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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 April 24, 2024
Subject Recognition – Oakland Unified School District - 2023-2024 Classified School Employees of the Year - Talent/Human Resources Department

Ask of the Board Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2324-0130 Recognition - District's 2023-2024 - Classified School Employees of the Year, collectively and individually in the categories named below:

Employee	Category
Shelline Waldorf	Paraprofessional
Helena Wu-Quach	Clerical & Administrative Services
Tammie McHenry	Food & Nutrition Services
Thomas O'Neill	Custodial & Maintenance Services
Elisa Escobedo	Security Services
Titilayo Doyeni	Health and Student Services
Rinat Fried	Technical Services
Kipchogi Scott	Skilled Trades

Background Annually the District identifies and honors its own, and OUSD’s Classified School Employees of the Year program aligns with the criteria used by the State of California Classified School Employees of the Year program.

Discussion The purpose is to recognize and pay special tribute to the tireless efforts and outstanding performance of one experienced classified line employee in each of the following categories: Paraprofessional Services; Clerical and Administrative Services; Food and Nutrition Services; Custodial and Maintenance Services; Security Services; Health and Student Services; Technical Services; and Skilled Trades. The District's honorees are in turn submitted to the Alameda County Office of Education in consideration of state Classified School Employees of the Year.

Fiscal Impact N/A

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 2324-0130**

- Recognition – Oakland Unified School District - 2023-2024 Classified School Employees
of the Year - Talent/Human Resources Department -

WHEREAS, the goal of the District’s Classified School Employees of the Year program is to identify and honor outstanding classified line employees in each of the following categories: Paraprofessional Services; Clerical and Administrative Services; Food and Nutrition Services; Custodial and Maintenance Services; Security Services; Health and Student Services; Technical Services; and Skilled Trades, and

WHEREAS, Shelline Waldorf, Helena Wu-Quach, Tammie McHenry, Thomas O’Neill, Elisa Escobedo, Titilayo Doyeni, Rinat Fried, and Kipchogi Scott, each, collectively and individually, were selected as Oakland Unified School District's 2023-2024 “Classified School Employees of the Year” and these employees may represent the District in the State of California Classified School Employees of the Year competition, and:

WHEREAS – Ms. Shelline Waldorf, Paraeducator at Skyline High School, is known as someone who always stands ready to help, assist, and create joy for students. Skyline has more Special Education programs than any school in Oakland, and although she is mainly assigned to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Moderate/Severe Special Education Programs, she has assisted all the programs in Special Education and beyond in her school community. One of her fellow employees views her as a great utility employee, because she is always ready to fill in, even performing duties for positions that are unstaffed, juggling the best she can to support the needs of the school, and

WHEREAS –Colleagues of Ms. Waldorf note that beyond the classroom environment, she is a constant, positive presence at athletics games and dances such as prom and homecoming in support of all students. She is described as tireless, a great asset, an impressive, caring individual for all students with exceptional needs. She is regarded as a presence who has always ensured there is a cohesive kind of family unit for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program, and

WHEREAS – Beyond her daily duties, for which she is particularly appreciated, Ms. Waldorf may be most prized for her support of students during a frightening three-hour lockdown, during which time she was a hero in action that students and families revered for helping to keep the students safe and calm;

WHEREAS – Ms. Helena Wu-Quach, Attendance Specialist, Bilingual, at Westlake Middle School is commended and recognized for her excellence, commitment and quality relationship-building for over thirty-three years. Colleagues say she is currently acquiring her twelfth language, and that she offers prodigious language translation support for students and families. Her open-door policy, warm smile, and that she has all the answers as the “go to” person, has made her

indispensable to her school community. When students come late, she is there to welcome and sustain them. She is fully committed to scholars being successful, in school, getting the education they deserve, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Wu possesses knowledge of student data, school-site history, and staff knowledge; therefore, her ability to translate whenever there’s a need makes her indispensable to the school community and beyond. Staff members say families reach out to her first when they don’t feel comfortable asking others, due to her knowledge and ability to navigate District systems. She is viewed as consistently embracing her attendance work with integrity and care, making all families feel that they belong, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Wu is known for her desire and willingness to go over and above what is expected of because she cares so much about the people she serves. It is said that kindness and affirmative relationships with Westlake families, including former students who are parents or grandparents of current students, govern her as she assists all in gaining needed access;

WHEREAS – Ms. Tammie McHenry, Production Tech, at the Central Kitchen is commended and recognized for her commitment to high-level service. In her role, she oversees the distribution of food and beverages to be delivered throughout the District, often temperature-sensitive and time-sensitive. She is responsible for the daily set-up and care of the production machines in the Central Kitchen, recording the number of counts that go out to sites, and ensuring compliance with necessary nutritional requirements and health and safety regulations. She ensures each machine’s setting management control both operation and troubleshooting, as well as to oversee floor management when required, and

WHEREAS – Ms. McHenry has been with the District for over forty years and has served in multiple roles, always as a food service worker. Since there have been significant changes in food services and students receive a variety of new and different foods, this has required her to grow her skill set, which colleagues say she has risen to admirably. She is known to be proficient in her communication with both Nutrition Services staff and truck drivers, ensuring the meals that support the nutrition of OUSD students are delivered on time and in the desired form. Ms. Tammie prioritizes her work to meet essential deadlines, and she has both established and maintained effective habits and characteristics, and

WHEREAS – It is said that Ms. Tammie will help anybody that needs it; colleagues say if anyone calls on her, she is there with a smile;

WHEREAS – Mr. Thomas O’Neill, Gardener for the Buildings and Grounds Department is commended and recognized for his exemplary performance since returning to work with inspiring excellence following a significant injury. Despite having faced inordinate challenges, team members say he has shown tremendous commitment to his role, inspiring his colleagues with his positive attitude and work ethic. His department contemporaries honor him for his hard work and dedication to maintaining school grounds. He is seen as is someone who consistently shows up and offers support with what has been termed “unwavering determination” and

WHEREAS – Mr. O’Neill has been with the District for over thirty-three years and has played a vital role in collaborating with community gardening organizations, establishing connections with the OUSD Garden Council and other stakeholders to carry out necessary tasks effectively. Through this alliance, students are encouraged to become stewards of the environment and

gain a stake in the community and the world through their school gardens, which empowers them to discover the connections between personal health, education and opportunity. Tom is a major partner in OUSD's Garden Council, and

WHEREAS –Despite needed months of rehabilitation, Mr. O'Neill returned to work inspiring and uplifting the spirits of his entire Department. It is said that his remarkable resilience demonstrates his exceptional character, unwavering dedication to his work and colleagues, and commitment to keeping safe and well-maintained schools for all OUSD students, staff, and community;

WHEREAS – Ms. Elisa Escobedo, Noon Supervisor, at Melrose Leadership Academy is commended and recognized for being a committed professional, highly reliable, and committed to the support of MLA's restorative practices. Colleagues say she deals with conflicts in the yard in highly effective and reflective ways, allowing students to come up with their own solutions or ways to "make it right." She is said to be patient and thoughtful about giving all people involved an opportunity to tell their side of the story. She embodies community values by holding students to the highest standards while lovingly correcting them when needed, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Escobedo has been with the District for over eighteen years and is a beloved member of the school community, the first person to arrive and one of the last to leave each day. Also an Early Literacy Tutor, she provides morning and after school care, and serves as recess coach, and is always actively supervising and keeping students safe. Ms. Elisa's care, competency, and deep relationships with students has helped the school community remain stable during difficult moments. It is said that she loves the students, and the students love her, and

WHEREAS –For the last six years during Latino Heritage Month she has presented to Maestra Alvarez's 1st grade class, going all out with beautiful Mexican clothing, artifacts and toys the students could touch, and students love learning about her history. Whether making homemade tortillas with all the supplies brought from home or celebrating with the students, everything she does is right from her heart;

WHEREAS – Ms. Titilayo Doyeni, Instructional Support Specialist, at Joaquin Miller Elementary is commended and recognized for showing leadership in her Instructional Support Specialist professional learning group and has supported the training of newer ISS staff on her campus. Colleagues say, additionally, other longtime ISSs look up to her and ask for advice, and classroom teachers do the same, valuing her vast knowledge and insights. Families of students she has supported in the past have expressed hope that she will work with their children again. Ms. Titi has consistently established and maintained strong, positive working relationships with fellow staff members, students, and families, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Doyeni has been with the District for over nine years; she is considered both a gem and a true professional. She is known by the community as a legendary kid-whisperer of sorts. No matter the situation or challenge, Ms. Titi is known to have a gift for helping students regulate and participate in their own learning. She creates and implements systems that support students while still holding them accountable, all the while making herself fully available to both staff and students, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Titi’s own children have attended Joaquin Miller, which has strengthened her knowledge and commitment to the school community. She is known for generating ongoing knowledge and experience to her job, mixed with a spirit of deep compassion. She provides guidance and leadership to new Instructional Support Specialists as well. Ms. Titi is known as the very definition of leading by example;

WHEREAS – Ms. Rinat Fried, Research Associate, Early Childhood Education, at Research, Assessment & Data (RAD) is commended and recognized for being what colleagues call a true gem and a most hard-working and responsive central office staff member. It is said that Rinat goes out of her way to understand how teachers and leaders are using literacy data, determining their upcoming needs, and skillfully provides those even before she is asked. Colleagues say without Rinat’s ongoing efforts, Early Childhood Educators and Leaders would not be making such outstanding progress in several teaching and learning practices to meet the goals of our *Superintendent’s Strategic Plan: Ensuring Strong Readers by Third Grade*. As an employee with a growth mindset, she has learned new methods to streamline codes that help her refresh data daily. She is known to be service-oriented, wanting to create the best supports for students and teachers, always welcoming and soliciting feedback, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Fried has been with the District for over twelve years and has always been a learner; during virtual learning in the Pandemic, she was integral to ensuring the success of the i-Ready (K-5 universal screener and benchmark assessment) roll out. To provide the strongest training possible for teachers, she set up trial assessments and helped design Professional Development despite being out of the scope of her responsibilities, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Fried’s passion for early literacy has pushed the relevant data reporting and analysis to a new level;

WHEREAS – Mr. Kipchogi Scott, Operations Engineer, at KDOL/District Communications is commended and recognized for ensuring KDOL-TV, the education access television station for OUSD is on the air 24/7/365 and that every production, recording, and meeting is ready to go, and as flawlessly as possible. Also known as Kip, he is responsible for keeping scheduled broadcasts running, setting up live broadcasts in the field or studio, maintaining and updating broadcasting hardware and software, and addressing unique broadcasting problems that arise. Colleagues say he collaborates effectively with cross-functional teams, is an effective communicator, with a passion for continuous improvement. He is said to be a professional who solves issues as they arise, proactively prevents issues occurring, and is a fine example of OUSD excellence, and

WHEREAS – Mr. Scott has been with the District for over five years and is known for going above and beyond to support program Partners at Youth Beat as well as all of the hundreds of students in after school programs making sure their equipment works efficiently and is where it needs to be when it is needed so students can make their imaginations a reality, and

WHEREAS – Kip is known for his calm demeanor while ensuring systems are running smoothly. Whenever colleagues need help with something technical, albeit a computer that isn't working or a camera that won't read a card, he doesn't hesitate to get to work fixing the problem and finding a solution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District recognize Shelline Waldorf, Helena Wu-Quach, Tammie McHenry, Thomas O'Neill, Elisa Escobedo, Titilayo Doyeni, Rinat Fried, and Kipchogi Scott, each, collectively and individually, for exceptional service to the students and city of Oakland and honor them as the District's 2023-2024 "Classified School Employees of the Year."

Given under our hand and the District's seal this 24th day of April, 2024, in Oakland, California.

Benjamin Davis

President, Board of Education
Oakland Unified School District

Kyla Johnson-Trammell

Superintendent
Oakland Unified School District

Passed by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NOE:

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

RECUSE:

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 April 24, 2024.

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Benjamin Davis
President, Board of Education

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education