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**Board Cover Memorandum**

**To** Board of Education

**From** Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent  
Tara Gard, Deputy Chief Talent Officer, Talent Division

**Meeting Date** April 13, 2022

**Subject** Designation/Selection – Michelle Chu, Shartresa Nixon, and Floresa Vaughn – Collectively and Individually, as Oakland Unified School District’s 2022-2023 Teachers of the Year - Talent/Human Resources Department

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**Ask of the Board** Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2122-0130 — Designation/Selection of Michelle Chu, Shartresa Nixon, and Floresa Vaughn, collectively and individually, as Oakland Unified School District's 2022-2023 Teachers of the Year.

**Background** Annually the District identifies and honors its own, including three outstanding teachers to recognize and pay special tribute due to their tireless efforts, outstanding instructional skills and/or the achievements of their students. These honorees are able to go on to compete in the Alameda County Teacher of the Year Competition, and, if further selected, compete at the state and national levels, respectively.

**Discussion** The Teacher of the Year Selection Committee has recommended to me, as Superintendent, that Michelle Chu, Shartresa Nixon, and Floresa Vaughn, collectively and individually, be put forward to the Board of Education as District Teachers of the Year for 2022-2023. I have accepted the recommendations made by the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee and recommend and request that the Board of Education selects and designates Michelle Chu, Shartresa Nixon, and Floresa Vaughn, collectively and individually, as the District's 2022-2023 "Teachers of the Year." They are now eligible to advance in the County, and, if further selected, the state and national level.

**Fiscal Impact** N/A

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE  
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Resolution No. 2122-0130**

- Designation/Selection – 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**, each year the District selects three instructors, collectively and individually, as “Teachers of the Year” and these teachers represent the District in the Alameda County Teacher of the Year competition, and:

**WHEREAS**, if selected in the County competition, one or more of these teachers will go on to compete at the state and national levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the District’s Teacher of the Year Selection Committee has received and considered applications from nominated candidates for District’s 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee has recommended to Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammel that Michelle Chu, Shartresa Nixon, and Floresa Vaughn, collectively and individually, be recommended to the Board of Education for selection as Oakland Unified School District's 2022-2023 "Teachers of the Year"; 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. Her 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 in order to achieve peak academic success and feel a sense of responsibility and ownership in their own learning, where students are encouraged to be confident, to speak up, and to know their voice matters. Colleagues say Ms. Chu is a natural at cultivating 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 in her classroom and she ensures this through consistent routines and 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); she is part of the ILT and her site's Leadership Teams. 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. In support of students campus-wide, she co-founded the Black Student Union Club. Ms. Nixon also 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. In 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 says 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. 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 because it means that they are growing and 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 was once an Oakland student herself and 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. 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. Students report that her classroom is a mature environment and that her transparency and unique personality both inspire and inform them. They say she is honest and open about adulthood, and the trust they 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. Our own Superintendent, Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell, was a supervising teacher, and Ms. Vaughn's experience there helped open the door to teaching, because after the show went off the air, she began substitute-teaching. Now she shares with students that although she is the teacher, she does not contain all of 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**, with this brief interim introduction, and upon recommendation of Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell and the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District hereby selects and designates Michelle Chu, Shartresa Nixon, and Floresa Vaughn, collectively and individually, for exceptional service to the students of the District, as Oakland Unified School District's 2022-2023 "Teachers of the Year," to be fully recognized at the first Regular Meeting of the Board in September, 2022.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Board of Oakland Unified School District on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT:

Passed by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE: None

PREFERENTIAL NOE: None

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION: None

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE: None

AYES: VanCedric Williams, Clifford Thompson, Vice President Benjamin "Sam" Davis, President Gary Yee

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: Mike Hutchinson

RECUSE: None

ABSENT: Student Director Samantha Pal, Student Director Natalie Gallegos Chavez, Aimee Eng, Shanthi Gonzales

**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 April 13, 2022.

<b>Legislative File</b>	
File ID Number:	22-0765
Introduction Date:	04/13/2022
Enactment Number:	22-0562
Enactment Date:	4-13-2022 CJH
By:	

**OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Gary Yee* 4-14-2022

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Gary Yee  
President, Board of Education

*Kyla Johnson-Trammell* 4-14-2022

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Kyla Johnson-Trammell  
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education