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**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Community Schools, Thriving Students

Board Cover Memorandum

To	Board of Education
From	Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent Tara Gard, Chief Talent Officer, Talent Division
Meeting Date	February 26, 2025
Subject	Designation/Selection – Maria De La Fuente-Moreno, Alyssa Kronick, and Krista Toumi – Collectively and Individually, as Oakland Unified School District’s 2025-2026 Teachers of the Year - Talent/Human Resources Department
Ask of the Board	Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2425-0075— Designation/Selection of Maria De La Fuente-Moreno, Alyssa Kronick, and Krista Toumi, collectively and individually, as Oakland Unified School District's 2025-2026 Teachers of the Year.
Background	Annually the District identifies and honors its own, including three outstanding teachers, to recognize and pay special tribute by reason of their tireless efforts, outstanding instructional skills and/or the achievements of their students. These honorees can 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 Maria De La Fuente-Moreno, Alyssa Kronick, and Krista Toumi, collectively and individually, be put forward to the Board of Education as District Teachers of the Year for 2025-2026. 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 Maria De La Fuente-Moreno, Alyssa Kronick, and Krista Toumi, collectively and individually, as the District's 2025-2026 "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. 2425-0075**

- Designation/Selection – Maria De La Fuente-Moreno, Alyssa Kronick, and Krista Toumi –
Collectively and Individually, as Oakland Unified School District's 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 Teacher of the Year, and;

WHEREAS, the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee has recommended to Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammel that – Maria De La Fuente-Moreno, Alyssa Kronick, and Krista Toumi, collectively and individually, be recommended to the Board of Education for selection as Oakland Unified School District's 2025-2026 "Teachers of the Year"; and

WHEREAS, Maria De La Fuente-Moreno, 3rd Grade Dual Immersion Teacher at Esperanza Elementary, has served Oakland Unified for over twenty years, and her class is a model of effective systems and protocols that ensure equitable engagement and participation across multiple language levels. Her students not only actively engage with these systems and protocols, but they also self-assess on the ways they follow these same protocols. Colleagues say Ms. De La Fuente-Moreno consistently demonstrates outstanding dedication and commitment to her role as an educator, putting her heart and soul into everything she takes on. As a valued member of the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) and Faculty Council, she helps shape the academic direction of Esperanza—a dual language school—ensuring instructional alignment and consistency. As a school site that serves primarily English Learners, it is said that Maria deeply understands the importance and urgency of language acquisition and biliteracy development. Beyond her skill as an educator, she is known for kindness, thoughtfulness, and a deep commitment to understanding her students' needs and for creating an environment where students feel deeply seen, supported, and challenged. She views her students as full humans in development and notes that her job is to support, guide, and be as present as she is able. Maria's students understand that although she is the class leader, ultimately, they are responsible for their learning. As a result, consistency, organization, classroom routines, and classroom responsibilities she has put in place enable students to accomplish their learning goals. Students also learn to practice empathy, show determination, and maintain a culture of caring for one another.

Students in Ms. De La Fuente-Moreno's class take on responsibility for their peers' well being, actively comforting one another when they are in need of support. Caring practices are introduced based on the principles of empathy, compassion, and respect, allowing students to feel safe, valued, and supported in their learning, and they go on to maintain these practices. Students learn to see one

another's perspectives and acquire needed skills to work things out together. As a class, they decide on rules collectively and reach common solutions, allowing learning to happen with joy and respect for one other, and

WHEREAS, Alyssa Kronick, 9th - 12th Grade Reading and Literacy Teacher at Oakland International High School, has served Oakland Unified for over nine years and is acknowledged as having maximum impact, totally transforming OIHS's reading program. Whether articulating new courses, developing curriculum for multiple levels, supporting the integration of new teachers, developing new assessment protocols, or helping guide the work of paraprofessionals, Aly is known for her exceptional competence, follow through, and the care she brings to her work. Colleagues note that she is literally on a quest to find the most effective ways to teach high school-aged newcomers. Ms. Kronick has built much of her career on appreciating the power of students to drive their own thinking and learning. She is moved by her students' motivation and holds herself to high expectations, determined to provide each with a learning environment that honors and allows them to feel success as multilingual learners. One of her greatest joys is the fact that no students are alike, and there is always space to learn more from each. She skillfully plans for full student access, scaffolding content, repeating strategies to lower the cognitive load during transitions between tasks, and differentiate supports for various language proficiency levels.

While she has developed units that follow year-long foci and themes, including historical and political events from a range of racial, ethnic, cultural, gender, and language perspectives, (including studying racism/colorism, disability justice, LGBTQIA+/gender identity, and indigenous languages in North and Central America), Ms. Kronick also collaborated with Emerson Elementary school teachers to build a partnership program. that allowed Oakland International students to go monthly to Emerson classrooms and read books covering different social justice topics. Students were responsible for creating their own lesson plans for their elementary school buddies, culminating with the high school students choosing a children's book that highlighted a specific value, adapting the book to a play and either performing a live action play or puppet show for the elementary school students. Projects such as these well illustrate the creativity and community Ms. Kronick has created with and for her students, going far beyond lessons in the classroom, and

WHEREAS, Krista Toumi, 6th Grade Science Teacher at Roosevelt Middle School, has served Oakland Unified for over five years, and colleagues say she is well known for her tireless efforts, whether trying out new instructional moves, learning new science content, or building diverse partnerships. Ms. Toumi partners with outside organizations creating opportunities for field trips as well as cross-program activities. For example, she has welcomed extensive support needs students into her classroom to work with her general education students, supporting the building of student relationships. Parents know whatever their children's challenges, she will take the time to help students understand science in fun and motivating ways. She is known to invite spontaneous classroom visits, form meaningful relationships with families, and to hold every student to a high expectation. Colleagues say she is magical in her ability to connect with students and make them feel safe to learn. It is said Krista makes real world connections for students, allows them to experiment and fail in safe ways that encourage their love and curiosity for science. One of her greatest strengths is in building a strong classroom culture; she mindfully takes time from science to intentionally build culture around the school community, the city of Oakland, and the multiple student cultures and what each brings to the classroom. Murals on classroom walls make it a place where students feel represented, which increases the amount of learning that is possible in the classroom. Krista builds strong relationships with families, finds joy in every day with her students and colleagues.

Ms. Toumi is stimulated by the experience of new generations of thought as they occur on a daily basis in her classroom. She loves witnessing what she terms "the new wave of how students are thinking and talking, how they feel about issues, seeing the changes in history that are happening through our youth, and as much as I give them, no question, they give back one hundred times more," which is

why she will always be a growing exemplary educator whose social-emotional expertise that invites student voices to be heard and honored;

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 – Maria De La Fuente-Moreno, Alyssa Kronick, and Krista Toumi, collectively and individually, for exceptional service to the students of the District, as Oakland Unified School District’s 2025-2026 “Teachers of the Year,” to be fully recognized at the first Regular Meeting of the Board in September, 2025.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of Oakland Unified School District on this 26th day of February 2025.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT:

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 February 26, 2025.

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By:	

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jennifer Brouhard
President, Board of Education

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education