

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Office of the Superintendent of Schools

April 24, 2013

To: Board of Education

From: Tony Smith

Subject: Selection/Designation of District 2013-14 "Teacher of the Year"

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Adoption by Board of Education of Resolution No. 1213-0151 Designation/Selection of Zachary Pitt-Smith and Jenny Clark, each, as Oakland Unified School District's 2013-2014 "Teacher of the Year."

**BACKGROUND**

Annually the District, identifies and honors its own, including one or more outstanding teachers to whom we recognize and pay special tribute because of their tireless efforts, outstanding instructional skills and/or the achievements of their pupils.

In Oakland Unified, the District, by tradition, annually selects two teachers each year upon which to bestow this hallowed honor. The District's honorees 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 Superintendent, that, Zachary Pitt-Smith, a teacher of instrumental music at Edna Brewer Middle School and Jenny Clark, an 11th Grade Advanced Placement English and Drama One Teacher at Oakland High School, each be nominated to the Board of Education as District Teacher of the Year for 2013-14.

I have accepted the recommendations made by the Teacher of the Year Team. I am, therefore, proud to recommend and request that the Board of Education select and designate Zachary Pitt-Smith and Jenny Clark, each, as Oakland Unified School District's 2013-2014 "Teacher of the Year."

Zachary Pitt-Smith is a beloved and innovative teacher of instrumental music at Edna Brewer Middle School where he introduces students to world music and many other varied styles.

Mr. Pitt-Smith, during a five-year tenure in the District, has helped take the music department at Edna Brewer to new heights, as its instrumental groups have earned substantial, local, regional and national recognition and performed at venues such as Yoshi's and AT&T Park.

Edna Brewer Principal Sam Pasarow who notes that Mr. Pitt-Smith is an “incredibly passionate and effective band teacher whose love for music is contagious in terms of high student engagement. The Edna Brewer band sounds as good as those that include high school musicians. Zack is committed to equity and he is an Edna Brewer treasure and Edna Brewer is lucky to have him on staff.”

Jenny Clark is an 11th Grade Advanced Placement English and Drama One Teacher at Oakland High School, a Cooperating Master Teacher with the UC Berkeley MUSE, and Co-Director of the Visual Arts Academy at Oakland High.

Ms. Clark has also served as a Team Leader for the 9th Grade Small Learning Community at Oakland High and the Assessment Group Leader for the accreditation review of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Oakland High Principal Anisa Rasheed describes Ms. Clark as “a wonderful, patient and highly skilled teacher, who is much loved and respected by students and fellow teachers alike. Rasheed also notes that Clark “makes learning fun, yet challenging for her students, and is always willing to go the extra mile to help her students’ catch-up or stay on top of their academic demands, adding that Jenny Clark truly enjoys being a teacher. It shows every day in her work with the students of Oakland High.”

**FISCAL IMPACT**


None

**RECOMMENDATION**

Adoption by Board of Education of Resolution No. 1213-0151 Designation/Selection of Zachary Pitt-Smith and Jenny Clark, each, as Oakland Unified School District's 2013-2014 "Teacher of the Year."

Attachment: Resolution No. 1112-0234 - Selection/Designation of Zachary Pitt-Smith and Jenny Clark, as District’s 2013-14 Teachers of the Year

**Legislative File**

File ID No.: 13-0786  
Introduction Date: 4/24/13  
Enactment No.: 13-0662  
Enactment Date: 4/24/13  
By: 

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Designation/Selecting – Zachary Pitt-Smith and Jenny Clark - Oakland Unified School District's 2013-2014 "Teacher(s) of the Year"**

**Resolution No. 1213-0151**

**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 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 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 received and considered nominations from principals for District's 2013-2014 Teacher of the Year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Teacher of the Year Team has recommended to Superintendent Tony Smith that **Zachary Pitt-Smith and Jenny Clark**, each be nominated to the Board of Education as District Teacher of the Year for 2013-2014; and

**WHEREAS**, Zachary Pitt-Smith is a beloved and innovative teacher of instrumental music at Edna Brewer Middle School where he introduces students to world music and many other varied styles; and,

**WHEREAS**, during Pitt-Smith's five-year tenure in the District, he has helped take the music department at Edna Brewer to new heights, as its instrumental groups have earned substantial, local, regional and national recognition and performed at venues such as Yoshi's and AT&T Park; and

**WHEREAS**, Jenny Clark is an 11th Grade Advanced Placement English and Drama One Teacher at Oakland High School, a Cooperating Master Teacher with the UC Berkeley MUSE, and Co-Director of the Visual Arts Academy at Oakland High; and,

**WHEREAS**, Clark has also served as a Team Leader for the 9th Grade Small Learning Community at Oakland High and the Assessment Group Leader for the accreditation review of the Western Association of Schools and College,

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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**Resolution No. 1213-0151**

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, upon recommendation of Superintendent Tony Smith, and the Teacher of the Year Team, that the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District hereby selects and designates **Zachary Pitt-Smith and Jenny Clark**, for exceptional service to the students of the District, each, as Oakland Unified School District's 2013-2014 "Teacher of the Year;" with all the rights, privileges, and honors thereof; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the District shall formally honor each as "Teacher of the Year" at the first Regular Meeting of the Board in September, 2013.

Passed by the following vote:

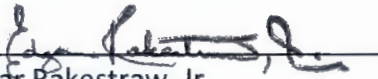
**AYES:** Roseann Torres, Christopher Dobbins, James Harris, Jody London,  
President David Kakishiba

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAINED:** None

**ABSENT:** Gary Yee, Vice President Jumoke Hinton Hodge

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held April 24, 2013.

  
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Edgar Rakestraw, Jr.  
Secretary, Board of Education

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