

# Oakland Unified School District

Board of Education  
Paul Robeson Building  
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## Minutes (Long)

**Thursday, September 18, 2008**

**7:00 PM**

**Board Room, Paul Robeson Building, Oakland, CA 94606-2212**

## **Special Committee On the Future of the Oakland Athletic League**

*Noel Gallo, Chair*

*Alice Spearman, Christopher Dobbins*

## A. Call to Order

*Noel Gallo, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.*

## B. Roll Call

**Roll Call:** Present: Christopher Dobbins and Noel Gallo

Absent: Alice Spearman

### Roll Call (Secretary's Observation)

*Alice Spearman present at 7:15 P.M.*

**Roll Call:** Present: Christopher Dobbins, Alice Spearman and Noel Gallo

## C. Unfinished Business



### 08-1851

#### **Special Committee on the Future of the OAL - Recommendations - Future of the Oakland Athletic League**

Adoption of Committee recommendations to the Board of Education on the future of the Oakland Athletic League (OAL) including but not limited to such issues as Should the OAL join the North Coast Section of CIF? Should Charter Schools Participate in the OAL? What resources are required to adequately maintain the OAL? What resources are required to adequately compete in the North Coast Section of CIF?

**Attachments:** [08-1851 - Oakland Athletic League \(OAL\) Documents.pdf](#)  
[08-1851 - Recommendations - Future of the Oakland Athletic League \(9-18-08\).pdf](#)  
[08-1851R - Special Committee on the Future of the OAL - Recommendations - Future of the Oakland Athletic League.pdf](#)

*Commissioner Michael Moore reviewed the recommendations:*

#### *1. Monitor All OAL Athletes Through Designation In AERIES:*

*Eligibility  
GPA  
Attendance  
Grade level progression  
CAHSEE  
PSAT/SAT/ACT*

*Commissioner Moore stated we can add an extra field into our AERIES system. The model was that the OAL were a high school. We would follow the same things that a high school*

would follow for all of its students as it relates to eligibility, GPA, attendance, grade level progression, passing CAHSEE in a timely manner, the PSAT and ACT. Currently, when we want to look up the eligibility, we run an entire high school's list by GPA or attendance. If we could do a query on "OAL All", it would still produce all of the OAL students, but not all of the other students mixed in. This would allow us to do some special things and drill down on the OAL athletes to have certain things pop up, including addresses. If there were students with the same address at multiple schools, we would instantly know.

2. *Implement Academic Support Requirement*

*Provide academic assistance/enrichment outside of regular school hours (after school & Saturday) as needed.*

*Commissioner Moore said that most of our football and basketball teams have Study Hall. We wish to include study halls during the off season and on some Saturdays so that our young people have the opportunity to increase their GPA to the next level.*

3. *Move Soccer To Winter For Boys And Girls For The 2008-09, 2009-10 Seasons*

*Commissioner Moore stated it is our intent to move soccer to winter for Boys and Girls for the 2008-09 season in order to align it with soccer being played throughout the state. There is a certain advantage as it relates to practice. We plan to speak to the S. F. Section so they'll be notice, if they want to come, too, we wouldn't be asking them permission; but we want to respect our history with them.*

4. *Review Stipends For Coaches And Athletic Directors In Conjunction With Contract Negotiations*

*Commissioner Moore stated we intend to include the rate of pay for coaches and athletic directors in negotiations. Our coaching stipend has not changed since 1986.*

5. *Give Preference To High School Site Staff Whenever Possible For Coaching Positions*

*Commissioner Moore stated the District has staff persons with a high level of expertise in various sports. When possible, we wish to encourage the school site staff to take on the coaching responsibilities.*

6. *Update All Schedules And Event Start Times*

*Reduce losses of class time  
Increase parent participation  
Improve safety  
Improve transportation  
Improve access of scouts to games*

*Commissioner Moore stated various coaches have spoken of software that would us us to do advanced scheduling for our teams. We are losing too much class time by our game*

*start times. We want to move the times to later in the evening. We don't want our students to feel compelled to miss any of their fifth or sixth period classes in order to participate in sports. The change in time would also increase parent participation, improve safety, improve scheduling of transportation, and access of scouts to games. We will be looking at moving some games to Saturdays in the 2009-2010 season in order to get the benefit of sunlight, middle of the day.*

*7. Update And Improve The Financial Systems And Practices*

*Utilize Armored car services for league games if feasible*

*Implement standard collection of gate receipts*

*Uniforms purchased for the entire league for volume savings*

*Commissioner Moore stated we are looking at utilizing armored car services for league games. Last Friday night, Skyline, Oakland and Oakland Technical High Schools, did a wonderful job on the gate receipts. We plan to give similar assistance to all of our high schools to standardize gate collections. We are working on internal systems to use district staff to ensure safety and to maximize gate receipts. Commissioner Moore said we are looking into the possibility of bidding athletic uniforms. The challenge is that all uniforms are not the same color.*

*8. Sponsorships (Gallo)*

*Championship games*

*Fields*

*Gymnasiums*

*Scoreboards*

*Director Gallo said the District needs to consider corporate sponsorship of gymnasiums, play fields and scoreboards which would bring added revenue into the District. The bottom line is to help our students.*

*9. Implement Season Tickets For Company Employees*

*\$50 for season pass not including championships*

*\$75 for season pass not including championships after October 12, 2008*

*Commissioner Moore said season passes would not include championship games. Corporations will be encouraged to buy tickets in a block manner that would also benefit their employees.*

*10. Pursue Partnership With the Oakland Technology Exchange*

*(OTX) to Provide Home Computers for Every OAL Athlete*

*Who Meets the Criteria*

*Commissioner Moore stated it is our intention to provide eligible students with a refurbished computer that is Internet ready and would have word processing software installed so that students will be able to do their home work. Commissioner Moore said he is specifically not talking about lap tops.*

11. *Establish the OAL Game of the Week on KDOL*

*Commissioner Moore stated we have staff that are already filming some of our games and the quality is inconsistent. We wish to formalize the process so that we have one Game of the Week that would be featured on KDOL. The game would be a taped presentation which we could run multiple times. COMCAST and FOX are already looking at taping some of our basketball games.*

12. *Improve Adherence to CIF, OAL, and Oakland Section Rules*

*Eligibility  
Reporting  
Hardship Hearings*

*Commissioner Moore stated the District is considering a consultant contract for veteran athletic director Johnny Lorigo. Mr. Lorigo will provide technical assistance to develop systems to track our eligibility, our annual reporting requirements, and our hardship hearings.*

13. *Coaching Professional Development, Clinics, Conferences and Screening*

*Athletic Director annual evaluation of players, parents and coaches;  
Evaluation of Athletic Directors by parents, students and principal*

*Commissioner Moore stated we want to ensure our coaches and athletic directors participate in professional development. We wish to include having our students participate in clinics. Our coaches should be part of associations to give them cutting edge technique and experience in how to improve their skill levels.*

14. *Partnership With Local Colleges and Universities for Sports Clinics/Camps*

*Commissioner Moore stated we are establishing Partnerships with our local colleges, including Cal State East Bay and the University of California, Berkeley, to develop relationships so that their coaches and upper level athletes can provide expertise to our coaches and our athletes.*

*Director Gallo added three additional recommendations to the list which were discussed at the OAL Policy Committee Meeting this morning:*

15. Currently, the OAL Policy Committee is made up of principals and five principals need to be in attendance to establish a quorum. Principals are unable to attend every meeting. We are asking the Board to have the principal be the lead person, but have an alternate or designee. In case the principal is unable to attend, she/he can send the vice principal or athletic director to represent the school at the policy committee meeting. Director Gallo said the OAL bylaws allow the principals to choose an alternate to represent the school.

16. Director Gallo is requesting the Superintendent to have an annual evaluation of the Oakland Athletic League program and that we would make a formal presentation to the Board on an annual basis, most likely at the end of the year. The Commissioner has recommended the month of August for the annual review and the presentation would include a review of good things that happened during the year and to share additional support the OAL may need for the coming year.

17. Every year we never fund OAL to a respectable amount. He is asking the Board to consider funding the Oakland Athletic League as part of Measure G on an ongoing basis. He would support an annual funding stream to support the OAL to help our student athletes.

Chairperson Gallo noted that Director Spearman and Superintendent Roberta Mayor had arrived during the discussion.

The following members of the audience addressed the Committee:

Johnny Lorigo stated that principals are too busy to attend meetings and there should be a designee. The OAL Policy Committee already has two athletic directors representing boys' and girls' sports. The designee should not be an athletic director. It should be an administrative designee. He said there are many coaches and athletic directors in the District who have established tutoring programs and study hall programs that mirror what takes place on the collegiate level. There are also coaches who do not have anything with academics. It is important that we establish district-wide academics first and require study halls, attendance and grade monitoring from coaches on a daily basis for students with truancy issues or weekly at a minimum for all student athletes. We should not have any students who have played an entire marking period and now they are academically ineligible. Mr. Lorigo said it is critical that principals take responsibility to collect monies at home games. There should never be games where monies are not collected at the home gate. In response to Director Gallo, Mr. Lorigo said schools are required to submit a financial report and submit a check for gate receipts to the OAL office within five days.

Paul Wilson, Sr., East Bay Officials Basketball Association, said his association serves the OAL. He spoke in support of the recommendation for coaching and professional development. The conduct for a coach on the court is one set of rules in college and another set of rules in the NBA. We are concerned with student athletes. As referees, they are part of the process to educate the kids while they are on the court. When coaches "lose their cool", the kids are not far behind. He is in favor of hiring staff on campus with the kids. He supports the sponsorship recommendation and our kids should not have to worry where their uniforms come from or how much they cost.

*Director Gallo asked what happens when coaches are asked to leave the court. Is the principal or referee responsible for the reprimand? Who deals with the conduct? Commissioner Moore said a weekly report is received from the officials. The rulebook clearly spells out sanctions for certain types of behavior. Mr. Wilson said it is a principal's action, but they are watching.*

*Mr. Lorigo said as an athletic director, there have been several situations at Castlemont where coaches did not behave. Both student athletes and coaches are required to sign a code of conduct for interscholastic sports. The code deals specifically with profanity, behavior on the court, honesty, respect, and treatment of officials. Mr. Lorigo said the coach is the athletic director's responsibility.*

*Mr. Moore said that anytime a coach is ejected from a ballgame, they have to complete a report as an official.*

*A parent (and security officer) from Fremont Architecture Academy spoke in support of the recommendations. As an officer for safety at the schools, she opposes night games. Safety is an issue because they do not have a lot of SSOs for support. Many security officers have other obligations at night. She opposes the scheduling of games on Saturdays. There might not be 100 percent police patrol as backup at the games. To her, the kids' education comes first. With night games, safety and security might be an issue.*

*Dave Hill, Fremont alumni, class of 1985 and former coach at Fremont High and Castlemont High, spoke in support of the recommendations. As a walk-on coach, Recommendation No. 5 throws up a red flag for him. If a teacher is qualified, then he agrees with it. At the same time, if we change the behavior and the mindset of people, we can change the league in different ways as far as violence is concerned for night games.*

*Greg Armor, Assistant Coach, said the time is now to join the North Coast Section. We need money. Parents in Oakland are not able to finance these kids when they go on trips and tournaments. By joining North Coast Section, there will be more financing. He noted the various sports teams in the District that do not get enough athletes in various sports or that do not get much community support.*

*Director Dobbins said he made a lot of friends playing sports in high school. He asked if we could integrate "club sports" in Oakland, such as rugby or lacrosse? He supports the original recommendations, as well as the additional ones as stated by Director Gallo.*

*Vice President Spearman asked to make a few changes to the recommendations: Regarding the recommendation to monitor all OAL athletes through AERIES, the monitoring should take place on a weekly basis and the monitoring should be done by the coach.*

*Regarding Recommendation #2, she said academic enrichment support should be "required".*

*Regarding Recommendation # 7 and collecting gate receipts, she would support the principal having to designate someone to collect the receipts. She is going to speak to Commissioner Moore regarding the OAL role in the process.*

*Regarding Recommendation #15 that would allow a principal to send a designee, Vice President Spearman said it needs to be an administrative designee.*

*Commissioner Moore said OAL Bylaws mandate the principals and the sites to handle gate receipts and collections. There is already an improvement as of last week. Tomorrow's game has been organized by the site with support from the OAL. He would prefer that the OAL provide support and not be responsible for that. We are trying to put systems in place to support the site principal. It would be his recommendation not to change the bylaws.*

*Superintendent Mayor thanked everyone in attendance who spoke to the issue. She thanked the Board subcommittee for spending the time to delve into the issue and for helping us come up with good usable recommendations. She suggested changes for phrasing the Recommendations 15, 16 and 17.*

*15. Allow a principal to send a voting administrative designee in his/her place to the OAL Policy Committee when unable to attend.*

*16. Request the Superintendent to conduct an annual evaluation of the OAL program and provide a report to the Governing Board.*

*17. Request the Measure G Committee to provide an annual funding subsidy to the OAL.*

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*16. Request the Superintendent to conduct an annual evaluation of the OAL program and provide a report to the Governing Board.*

*17. Request the Measure G Committee to provide an annual funding subsidy to the OAL.*

*She said she supports the recommendation additions.*

*District Secretary Rakestraw asked if we could get an annual designee from the principal for the alternate in Recommendation No. 15. The Committee is a Brown-Act-covered committee and we cannot have a revolving door of membership. If there is a vacancy or resignation, we can deal with that. Superintendent Mayor said we would add that as an annual designee.*

*Chairperson Gallo said there was consensus regarding the recommendations and he asked the Commissioner and Secretary Rakestraw's help with the wording for the September 24th agenda.*

*Vice President Spearman made a motion to accept the formal recommendations with the additions and to be recommended to the full Board of Education. Director Dobbins seconded the motion. Approved 3-0.*

*MOTION by Director Dobbins, SECOND by Vice President Spearman, to approve the Commissioner's recommendations. Approved 3-0*

*Chairperson Gallo said this has been a rewarding process for our students. He knows the OAL from different levels as a parent, coach, and volunteer. We are trying to narrow the achievement gap and the reality in Oakland is that the achievement gap has widened. We have too many students who are not performing academically. We have to remind ourselves why we are in school in the first place. We can't just keep tossing kids out with no one taking responsibility at the adult level. If there is a coach or staff member who*

*violates those kids, then that staff member needs to be fired. He said the CIF is still evaluating the OAL. We do not need any media attention that we cannot follow the rules. The bottom line is that if coaches cannot follow the procedures, then they need to be coaching somewhere else.*

**A motion was made by Director Dobbins, seconded by Chair Spearman, that this matter be Recommended Favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** Adv Aye: 0  
Adv Nay: 0  
Adv Abstain: 0  
Aye: 3 - Christopher Dobbins, Alice Spearman and Noel Gallo  
Nay: 0  
Recused: 0  
Preferential Aye: 0  
Preferential Abstention: 0  
Preferential Nay: 0

**08-2162 Oakland Athletic League To Remain A Section In the California Interscholastic Federation**

Commissioner Moore read the following additional recommendation:

It is the recommendation of the Oakland Athletic League Commissioner that the Oakland Athletic League shall remain a CIF section. On April 20, 1999, the Governing Body of Oakland Section the OAL Policy Committee composed of the high school principals approved a motion to continue the Oakland Athletic League as a league and section in the California Interscholastic Federation. Oakland has been a California Interscholastic Federation section since 1940 and a league since 1919. After examination and investigation by the current Commissioner, the proposal of the North Coast Section membership has been waived with the interest of all students and all high schools in Oakland now and in the future. While there may be advantages for individual schools and singular athletic teams to participate in the North Coast Section, there is no need to alter the section status or the OAL. The overwhelming and compelling benefit of all stakeholders in Oakland must be considered and not for singular advantage for one school's mens or women's athletic program or for an individual team in the OAL. As a result of discussions conducted with OAL principals, athletic directors, parents, alumni, current and former coaches, and community stakeholders regarding the status of Oakland as a CIF, it is the recommendation of the OAL Commissioner that the Oakland Athletic League should remain a CIF Section.

*Superintendent Mayor said she supports the recommendation additions.*

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**A motion was made by Director Dobbins, seconded by Chair Spearman, that this matter be Recommended Favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:**

- Votes:** Adv Aye: 0
- Adv Nay: 0
- Adv Abstain: 0
- Aye: 3 - Christopher Dobbins, Alice Spearman and Noel Gallo
- Nay: 0
- Recused: 0
- Preferential Aye: 0
- Preferential Abstention: 0
- Preferential Nay: 0

## **D. Adjournment**

*Chairperson Gallo adjourned the committee meeting at 8:20 P.M.*

Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_