to the Board on the progress of the ad hoc committee, and adherence to criteria and engagement process in subsequent years.

BACKGROUND On June 20, 2018, the Board passed the Blueprint for Quality School Work plan (Resolution 1718-0207) and the Considerations for School Selections in the Blueprint for Quality Schools Work Plan (Resolution 1718-0208). Since then, the Board has voted on decisions for Cohort 1 schools and staff has begun the process of engagement for Cohort 2 schools. There have been lessons learned in the process and now is an opportune time to revisit the criteria, process, and timeline and consider any updates that will help to improve the community engagement process for proposed school changes.

DISCUSSION The Board shall discuss whether there is collective desire to

FISCAL IMPACT No immediate fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution 1819-0178

Attachment: Resolution 1819-0178
RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. 1819-0178

Improving Community Engagement for Proposed School Changes
(As Amended)

WHEREAS, the OUSD Board of Education “Board” is responsible for ensuring that the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) is a high-quality full-service community school district that serves the whole child, eliminates inequity, and provides each child with excellent teachers every day; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the need to increase access to high quality district schools for the students and families of Oakland and to invest in the redesign and reconfiguration of OUSD; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that in order to stabilize and grow enrollment over time, the District must design high-quality programs to attract and retain Oakland’s diverse students, families and educators; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that those closest to the students at a school - educators, families, students, and community members - are generally in the best position to know the specific academic, social, and emotional needs of their students, and how best to address those needs; and

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to empowering school communities to be active and engaged partners in advising around possible school expansions, redesigns, mergers, consolidations and closures; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that it has a fiduciary responsibility to operate a central office and the number and type of schools that it can sustain over time; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2018, the Board adopted the Blueprint for Quality Schools Work Plan (Resolution 1718-0207) which reaffirmed the district’s Quality Community School Standards, and provided for a process and timeline for selection, planning, and implementation phases; and
WHEREAS, on June 20, 2018 the Board also adopted the “Considerations for School Selections in Blueprint for Quality Schools Work Plan” (Resolution 1718-0208), which included: “Guiding Equity Principles for School Changes”, “School Selection Approach Considerations”, “Qualitative Data”, and “Quantitative Data”; and

WHEREAS, the Resolution recognizes that the “Blueprint for Quality Schools is an iterative process involving further input and development based on potential Board policies and further engagement with sites and community”; thus, the Board shall receive semi-annual updates on improvements to the process; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board recommends the Superintendent or designee consult with an ad hoc stakeholder group, a time-limited advisory committee, comprising up to 15 individuals, including but not limited to students, families, labor partners, including 2-3 representatives from the Oakland Education Association (as selected by the OEA President), principals, community members and district staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the ad hoc stakeholder committee shall review the “criteria” to identify schools being considered for expansion, redesign, merger, consolidation, or closure, and make recommendations to the Superintendent on possible revisions and updates to Resolution 1718-0208, “Considerations for School Selection in the Blueprint for Quality Schools Work Plan”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the ad hoc committee shall review the Blueprint for Quality Schools Work Plan and make recommendations on overall improvements to the process set forth in the Work Plan to the Superintendent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the ad hoc committee shall make recommendations to the Superintendent regarding an engagement process to be followed at school sites in future cohorts which should include participation of multiple stakeholders such as certificated and classified staff, families, students, principals and community partners of affected school sites, and/or the School Site Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the consultations on the criteria, process, and school engagement process will take place between April 15, 2019 and June 30, 2019;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, for the 2019-20 year, the Board will postpone the future vote on Cohort 2 and will not, prior to August 15, 2019, vote to approve any additional mergers, closures or consolidations of OUSD schools that have not already been voted
on by the Board, any subsequent votes relating to mergers, closures, or consolidations will be implemented after August 1, 2020; efforts shall be made to incorporate preliminary thinking emerging from the ad hoc committee into the school engagement process for Cohort 2 schools and the 2019-20 school year will be designated as a planning year for identified schools in Cohort 2; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no closure, merger, or consolidation would occur without inclusion of a planning period (no less than a school year or 9 months) between the vote to approve the action and its implementation, unless a recommendation has been brought forward by a team representing multiple stakeholders from the impacted school communities to accelerate the implementation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that prior to the Board's final decision, staff shall present to the Board a preliminary financial analysis of foreseeable impacts of the proposed changes on the district's budget, including student and staff projected attrition or growth, as well as projected costs associated with services, staffing and any facility improvement costs deemed necessary to implement the proposed changes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board shall direct the Superintendent to provide regular updates on the ad hoc committee process and their recommendations, as well as the adherence to selection criteria and quality of the engagement process in future cohorts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to ensure the successful transition of students who are displaced by school closures, students will have access to priority enrollment, individual student and family “case management” will be provided to support the transition to welcoming schools, and student progress will be monitored.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of March, 2019, at a Special Meeting of the Governing Board by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE: None
PREFERENTIAL NOE: None
PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION: None
PREFERENTIAL RECUSE: None
AYES: Gary Yee, Roseann Torres, Shanthi Gonzales, James Harris, Vice President Jody London, President Aimee Eng
NOES: Jumoke Hinton Hodge
ABSTAINED: None
RECUSED: None
ABSENT Josue Chavez, Yota Omosowho (Student Directors)

CERTIFICATION
We hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at a Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District, held on March 20, 2019.

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Aimee Eng, President, Board of Education

Kyla Johnson Trammell, Secretary, Board of Education

3/21/19