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Memo

To Board of Education

From Gary Yee, Board Member

Board Meeting Date October 14, 2020

Subject Resolution No. 2021-0089 - Expressing the Intend of the Board of Education to Change the Oakland Unified School District’s Enrollment and Student Assignment Policies, Regulations, and Practices and Adopting Board Policy 5116 – Student Assignment

Action Receive item as a new legislative matter

Background The Oakland Unified School District has a long history of assigning students to elementary schools by neighborhood and then of building feeder patterns for middle and high school based on elementary school assignments. The District has, over the past 50 years, enacted numerous policy changes in an attempt to undo its racially segregated schools. Currently, there is a variety Board Policies and Administrative Regulations that address how students select and are assigned to schools. However, there is no Board Policy that sets forth the key policy goals for how students are assigned to schools.

Discussion The Superintendent, with support from the Board, has convened the Enrollment Working Group to review the issue of enrollment and to bring forth recommendations to the Superintendent on the Board. The attached resolution and proposed Board Policy 5116 – Student Assignment is designed to complement the work for the Group and to establish a foundation on which to implement their recommendations.

The proposed Board Policy 5116 presumes that “integration” is a goal of the District, although it is important for Board members to confirm this assumption. Additionally, an outstanding question in the proposed Board Policy 5116 is whether the proposed definition of “integration” (presuming that it is a goal) accurately reflects the perspective of the Board. Additional clarify is needed regarding whether integration solely

includes racial and ethnic integration or whether socioeconomic integration is included as well. The Board Policy, or the associated Administrative Regulations, would need to further define “integration.”

Fiscal Impact

N/A

Attachment

- Resolution No. 2021-0089 - Expressing the Intend of the Board of Education to Change the Oakland Unified School District’s Enrollment and Student Assignment Policies, Regulations, and Practices and Adopting Board Policy 5116 – Student Assignment
- Board Policy 5116 – Student Assignment

**RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-0089

EXPRESSING THE INTEND OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CHANGE THE OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT’S ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT ASSIGNMENT POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND PRACTICES AND ADOPTING BOARD POLICY 5116 – STUDENT ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, the Oakland Unified School District (“District”) has a long history of assigning students to elementary schools by neighborhood and then of building feeder patterns for middle and high school based on elementary school assignments;

WHEREAS, since many neighborhoods have been and still are racially segregated, these assignment practices and feeder patterns have led to schools that have been and still are racially segregated;

WHEREAS, the District has, over the past 50 years, enacted numerous policy changes in an attempt to undo its racially segregated schools;

WHEREAS, the District adopted a policy to address segregation through a voluntary open enrollment policy in 1965;

WHEREAS, the District subsequently adopted a strategic vision known as “The Oakland Plan” to regionalize schools and student assignment and feeder patterns to address quality and choice through boundary and feeder pattern reconfigurations;

WHEREAS, the District then established what it referred to as “Small Autonomous Schools,” which increased the number of schools and school options available to Oakland families;

WHEREAS, the District established an open enrollment policy pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, although priority was also given to neighborhood enrollment;

WHEREAS, the District adopted an effort known as “Community Schools, Thriving Students” (subsequently renamed as “Community Schools, where Students Thrive”), and introduced polices:

- To equitably fund all OUSD schools in order to interrupt structural racism (BP 3150 - Results Based Budgeting)
- To eliminate institutional bias (BP 5032 - Equity)
- To establish the link between financial sustainability and enrollment through Enrollment Impact Analysis whenever school site changes were to be considered (BP 3650 - Enrollment Impact Analysis)

- To develop a citywide plan that promotes long term sustainability of schools that represent quality and equitable educational options (BP 6006 - Quality School Development: Community of Schools)

WHEREAS, most recently, OUSD has made changes to its enrollment/student assignment policy and practices (e.g., the Opportunity Ticket, changes to school attendance boundary, adjustments to middle and school feeder patterns);

WHEREAS, currently in the District, there still are:

- neighborhoods in which the majority of students in that neighborhood do not choose their neighborhood school;
- schools with long waiting lists, both from neighborhood students and from non-neighborhood students seeking to enroll;
- a significant number of racially segregated schools – i.e., school in which the racial composition of the student body is significantly different from the racial composition of the District as a whole;

WHEREAS, school choice, within the District as well as the option of choosing to attend a charter school within Oakland, as well as recent consolidations of District school and charters have complicated the enrollment picture of OUSD;

WHEREAS, the Superintendent, with support from the Board of Education (“Board”), has convened the Enrollment Working Group to review the issue of enrollment and to bring forth recommendations to the Superintendent on the Board;

WHEREAS, the Superintendent is bringing forward amendments to Board Policy 5116.1 – Open Enrollment in order to authorize changes to the current set of enrollment priorities on a pilot basis; and

WHEREAS, those enrollment priority pilots may help inform any changes the Board makes to its enrollment policies and practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board agrees to adopt a new Board Policy 5116, attached hereto and to initiate a process to amend Board Policy 5116.1 consistent with Board Policy 5116; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Board directs the Superintendent to initiate a process to amend Administrative Regulations 5116, 5116.1, and 5116.2 once Board Policy 5116 has been adopted and Board Policy 5116.1 has been amended.

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 October 28, 2020.

Legislative File	
File ID Number:	20-0234
Introduction Date:	10/14/2020
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Enactment Date:	
By:	

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jody London
President, Board of Education

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Policy
Students

BP 5116
Student Assignment

The processes for how students select and are assigned to District schools shall be designed to incorporate (but not necessary given equal weigh to) sibling preference, neighborhood preference, student preference, integration, and fiscal sustainability, with the goal of providing every student with equitable access to a high-quality school that ensures each student is prepared for college, career, and community success.

“Neighborhood preference” is used to mean that residents who have a preference to attend an existing school that is geographically close to their home should be able to attend that school.

“Integration” is used to mean that the composition of the student body in a District school should be similar to the composition of the District as a whole.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations and or written practices to determine how students select and are assigned to District schools.

The Board shall review the school enrollment and student assignment regulations and written procedures in the Spring of 2022, in the Spring of every third year after that, and at any other point as desired by the Superintendent or directed by the Board. In reviewing the school enrollment and student assignment regulations and written procedures, the Board shall to endeavor to determine whether the school enrollment and student assignment regulations and written procedures further the goal of this policy.