

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Superintendent of Schools

September 12, 2018

Legislative File	
File ID Number:	18-0677
Introduction Date:	09/12/2018
Enactment Number:	18-1504
Enactment Date:	9/12/18 lf
By:	

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent
Tara Gard, Deputy Chief Talent Officer, Talent Division

SUBJECT: Recognition — Cassandra Chen, Micaela Morse, and Jah-Yee Woo - for Oakland Unified School District's 2018-2019 Teachers of the Year

ACTION REQUESTED

Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 1819-0052—Recognition of Cassandra Chen, Micaela Morse, and Jah-Yee Woo, each, as Oakland Unified School District's 2018-2019 Teachers of the Year.

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. 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

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 1819-0052—Recognition of Cassandra Chen, Micaela Morse, and Jah-Yee Woo, each, as Oakland Unified School District's 2018-2019 Teachers of the Year.

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 1819-0052**

- Recognition of Cassandra Chen, Micaela Morse, and Jah-Yee Woo, each, as Oakland Unified School District's 2018-2019 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 – Cassandra Chen, Micaela Morse, and Jah-Yee Woo, were selected as Oakland Unified School District's 2018-2019 "Teachers of the Year," and

WHEREAS, Cassandra Chen, a 6-8th Grade STEM Teacher at United for Success Academy is in her tenth year teaching for OUSD and holds a vision that honors each child's strengths, struggles and learning styles, while drawing out and building on their unique creativity, gifts, cultures, experiences and interests, supporting her students to take ownership of their learning and to recognize their own agency in making a meaningful impact in the world, and

WHEREAS, to interrupt inequities, Ms. Chen is committed to both interrogating her own practice and challenging the systems that do not serve all children, or serve only some children to the exclusion of others, her contribution to education is that she is always eager to learn, grow, and move closer to being an educator of the highest caliber, continually aligning her practice to her values, maintaining a consistent and pervasive lens on the District value of Equity in everything that she does, and

WHEREAS, Ms. Chen takes on leadership roles across all avenues, co-facilitating the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) team, sitting on school leadership and Instructional Teacher Leader (ITL) teams, serving as Teacher Leader for both the Science and Math departments, leading Science Professional Learning Community (PLC), co-leading the 6th grade team and student Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA), sitting on the Culture and Climate/ Restorative Justice Committee, co-developing the master schedule, and participating in any other number of organizations, committees, and opportunities that have the potential to elevate the student experience, and

WHEREAS, Ms. Chen's instructional practices, student relationships, and trauma-informed approach to education, school leadership, and community connection augment her ability to push herself and others toward continuous improvement in ways that are said to be truly unparalleled, and

WHEREAS – Micaela Morse, a Kindergarten 50/50 Spanish/English Dual Immersion Teacher at International Community School is in her sixth year teaching for OUSD and holds high expectations for her young students' growth and development, officially welcoming them into the public sphere, celebrating their interests, experiences, and strengths, while supporting them to develop skills and habits of mind that will enable them to solve the challenges in their lives and inhabit their larger world with creativity and empathy, and

WHEREAS – viewing education as one of the most powerful tools in creating and sustaining an equitable and just world, Ms. Morse has embodied the District value of *Equity* and highlighted the importance of developing social-emotional learning within science instruction as well as at the intersection of science and language development, she actively builds trusting, loving relationships with all of her students helping each of them develop a sense of safety within the larger learning community, encouraging them to continually taking risks, try new things, and grow together, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Morse prioritizes collaboration with colleagues, opening her classroom to observation, she seeks out other teachers to observe, reflects upon those observations, and incorporates her new insights and strategies into her classroom; she has supported her professional learning community by facilitating professional development on the *Caring School Community* program as well as *Positive Behavior Intervention and Support* (PBIS) practices. She served as a founding member of International Community School's *Dual Immersion Design Team*, and

WHEREAS – Jah-Yee Woo, an 11th Grade English and U.S. History Teacher at Oakland Tech is in her tenth year teaching for OUSD, having first taught 8th grade English and U.S History at Bret Harte Middle School. She considers connections with students a high priority, challenging them to think critically, empowering them, and validating and nurturing their voices; the ultimate reward seeing this empowerment manifest itself in each student, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Woo consistently embodies the District value of *Equity*, having recognized disproportionate representation for high school students of color in higher level courses, she has supported an equal access initiative funded by a *Small Learning Communities* federal grant at the high school level to strengthen student learning. She serves as Teacher Advisor for *Supporting People of Color Now* (SPOCN), a student organization that nurtures safe academic spaces for students of color in advanced placement and honors courses, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Woo has actively mentored, coached and collaborated with her colleagues, having facilitated collaborative groups such as the 9th grade California Studies team, she has served as a member of the OUSD Ethnic Studies Leadership Team, helping to shape the *Ethnic Studies Framework*. A seasoned curriculum developer, she has co-authored lessons to accompany a documentary about the *Chinese Exclusion Act* that will be published on PBS Learning Media and used nationwide, co-developed culturally responsive curriculum to accompany the musical *Hamilton*, and worked with fellow educators to adapt Dr. Clarence Jones' course, "From Slavery to Obama" for high school classrooms, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Woo prioritizes staying connected to herself, her strengths, and her growing edges while also staying connected to her students, seeing each student, class, and generation as unique and different. She views her classroom space as a place not only for student learning, but for her own ongoing and constant learning from her students, which is just as important to her as learning from her colleagues;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District salute Cassandra Chen, Micaela Morse, and Jah-Yee Woo, each, for exceptional service to the students and city of Oakland and honor them as the District's 2018-2019 "Teachers of the Year."

Given under our hand and the District's seal this 12th day of September, 2018, in Oakland, California.

Aimee Eng
President, Board of Education
Oakland Unified School District

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent
Oakland Unified School District

Passed by the following vote:


PREFERENTIAL AYE: Student Directors Yota Omo-sowho and Josue Chavez
PREFERENTIAL NOE: None
PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION: None
PREFERENTIAL RECUSE: None
AYES: Jody London, Nina Senn, Roseann Torres, Shanthi Gonzales, James Harris,
Vice President Jumoke Hinton Hodge and President Aimee Eng
NOES: None
ABSTAINED: None
RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

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 12, 2018.

Legislative File	
File ID Number:	18-1831
Introduction Date:	09/12/2018
Enactment Number:	18-1504
Enactment Date:	9/12/18 If
By:	

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Aimee Eng
President, Board of Education



Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 1819-0052A**

**Recognition of Cassandra Chen, as Oakland Unified School District's
2018-2019 "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 – Cassandra Chen, a 6-8th Grade STEM Teacher at United for Success Academy is in her tenth year teaching for OUSD and holds a vision that honors each child's strengths, struggles and learning styles, while drawing out and building on their unique creativity, gifts, cultures, experiences and interests, supporting her students to take ownership of their learning and to recognize their own agency in making a meaningful impact in the world, and

WHEREAS – to interrupt inequities, Ms. Chen is committed to both interrogating her own practice and challenging the systems that do not serve all children, or serve only some children to the exclusion of others; her contribution to education is that she is always eager to learn, grow, and move closer to being an educator of the highest caliber, continually aligning her practice to her values, maintaining a consistent and pervasive lens on the District value of *Equity* in everything that she does, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Chen takes on leadership roles across all avenues, co-facilitating the *Positive Behavior Intervention and Support* (PBIS) team, sitting on school leadership and *Instructional Teacher Leader* (ITL) teams, serving as Teacher Leader for both the Science and Math departments, leading Science Professional Learning Community (PLC), co-leading the 6th grade team and student *Gay/Straight Alliance* (GSA), sitting on the *Culture and Climate/ Restorative Justice Committee*, co-developing the master schedule, and participating in any other number of organizations, committees, and opportunities that have the potential to elevate the student experience, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Chen's instructional practices, student relationships, and trauma-informed approach to education, school leadership, and community connection augment her ability to push herself and others toward continuous improvement in ways that are said to be truly unparalleled;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District salute and honor Cassandra Chen for her outstanding service to the students and city of Oakland and honor her as one of three of the District's 2018-2019 Teachers of the Year.

Given under our hand and the District's seal this 12th day of September, 2018, in Oakland, California.

Aimee Eng

Aimee Eng
President, Board of Education
Oakland Unified School District

Kyla Johnson-Trammell

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent
Oakland Unified School District



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 1819-0052B**

**Recognition of Micaela Morse, as Oakland Unified School District's
2018-2019 "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 – Micaela Morse, a Kindergarten 50/50 Spanish/English Dual Immersion Teacher at International Community School is in her sixth year teaching for OUSD and holds high expectations for her young students' growth and development, officially welcoming them into the public sphere, celebrating their interests, experiences, and strengths, while supporting them to develop skills and habits of mind that will enable them to solve the challenges in their lives and inhabit their larger world with creativity and empathy, and

WHEREAS – viewing education as one of the most powerful tools in creating and sustaining an equitable and just world, Ms. Morse has embodied the District value of *Equity* and highlighted the importance of developing social-emotional learning within science instruction as well as at the intersection of science and language development, she actively builds trusting, loving relationships with all of her students helping each of them develop a sense of safety within the larger learning community, encouraging them to continually taking risks, try new things, and grow together, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Morse prioritizes collaboration with colleagues, opening her classroom to observation, she seeks out other teachers to observe, reflects upon those observations, and incorporates her new insights and strategies into her classroom; she has supported her professional learning community by facilitating professional development on the *Caring School Community* program as well as *Positive Behavior Intervention and Support* (PBIS) practices. She served as a founding member of International Community School's *Dual Immersion Design Team*, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Morse's ability to move effortlessly between languages, providing access points for all students and always holding a high bar for rigor while also conveying the District value of *Joy*—that is, holding to the joy factor in all her interactions while staying committed to being a learner herself, to taking risks, challenging herself, making mistakes, and learning from those mistakes to improve her practice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District salute and honor Micaela Morse for her outstanding service to the students and city of Oakland and honor her as one of three of the District's 2018-2019 Teachers of the Year.

Given under our hand and the District's seal this 12th day of September, 2018, in Oakland, California.

Aimee Eng

Aimee Eng
President, Board of Education
Oakland Unified School District

Kyla Johnson-Trammell

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent
Oakland Unified School District



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 1819-0052C**

**Recognition of Jah-Yee Woo, as Oakland Unified School District's
2018-2019 "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 – Jah-Yee Woo, an 11th Grade English and U.S. History Teacher at Oakland Tech is in her tenth year teaching for OUSD, having first taught 8th grade English and U.S History at Bret Harte Middle School. She considers connections with students a high priority, challenging them to think critically, empowering them, and validating and nurturing their voices; the ultimate reward seeing this empowerment manifest itself in each student, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Woo consistently embodies the District value of *Equity*, having recognized disproportionate representation for high school students of color in higher level courses, she has supported an equal access initiative funded by a *Small Learning Communities* federal grant, at the high school level, to strengthen student learning. She serves as Teacher Advisor for *Supporting People of Color Now* (SPOCN), a student organization that nurtures safe academic spaces for students of color in advanced placement and honors courses, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Woo has actively mentored, coached and collaborated with her colleagues, having facilitated collaborative groups such as the 9th grade California Studies team, she has served as a member of the OUSD Ethnic Studies Leadership Team, helping to shape the *Ethnic Studies Framework*. A seasoned curriculum developer, she has co-authored lessons to accompany a documentary about the *Chinese Exclusion Act* that will be published on PBS Learning Media and used nationwide, co-developed culturally responsive curriculum to accompany the musical *Hamilton*, and worked with fellow educators to adapt Dr. Clarence Jones' course, "From Slavery to Obama" for high school classrooms, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Woo prioritizes staying connected to herself, her strengths, and her growing edges while also staying connected to her students, seeing each student, class, and generation as unique and different. She views her classroom space as a place not only for student learning, but for her own ongoing and constant learning from her students, which is just as important to her as learning from her colleagues;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District salute and honor Jah-Yee Woo for her outstanding service to the students and city of Oakland and honor her as one of three of the District's 2018-2019 Teachers of the Year.

Given under our hand and the District's seal this 12th day of September, 2018, in Oakland, California.

Aimee Eng

Aimee Eng
President, Board of Education
Oakland Unified School District

Kyla Johnson-Trammell

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent
Oakland Unified School District