

**OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Office of the Superintendent of Schools

March 22, 2017

<b>Legislative File</b>	
File ID Number:	17-0402
Introduction Date:	03/22/2017
Enactment Number:	
Enactment Date:	
By:	

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Devin Dillon, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent  
Tara Gard, Deputy Chief Talent Officer, Talent Division

SUBJECT: Designation/Selection – LaRavian Battle and Stephanie Taymuree - for Oakland Unified School District's Teacher(s) of the Year

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 1617-0143—Designation/Selection of LaRavian Battle and Stephanie Taymuree, each, as Oakland Unified School District's 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year.

**BACKGROUND**

Annually the District identifies and honors its own, including one or more outstanding teachers to recognize and pay special tribute because of their tireless efforts, outstanding instructional skills and/or the achievements of their students. By tradition, the District annually selects two teachers upon whom to bestow this honor. Then these honorees 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.

The Teacher of the Year Team has recommended to me, as Interim Superintendent, that LaRavian Battle and Stephanie Taymuree, each be nominated to the Board of Education as District Teacher of the Year for 2017-18. I have accepted the recommendations made by the Teacher of the Year Team and recommend and request that the Board of Education selects and designates LaRavian Battle and Stephanie Taymuree, each, as the District's 2017-18 "Teacher of the Year." They are now eligible to advance in the County, and, if further selected, the state and national levels.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 1617-0143—Designation/Selection of LaRavian Battle and Stephanie Taymuree, each, as Oakland Unified School District's 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year.

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE  
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Resolution No. 1617-0143**

- Designation/Selection of LaRavian Battle and Stephanie Taymuree, each, as Oakland Unified School District's 2017-2018 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 tireless efforts of outstanding instructors, and

**WHEREAS**, each year the District selects two instructors, each, as "Teacher 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 both of these teachers will go on to compete at the state and national levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the District's Teacher of the Year Team has received and considered applications from nominated candidates for District's 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year, and;

**WHEREAS** –the Teacher of the Year Team has recommended to Interim Superintendent Dr. Devin Dillon that LaRavian Battle and Stephanie Taymuree, each, be recommended to the Board of Education for selection as Oakland Unified School District's 2017-18 "Teacher of the Year"; and

**WHEREAS**- LaRavian Battle, a classroom teacher on special assignment at Sojourner Truth Independent Study, has been a teacher for over twenty years and has provided support and leadership to the OUSD community, serving as a coach for beginning teachers. She is well known for her efforts in making the Electronic Learning Program (ELP) wholly successful, emphasizing individualized blended learning through the use of computer programs and college and career readiness, which allows her students to have all the personalized resources they need to learn at their own pace; and

**WHEREAS** – To ensure all students thrive, Ms. Battle has an unwavering commitment to the District's core value of Equity. She works with students from all over the District that are seeking a different learning environment, and she ensures they receive wrap-around supports and encouragement as soon as they step in the door— student success being her greatest reward; and

**WHEREAS** – Stephanie Taymuree, a teacher for students with severe and moderate disabilities at Redwood Heights Elementary School has demonstrated leadership by coordinating information among professionals involved in IEP meetings, organizing and developing professional development for teachers and paraprofessionals, coaching teachers, and creating a conducive learning environment for students with disabilities, and

**WHEREAS** – Having worked in OUSD for over thirty-seven years, Ms. Taymuree has spent her entire teaching career refining what she considers her greatest accomplishment; i.e., when a child who arrived in her classroom with no means of intelligible communication becomes able to share his/her feelings, thoughts, experiences, knowledge and personality using all the multimodal tools, strategies and equipment that have been carefully developed and mastered as a result of her passion and commitment. Each day as she enters her classroom, she strives to give each student not only the gift of a "voice," but the gift of greater confidence and self worth;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, upon recommendation of Interim Superintendent Dr. Devin Dillon and the Teacher of the Year Selection team, that the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District hereby selects and designates LaRavian Battle and Stephanie Taymuree for exceptional service to the students of the District, each, as Oakland Unified School District's 2017-18 "Teacher of the Year," to be recognized at the first Regular Meeting of the Board in September, 2017.

Passed by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT:

I 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 March 22, 2017.

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James Harris  
President, Board of Education

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Devin Dillon, Ph.D.  
Interim Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education