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OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Community Schools, Thriving Students

Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education
From Sondra Aguilera, Acting Superintendent
Tara Gard, Chief Talent Officer, Talent Division
Meeting Date September 14, 2022
Subject Recognition - District's 2022-2023 - Teachers of the Year - Talent/Human Resources Department

Ask of the Board Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2223-0089 - Collectively and Individually, for Oakland Unified School District's 2022-2023 Teachers of the Year, as follows:

- Michelle Chu Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten Teacher, Lockwood STEAM Academy
- Shartresa Nixon 6th-8th Grade Reading Intervention and AVID Teacher, United for Success Academy
- Floresa Vaughn Math Teacher, McClymonds High School

Background Annually the District identifies and honors its own; OUSD's Teachers of the Year program aligns with the criteria set by the State of California's Teachers of the Year program.

Discussion The District's Teachers of the Year are known as particularly outstanding candidates chosen from among a competitive group of high-caliber instructors Districtwide. Our purpose here is to identify and honor three outstanding teachers and to celebrate and pay special tribute to their tireless efforts.

Fiscal Impact N/A



**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 2223-0089**

- Recognition of Michelle Chu, Shartresa Nixon, and Floresa Vaughn - Collectively and Individually,
as Oakland Unified School District's 2022-2023 Teachers of the Year -

WHEREAS – the goal of the District’s Teacher of the Year program is to identify and honor outstanding teachers and to celebrate and pay special tribute to the tireless efforts of outstanding instructors, and

WHEREAS - the Teachers of the Year are known as particularly outstanding candidates chosen from among a competitive group of high-caliber instructors Districtwide, and,

WHEREAS – Michelle Chu Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten Teacher at Lockwood STEAM Academy, serves additionally as a grade-level team leader, assists on the Early Literacy Support Block Grant Committee, and is a member of High Expectations Family Engagement Institute to cultivate and support relationships between families and school staff. During her time on staff, she has mentored the District’s Early Literacy Kings, served as a mentor in support of first-year teachers, and been an Instructor Led Training (ILT) lead teacher; and

WHEREAS – Ms. Chu’s leadership and collegiality with teachers at her grade level have aided Lockwood in meeting its 60% schoolwide goal, nearly closing the achievement gap in kindergarten. As an educator, she builds strong foundational expectations for every student by teaching basic, age-appropriate behavior and life skills and focusing on Social-Emotional Learning, especially since her young students are entering school for the first time. Her goal is for her scholars to feel safe and comfortable, to achieve peak academic success, and to feel a sense of responsibility and ownership in their own learning. Her students, some of the youngest in the District, are encouraged to be confident, to speak up, and to know their voices matter; and

WHEREAS – Colleagues say Ms. Chu naturally cultivates an environment that is conducive to learning and one that is vibrant and child-centered. She has high academic expectations and shows students daily that she knows they can succeed. Students make tremendous growth surges in her classroom, and she ensures this through consistent routines, building relationships with each child. Whether organizing reading programs for families or managing cultural assemblies and fostering relations with community partnerships (such as acquiring guest readers and classroom donations), her classroom always has an open-door where she welcomes teachers for anything they need. It is said that Ms. Chu’s calling is clear, she was built to be one of the greatest teachers Oakland could ever have; and

WHEREAS – Shartresa Nixon, 6th-8th Grade Reading Intervention and AVID Teacher at United for Success Academy, serves her school community and the District in several roles: she facilitates teacher professional development for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), is an integral part of the Instructor Led Training (ILT), and influential on her site’s Leadership Team. She has tutored teachers on emergency permits,

assisting them in creating individualized plans to complete required exams, enroll in a credential program, and get their preliminary credentials; and

WHEREAS – In support of students, campus-wide, Ms. Nixon co-founded the Black Student Union Club. She collaborates with Berkeley Educators for Equity and Excellence (BE3) in the Graduate School of Education (in partnership with Oakland Unified), facilitating the field experiences for candidates earning the Preliminary California Single Subject Secondary English Credential. During the BE observation/debrief cycle, she assists student teachers with real-time feedback to improve their practice. She is committed to interrupting the trajectory of inequities to access education, which she articulates begins with consistency, relevance of content, and actively addressing how to promote applying literacy, study, and organizational skills through the four domains of reading, writing, speaking, and listening, in all content areas.

WHEREAS – Ms. Nixon believes students and teachers need schools where they know that they are loved and appreciated, know they are more than test and observation scores, where they know that they are going to make mistakes and understand that that is the norm. This indicates they are growing, trying, and learning new things. Colleagues say Ms. Nixon is committed to the well-rounded development of students, to creating intellectually rigorous and emotionally safe spaces for students. Through her commitment to collaboration and investment in keeping her youth learners at the heart of every discussion she has with colleagues and pre-service teachers she creates memorable learning experiences that will foster intrinsic motivation and academic growth; and

WHEREAS – Floresa Vaughn, Math Teacher at McClymonds High School, once an Oakland student herself, now teaches in the district she graduated from. As Lead Facilitator at code.org, she teaches the foundational principles of Computer Science to a variety of teacher-learners throughout the District. She participates in mentoring and student-teacher programs, which allow her to pass on her extensive pedagogical knowledge to future educators and those just beginning their careers; and

WHEREAS – Deeply committed to advancing diverse teacher-student learning and engagement with a focus on equity, Ms. Vaughn leads the school math department in discussions to render math more student-friendly and equitable. She realizes that some of her students' math skills are incomplete when they enroll, so she seeks out creative ways to improve their math levels. She has single-handedly changed the narrative about who can succeed in math as she has inspired countless students to see themselves more positively and more as more capable mathematicians. Students report that her classroom is a mature environment and that her transparency and unique personality both inspire and inform them; and

WHEREAS – Colleagues say she is honest and open about adulthood, and the trust students have in her is mutual because she frankly shares her own life experiences with them. While in college, Ms. Vaughn once worked for a show called *Homework Hotline* that aired on OUSD's TV station, KDOL. Superintendent, Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell, was one of her supervising teachers, and Ms. Vaughn's experience in KDOL helped open the door to her teaching, because after the show went off the air, she began as a substitute teacher. Today she shares with students that although she is the teacher, she does not contain all the knowledge. Her class is not about her imparting knowledge into students, but everyone building, using all of the skills and talents and knowledge as a class;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the Acting Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District salute Michelle Chu, Shartresa Nixon, and Floresa Vaughn - Collectively and Individually, for exceptional service to the students and city of Oakland and honor them as the District's 2022-2023 "Teachers of the Year."

Given under our hand and the District's seal this 14th day of September, 2022, in Oakland, California.

Passed by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NOE:

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

RECUSE:

ABSENT:

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held on September 14, 2022.

Legislative File	
File ID Number:	22-2007
Introduction Date:	09/14/2022
Enactment Number:	
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By:	

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gary Yee
President, Board of Education

Sondra Aguilera
Acting Superintendent and Secretary,
Board of Education



**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 2223-0089A**

**Recognition of Michelle Chu, as Oakland Unified School District’s
2022-2023 “Teacher of the Year”**

WHEREAS – The goal of the District’s Teacher of the Year program is to identify and honor outstanding teachers and to celebrate and pay special tribute to the unflagging efforts of outstanding instructors, and

WHEREAS – Michelle Chu Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten Teacher at Lockwood STEAM Academy, serves additionally as a grade-level team leader, assists on the Early Literacy Support Block Grant Committee, and is a member of High Expectations Family Engagement Institute to cultivate and support relationships between families and school staff. During her time on staff, she has mentored the District’s Early Literacy Kings, served as a mentor in support of first-year teachers, and been an Instructor Led Training (ILT) lead teacher; and

WHEREAS – Ms. Chu’s leadership and collegiality with teachers at her grade level have aided Lockwood in meeting its 60% schoolwide goal, nearly closing the achievement gap in kindergarten. As an educator, she builds strong foundational expectations for every student by teaching basic, age-appropriate behavior and life skills and focusing on Social-Emotional Learning, especially since her young students are entering school for the first time. Her goal is for her scholars to feel safe and comfortable, to achieve peak academic success, and to feel a sense of responsibility and ownership in their own learning. Her students, some of the youngest in the District, are encouraged to be confident, to speak up, and to know their voices matter; and

WHEREAS – Colleagues say Ms. Chu naturally cultivates an environment that is conducive to learning and one that is vibrant and child-centered. She has high academic expectations and shows students daily that she knows they can succeed. Students make tremendous growth surges in her classroom, and she ensures this through consistent routines, building relationships with each child. Whether organizing reading programs for families or managing cultural assemblies and fostering relations with community partnerships (such as acquiring guest readers and classroom donations), her classroom always has an open-door where she welcomes teachers for anything they need. It is said that Ms. Chu’s calling is clear, she was built to be one of the greatest teachers Oakland could ever have; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the Acting Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District salute and honor Michelle Chu for her outstanding service to the students and city of Oakland and honor her as one of three of the District’s 2022-2023 Teachers of the Year.

Given under our hand and the District’s seal this 14th day of September, 2022, in Oakland, California.

Gary Yee
President, Board of Education
Oakland Unified School District

Sondra Aguilera
Acting Superintendent
Oakland Unified School District



**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 2223-0089B**

**Recognition of Shartresa Nixon, as Oakland Unified School District’s
2022-2023 “Teacher of the Year”**

WHEREAS – The goal of the District’s Teacher of the Year program is to identify and honor outstanding teachers and to celebrate and pay special tribute to the unflinching efforts of outstanding instructors, and

WHEREAS – Shartresa Nixon, 6th-8th Grade Reading Intervention and AVID Teacher at United for Success Academy, serves her school community and the District in several roles: she facilitates teacher professional development for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), is an integral part of the Instructor Led Training (ILT), and influential on her site’s Leadership Team. She has tutored teachers on emergency permits, assisting them in creating individualized plans to complete required exams, enroll in a credential program, and get their preliminary credentials; and

WHEREAS – In support of students, campus-wide, Ms. Nixon co-founded the Black Student Union Club. She collaborates with Berkeley Educators for Equity and Excellence (BE3) in the Graduate School of Education (in partnership with Oakland Unified), facilitating the field experiences for candidates earning the Preliminary California Single Subject Secondary English Credential. During the BE observation/debrief cycle, she assists student teachers with real-time feedback to improve their practice. She is committed to interrupting the trajectory of inequities to access education, which she articulates begins with consistency, relevance of content, and actively addressing how to promote applying literacy, study, and organizational skills through the four domains of reading, writing, speaking, and listening, in all content areas.

WHEREAS –Ms. Nixon believes students and teachers need schools where they know that they are loved and appreciated, know they are more than test and observation scores, where they know that they are going to make mistakes and understand that that is the norm. This indicates they are growing, trying, and learning new things. Colleagues say Ms. Nixon is committed to the well-rounded development of students, to creating intellectually rigorous and emotionally safe spaces for students. Through her commitment to collaboration and investment in keeping her youth learners at the heart of every discussion she has with colleagues and pre-service teachers she creates memorable learning experiences that will foster intrinsic motivation and academic growth, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the Acting Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District salute and honor Shartresa Nixon for her outstanding service to the students and city of Oakland and honor her as one of three of the District’s 2022-2023 Teachers of the Year.

Given under our hand and the District’s seal this 14th day of September, 2022, in Oakland, California.

Gary Yee
President, Board of Education
Oakland Unified School District

Sondra Aguilera
Acting Superintendent
Oakland Unified School District



**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 2223-0089C**

**Recognition of Floresa Vaughn, as Oakland Unified School District’s
2022-2023 “Teacher of the Year”**

WHEREAS – The goal of the District’s Teacher of the Year program is to identify and honor outstanding teachers and to celebrate and pay special tribute to the unflagging efforts of outstanding instructors, and

WHEREAS – Floresa Vaughn, Math Teacher at McClymonds High School, once an Oakland student herself, now teaches in the district she graduated from. As Lead Facilitator at code.org, she teaches the foundational principles of Computer Science to a variety of teacher-learners throughout the District. She participates in mentoring and student-teacher programs, which allow her to pass on her extensive pedagogical knowledge to future educators and those just beginning their careers; and

WHEREAS – Deeply committed to advancing diverse teacher-student learning and engagement with a focus on equity, Ms. Vaughn leads the school math department in discussions to render math more student-friendly and equitable. She realizes that some of her students’ math skills are incomplete when they enroll, so she seeks out creative ways to improve their math levels. She has single-handedly changed the narrative about who can succeed in math as she has inspired countless students to see themselves more positively and more as more capable mathematicians. Students report that her classroom is a mature environment and that her transparency and unique personality both inspire and inform them; and

WHEREAS – Colleagues say she is honest and open about adulthood, and the trust students have in her is mutual because she frankly shares her own life experiences with them. While in college, Ms. Vaughn once worked for a show called *Homework Hotline* that aired on OUSD’s TV station, KDOL. Superintendent Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell was one of her supervising teachers, and Ms. Vaughn’s experience in KDOL helped open the door to her teaching, because after the show went off the air, she began as a substitute teacher. Today she shares with students that although she is the teacher, she does not contain all the knowledge. Her class is not about her imparting knowledge into students, but everyone building, using all of the skills and talents and knowledge as a class;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the Acting Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District salute and honor Floresa Vaughn for her outstanding service to the students and city of Oakland and honor her as one of three of the District’s 2022-2023 Teachers of the Year.

Given under our hand and the District’s seal this 14th day of September, 2022, in Oakland, California.

Gary Yee
President, Board of Education
Oakland Unified School District

Sondra Aguilera
Acting Superintendent
Oakland Unified School District