

**Letters of Support for  
Ascedo Wilson Presented  
Under Legislative File No.  
16-0577 - Public Comment  
on All Non-Agenda Items  
Within the Subject Matter  
Jurisdiction of the District  
- March 23, 2016**

March 17, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Michelle Gonzalez de Jesus; I am a Lead Teacher for the Newcomer Program at Fremont High School. I have had the honor of working with Asedo Wilson for the last two years. In his time here as the Drama teacher Mr. Wilson has had a great positive impact on the campus in general and the Newcomer Program specifically.

Our Newcomer students take the majority of their classes together and with the same teachers. This means they have a limited amount of classes they share with the Mainstream population and as a result have often struggled to form community with their peers and feel included. From the moment he stepped on campus, Mr. Wilson has strived to make the Newcomer population feel included and a part of the campus. He took the initiative to come to our collaborative meetings to better inform himself of what needs these students have; he met with several of the experienced Newcomer teachers to develop scaffolding and community building strategies in his class, and has successfully applied these strategies in his classes.

In his time here, Mr. Wilson has become an integral part of our Fremont High community. He has created a Fine Arts Program that did not exist before him: creating a tradition of seasonal talent shows, brought artists to speak and perform for our students, taken students to various performing arts events, and as a result, has helped to instill and grow a strong sense of pride and community our students need. He is on his second year as a School Site Council Representative, serves as the Department Head, is a member of the Instructional Leadership Team, was recently voted onto our Site Governance Council, and can just generally be counted on to be a bright presence on our campus.

As one of the few African-American teachers on campus, Mr. Wilson also serves as a model to our young black and brown men. Taking such an important member of our community will only hurt the campus – setting us back even further on so many levels.

I urge you to reconsider your decision and rescind the letter of non-reelection given to Asedo Wilson.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Michelle Gonzalez de Jesus  
Newcomer Program Teacher Leader  
Fremont High School

Bree Rombi  
World Language Department Chair  
Athletic Director  
Fremont High School  
[Breeana.rombi@ousd.org](mailto:Breeana.rombi@ousd.org)

Dear Site Administrator Pamela Watson,  
Design Principal Katherine Carter,  
Network Superintendent Preston Thomas, and  
To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you regarding a wrongdoing for our students. I am hoping that it is one that can be fixed, in which you all have the power to do so. I am deeply concerned that our incredible Drama teacher, Mr. Asedo Wilson, has received a letter of non-reelection. Along with many members of the Fremont staff, and in the interests of our students, I strongly urge you to reconsider this faulty decision by rescinding the letter of non-reelection.

While many newer teachers on campus are struggling with their classroom instruction and manager, few have been able to step up to the plate like Mr. Wilson. He was placed in a position to fail--a class that hadn't been offered where many students were missing their Art credits. Many students were placed into his class--well above the legal limit for a California classroom. Regardless, he has been able to teach our students amazing skills that they are unable to express and experience in many of the "core" classes. He has allowed them to express themselves, and so many have been incredibly grateful to have a safe space on the Fremont campus. He has even expanded his curriculum to include an advanced class, largely in part to the high number of students that wanted to continue to pursue their love for Drama.

Not only this, Mr. Wilson has embraced the Tiger Spirit. He has always have a friendly demeanor to students, staff, and parents. He can be seen at almost every sporting event to support the students, and always shows his Tiger Pride. Recently this year, he has stepped up to do our morning announcements, bringing a new positive perspective to my day as a teacher and continuing to put smiles on the students' faces. He has also been a part of several committees after school and has put in countless hours to do what is best for our students. One other large example is putting together the school's talent show. This is not something that has existed and he has done a tremendous job ensuring that students are able to show off their skills, whether that is in front of a crowd or doing behind-the-scenes work.

I would assume most of the appreciation for Mr. Wilson comes from what is happening in his classroom because of his dedication. He strives to find things that are interesting and relevant to their lives, as he grew up in Oakland, went to school in this district, and is someone who looks like our students--something that is not very common on our campus, or any campus in OUSD. Furthermore, when we share our student work and best practices in meetings I always wish that I was able to be a part of his class.

This is an immense mistake that needs to be corrected by rescinding the letter of non-reelection; it is within your discretion to do so. I ask that you take action promptly to right this wrong.

Sincerely,

Bree Rombi

March 15, 2016

To whom it may concern:

My name is Ji Lee and I have been a teacher at Oakland Unified School District, and Fremont High School, since the fall of 2002. During that time, I have been privileged to work with many teachers who are dedicated to our students and school community. Mr Asedo Wilson, our current Drama teacher, is one of the teachers who work tirelessly for school improvement. I am distressed by OUSD and Principal Watson's decision to terminate his employment at Fremont High School.

Mr Wilson, who is still considered a new teacher, has been devoting time and effort into improving our school culture and community. He is a dedicated member of our School Site Council (SSC), Instructional Leadership Team (ILT), and the Facilities Design Committee. In these roles, he has provided support and insight to help us plan for our school future while helping to make important decisions that impact student learning and achievement. Just recently, he was elected by the faculty to serve on our new site governance council, which was created as a pilot for our new distributive leadership plan. He clearly has the confidence and support from the teaching staff.

His contributions do not end there. To improve our campus culture and to boost morale for our students, Mr Wilson has organized two talent shows, coordinated multiple opportunities for students to showcase their work to the community, and filled in as a chaperone for career and college trips for multiple pathways. His work has allowed students to experience much more than they would have without his presence and efforts. Students always return from these experiences feeling positive about the school and their work.

In addition to this, he teaches his classes. Drama is a program we have not offered on this campus for many years. The value of having a full range of arts programs, and a drama class taught by someone who is active in the theater community is invaluable. He brings in real world experiences and allows our students to hear and learn about what is happening outside of the world they are often insulated in. Students are given an additional opportunity to develop reading, speaking, and listening skills in a different setting.

I believe the school and the students will feel a great loss without Asedo Wilson on our campus. Please reconsider the decision to non-reelect him and allow him to grow as a teacher and not deprive our students the benefits he has brought to them.

Sincerely,

Ji Lee  
Teacher, Fremont High School  
Department Chair, Social Studies

Richard Charlesworth  
Social Studies Teacher  
Fremont High School  
510-710-1866

Dear Site Administrator Pamela Watson,  
Design Principal Katherine Carter,  
Network Superintendent Preston Thomas, and  
To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of support for Drama teacher Asedo Wilson, who recently received a notice of non-reelection. I strongly urge you to reconsider your decision. I am personally shocked that such an obviously invaluable part of our staff at Fremont is not being retained. I am also very disturbed about the shortsightedness of this decision. Given the instability of staffing at Fremont High School, I find it difficult to see the wisdom in this move. The fact that Mr. Wilson is one of few African American teachers at the school adds insult to injury.

In the two years that Mr. Wilson has taught here at Fremont, he has developed a high quality program providing our students with the opportunity to experience and participate in drama and performance. This is a rare and important program to have in school such as Fremont, where personal expression so obviously needs an outlet.

Moreover, Mr. Wilson was able to create this excellent program with excessive class sizes that would challenge even a greatly experienced teacher. The talent show that Mr. Wilson organized several months was an incredibly inspiring and uniting moment in an extremely arduous and stressful year. To lose Mr. Wilson and the drama program seems unthinkable.

Mr. Wilson's steadfast optimism and enthusiasm have made him a valuable part of our teaching staff, and brought him great respect from his colleagues. His willingness to step up and take responsibility cannot be questioned. His participation in the SSC, and other committees shows a deep commitment to the school and our students. It must be said that Mr. Wilson's dedication to our students has been unquestionable. Mr. Wilson is friendly and caring towards our students, and has fostered a learning environment in which students feel comfortable and safe.

Finally, to lose an male African American teacher really stings. In a school where some 30% of our students are African American, the fact that so few teachers are African American is puzzling. As a longtime teacher at McClymonds High school I was surprised at how underrepresented African American teachers were at Fremont. More puzzling still has been the complete lack of support for the few African American teachers who have been

hired. It seems very shortsighted to overlook this facet in staffing decisions. A capable and committed African American male teacher? It seems like a no brainer that we would not only retain him but that we would support and nurture his growth as a teacher.

It would be a terrible mistake not to retain Mr. Wilson, and I ask that the letter be rescinded.

Sincerely,

Richard Charlesworth



Nicolas Parker  
Spanish Teacher  
Fremont High School  
510-684-8296  
[nicolas.parker@ousd.org](mailto:nicolas.parker@ousd.org)

Dear Site Administrator Pamela Watson,  
Design Principal Katherine Carter,  
Network Superintendent Preston Thomas, and  
To whom it may concern:

I am writing to call your attention to a wrong that is being done to our students. In this case, unlike many others, it is a wrong which you have the complete power to right, if only you choose. I am referring to the decision to issue a letter of non-reelection to our beloved Drama teacher Mr. Asedo Wilson. Along with many members of the Fremont staff, and in the interests of our students, I strongly urge you to reconsider this faulty decision by rescinding the letter of non-reelection.

Few teachers at Fremont have such an outsize role on our campus as Mr. Wilson, which is the more impressive since it is only his second year here. As you know, his Drama class was sorely needed for students to fulfill graduation requirements. Despite being saddled with class sizes far above the limit, Mr. Wilson always maintained an unfailingly positive demeanor. His warm smile and effervescent greetings in the hallways made both teachers and students feel welcome and appreciated. I observed countless occasions where students made their affection for him as a teacher known by going out of their way and calling out to greet him.

Why are students so appreciative of Mr. Wilson? After all, most of them are unaware of his deep involvement in school planning committees. He participates on the School Site Council, the school's Facilities Committee, and the school's Site Governance Council--but most students wouldn't know that.

Perhaps students' enthusiasm for Mr. Wilson stems in part from all the special events and extracurricular activities he has brought to their lives. He single-handedly organized a talent show last year which was a truly inspirational event, involving many students who would not normally feel the confidence to perform in front of the whole school. Mr. Wilson helped impart and nurture their self-confidence and spirit of camaraderie. This is not to mention the guest speakers Mr. Wilson has brought to campus, or the field trips he has made possible through his participation.



Yet I suspect students' appreciation for Mr. Wilson has less to do with the aforementioned activities (as much as we adults may value them), and more to do with Mr. Wilson's presence in his classroom. He is a dedicated, caring and qualified Drama teacher. Currently students in his classes are studying classic works of renowned black playwrights such as Lorraine Hansberry and August Wilson. Students value his relevant curriculum and his emotionally supportive classroom atmosphere. But they also value his presence in their lives as a black man who attended Oakland schools and has chosen to return to Oakland to make a career out of working with, and for, the youth of Oakland.

Can we be surprised at all that this, in fact, matters to students? An OUSD document dated 2015-16 and titled "Recruitment and retention realities in Oakland Unified School District," confirms the district's needs:

- *"To develop a teaching force that is representative of our student demographics [and]*
- *To develop a teaching force with a high level of cultural competency and resilience"*

Given these needs, the decision to push out Mr. Wilson is even more bewildering and troubling. Of course it would be an injustice if any well-loved, dedicated, and qualified teacher were taken away from our students. But this injustice is greatly compounded when the teacher being pushed out is also a native son of Oakland, as well as an under-represented black man whose goal is to make a long-term career out of teaching in Oakland. Given this situation the school community--who has nothing but positive things to say about Mr. Wilson--cannot be expected to sit quietly and accept the injustice.

This is a mistake that is easily corrected by rescinding the letter of non-reelection; it is within your discretion to do so. I ask that you take action promptly to right this wrong.

Sincerely,

Nicolas Parker

Patricia Sliney Arabia  
Director and CTE instructor  
Mandela Law and Public Service  
At Fremont High, 4610 Foothill Blvd  
Oakland, California 94601  
510-207-2447 Patricia.Arabia@ousd.org

Pamela Watson  
Principal of Fremont High  
Katherine Carter  
Design Principal of Fremont High  
To Whom It May Concern

March 16, 2016

Letter in Support of Asedo Wilson  
Drama Teacher at Fremont High

Dear Ms. Watson and Ms. Carter and to Whom It May Concern:

I support, enthusiastically and without reservation, Asedo Wilson to continue as the Drama teacher at Fremont High; please rescind the letter of non-elect and assure that he will continue to be a part of the Fremont High team.

Asedo is an extraordinary professional in the arts and in education. From the minute he was hired as the best candidate for the job, Asedo has undertaken every task asked of him and more. He came into the semester mid-point because the hiring team had failed to get an art teacher in time for the beginning of the school year. His rosters were way beyond contract, one as large as 45 students. The professional standard for a Drama class would be to fill the roster with students who choose the art elective. Unfortunately, Asedo's classes were used by administration to place students in any class; regardless of their elective choices.

Asedo accepted the challenge of huge rosters and of underlit and undersound equipped drama spaces as an excellent team player and ignited the formal dramatic potential in our students. Many students tell me constantly, with joy, about the monologues and the singing they are now encouraged to express. We always dreamt of a talent show and Asedo made it happen with some of my most quiet and studious students competing as beautiful dancers. Students have written plays, they are reading the script of Raisin in the Sun, Asedo has uncovered a long buried treasury of scripts by black playwrights such as August Wilson and takes his heritage as a black graduate of Oakland schools seriously and with the heart and soul of a reformer insisting on social justice and equal opportunity for all his students.

He and his mom wrote letters to insist that he be allowed to attend the best schools in Oakland for his particular and rigorous vision and he has carried that vision of best schools for every student to his work here; leading the work to improve our stage sound, our whole school communication and our trips to theaters and student planning retreats. We could not do this work without Asedo's insight, constant selfless sharing of his time and energy and his professionalism.

Asedo is brilliant, a model of professional excellence and deeply devoted to our community of students and adults. He is passionate about the arts and his black heritage. Asedo is an extraordinary teacher and member of our community, please assure that he will be asked to stay with our Fremont High faculty and staff. Please call with any questions about this excellent candidate.

Very truly yours,  
Patricia Sliney Arabia

CC: Nicolas Parker, Asedo Wilson

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Asedo Wilson. He has been an asset and a team-player at Fremont High School. I am particularly disappointed at his non-reelect letter because he and I were just planning ways we could use an intro to drama class next year as a literacy support for 9th graders. There is strong curriculum for teaching literacy through drama, and he was excited and open-minded to try something new to support our highest-need students. This type of open-mindedness and willingness to collaborate is what makes him a valuable asset to our school.

Thank you,  
Sonja Totten-Harris

To Ms Watson, and whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of keeping Mr Asedo Wilson as a teacher at Fremont. I have been informed that Mr Wilson has received as a letter of non-reelect, meaning he will not be able to teach at our school next year. If we lose Mr Wilson we will unfairly and preventably lose a great asset for our school. Mr Wilson has not received enough support and evaluation over the last two unstable years at our school to fairly be non-reelected. He has not been sufficiently observed and coached for the past two years, largely due to the upheaval at Fremont. He does still have plenty of room for growth, but if allowed to stay at the school he will continue to grow. I can attest to this because I have seen that he is hardworking, committed to the students, and open to feedback and suggestions.

Mr Wilson has shown himself to be a dedicated professional and member of our school community in a variety of ways. He is very supportive of other teachers, he is always available to talk with other teachers, and he communicates about student progress and needs to try to support them as well. He also works to give them good opportunities by going above and beyond to organize field trips for students, organizing school talent shows, and collaborating with other teachers. He also takes extra time to go to community meetings. On top of all that, Mr Wilson is an asset to our school, as an African American male and OUSD graduate, he can help our students have another teacher who they can connect to in a different way. Our district has openly acknowledged that we need to help improve African American males' achievement, and that one part of that is having African American male educators in our schools as educators. Please reconsider the choice to non-reelect for the good of our students and school community.

Sincerely,  
Christie Blakley



March 21, 2016

Dear School Board and Central Leadership of Oakland Unified,

I am writing this letter in support of my colleague and teacher friend, Asedo Wilson. He recently received a letter of stating that he would not be invited to return to Fremont High or Oakland as a classroom teacher next year. This is devastating news for our campus, and the decision does not reflect the district's promise to intensively support Fremont High.

As a second-year teacher, Mr. Wilson is growing into his craft. I have spent 14 years in the classroom, and I know firsthand how long it takes for a teacher to become excellent. Mr. Wilson deserves a chance to prove how excellent he can become. From the enthusiasm and energy he brings to our morning announcements to the talent shows that make Fremont students feel proud to be here, Mr. Wilson is an asset to our school. I have partnered with him on anti-bullying projects and we have planned an upcoming Shakespeare unit together. He actively seeks out core teachers with which to collaborate on curriculum between his Drama classes and their own.

I feel that the letter not to re-elect Mr. Wilson is both unfair and unwarranted. Please consider rescinding the letter so that Mr. Wilson can return next year to his Fremont family.

Sincerely,

Johanna Paraiso  
English Teacher & Department Chair  
Instructional Leadership Team Co-Chair  
Oakland Unified Teacher of the Year 2015-16





Academic Excellence • Social Responsibility • Accountability • Proactiveness

16 March 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

I support Asedo Wilson as the drama teacher at Fremont High School. I have worked with Mr. Wilson at Fremont High School since the fall of 2014. Mr. Wilson and I share many of the same students. Mr. Wilson was able to connect well with our challenging student population. He also worked well with other faculty in weekly meetings and coordinating a projects, performances, curriculum, and field trips with other teams of teachers.

Mr. Wilson was extremely effective by introducing students to the world of drama and performance when last year's seniors needed art credit in order to graduate. Mr. Wilson not only worked well with the seniors, but he also grew to understand the very different freshman, sophomore, junior, and newcomer populations. He is adept differentiating his curriculum so that students at all different levels can access the material, learn, and enjoy class. Mr. Wilson is an important member of the teaching faculty and was willing to put in the extra planning time and work to organize a student talent show, an exclusive visit from musical artist Kehlani, and coach student actors to prepare an anti-bullying PSA for the Golden State Warriors. He was an active participant in the recent field trip to Facebook, inspiring young African American male students that they too can be successful and achieve a career they love and enjoy just as Mr. Wilson does. He always volunteers to help and his colleagues are grateful for the love and joy he brings when he introduces students to the world of drama. Students and teachers alike enjoy his enthusiasm and his commitment to this community.

Mr. Wilson was successful in creating significant inspiration the moment he arrived at Fremont. The class of 2015 will always be grateful that he came to Fremont and dedicated himself to teaching them so that they could get their art credit and graduate. He exhibited an ability to engage students in the lessons, support them in making informed choices about schoolwork and attitude, and utilized his creativity to develop new classroom activities. Students often told me how funny he was and how interested class was each day. Additionally, it is especially important that we have role models such as Mr. Wilson for our young African American males. It is important that they see more teachers of colors, particularly successful African American male teachers like Mr. Wilson, a product of OUSD who cares about the community and who can be a role model for students who were once in his same shoes.

I support Mr. Wilson to stay as a drama teacher at Fremont High School because he cares about students, and their learning and is willing to create ways to engage each of them. Please do not take away this wonderful asset to our school community. It will be a big loss to our Fremont family if you remove Mr. Wilson.

Sincerely,

Agnes Cabrera Zapata  
Teacher | English Language Arts  
Co-Director | Mandela Law & Public Service Academy  
[azapata@alumni.stanford.edu](mailto:azapata@alumni.stanford.edu)  
C: (310) 720-3060





March 21, 2016

Dear School Board and Central Leadership of Oakland Unified,

I am writing this letter in support of my colleague and teacher friend, Asedo Wilson. He recently received a letter of stating that he would not be invited to return to Fremont High or Oakland as a classroom teacher next year. This is devastating news for our campus, and the decision does not reflect the district's promise to intensively support Fremont High.

As a second-year teacher, Mr. Wilson is growing into his craft. I have spent 14 years in the classroom, and I know firsthand how long it takes for a teacher to become excellent. Mr. Wilson deserves a chance to prove how excellent he can become. From the enthusiasm and energy he brings to our morning announcements to the talent shows that make Fremont students feel proud to be here, Mr. Wilson is an asset to our school. I have partnered with him on anti-bullying projects and we have planned an upcoming Shakespeare unit together. He actively seeks out core teachers with which to collaborate on curriculum between his Drama classes and their own.

I feel that the letter not to re-elect Mr. Wilson is both unfair and unwarranted. Please consider rescinding the letter so that Mr. Wilson can return next year to his Fremont family.

Sincerely,

Johanna Paraiso  
English Teacher & Department Chair  
Instructional Leadership Team Co-Chair  
Oakland Unified Teacher of the Year 2015-16

A first-year teacher at Fremont

Dear Site Administrator Pamela Watson,  
Design Principal Katherine Carter,  
Network Superintendent Preston Thomas, and  
To whom it may concern:

I am writing to voice my support for the retention of Mr. Wilson here at Fremont High School. This is my first year at this school and Mr. Wilson has been nothing but supportive, cooperative and selfless towards myself. Mr. Wilson means so much to our school and everyone that attends it, and it would be a shame to not see him here next year. He has worked with me, on plans and solutions, to better help specific students with everything from behavior issues, to content building, to attendance.

Mr. Wilson is an integral piece of our staff here. Among many other things he provides the support for a number of extra-curricular activities. I personally feel his positive and upbeat attitude on-campus, at meetings, in the classroom, in casual conversations with other staff members, off campus and everywhere else lends us a crucial tool to any teacher's ability to do their job effectively: joy. He brings this joy to the students as well. Whether it be his creative teaching lessons, projects and activities or the extra-curricular activities, he himself, works tirelessly to carry out, the escape he offers the students from the day-in and day-out of high school for students is invaluable.

Because of these qualities and intangibles he brings to the campus of Fremont High School I urge you to rescind the letter of non-reelection. Our campus would surely be missing a piece if Mr. Wilson were not here next year. I certainly tried in this letter, but I really don't think I can put into words the value he brings to our school. Without witnessing his classroom, the attitude students have towards him and his class, the positive energy that beams from him, his work ethic, or any of his other imponderable qualities and talents, I don't know how anyone could see to it that he not remain an integral member of our staff next year.

Again, taking into account not only the value of the teacher you are not bringing back, but the message that sends to other teachers, especially new ones like myself, about the security and stability of my own career at OUSD, I ask you to re-evaluate your decision to not re-elect Mr. Wilson as a teacher here at Fremont High School.

Sincerely,

A first-year teacher at Fremont

Beth B. Suddreth  
Resource Specialist  
Fremont High School  
4610 Foothill Blvd  
Oakland, California 94601  
[beth.suddreth@ousd.org](mailto:beth.suddreth@ousd.org)

March 16, 2016

Pamela Watson, Principal of Fremont High  
Katherine Carter, Design Principal of Fremont High  
To Whom It May Concern  
Re: Letter in Support of Asedo Wilson, Drama Teacher at Fremont High

Dear Ms. Watson and Ms. Carter, and To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to ask that you please retract the letter of non-elect for Asedo Wilson, Fremont High School's Drama teacher. Mr. Wilson is a wonderful role model for our students, and as product of Oakland schools himself, he is genuinely devoted to our community of students and their families.

When Mr. Wilson joined our staff after the 2014 – 2015 school year had already begun, he was faced with overfull classes of as many as 45 students, many of whom had not chosen Drama as their elective. Because Fremont had not offered Drama in a number of years, Mr. Wilson was further challenged by having only outdated and makeshift lighting and sound equipment.

Despite these obstacles, Mr. Wilson proceeded to ensure that our students have the opportunity to learn many of the aspects of stage performance and production. As a special education teacher, I am particularly grateful that Mr. Wilson's stage productions give students, for whom academic achievement does not come easily, the chance to shine, either as stage performers or as behind-the-scenes stage hands. Several of my resource students have expressed to me how much they enjoy Mr. Wilson's Drama class because "it's a different kind of class; I have fun in there!"

During his short time at Fremont High, Mr. Wilson has gone above and beyond his duties as a teacher. He has coordinated and led several field trips, including trips to theatres, he is leading the effort to bring update our school's stage equipment, and his is the voice we all hear on our school's daily announcements. If Mr. Wilson were to no longer be a part of the Fremont High teaching staff, his absence would be felt not only by his students, but by his colleagues and by the Fremont community at large. Please invite Mr. Wilson to remain at Fremont High.

Sincerely,

Beth B. Suddreth

Persephone Hintlian, M.A., Ph.D.  
Education Specialist/Case Manager  
Counseling Enriched Special Day Class  
Fremont High School  
510-501-9811  
Persephone.hintlial@ousd.org

Dear Site Administrator Pamela Watson,  
Design Principal Katherine Carter,  
Network Superintendent Preston Thomas, and  
To whom it may concern:

Having had the chance to observe Mr. Asedo Wilson as an Alternate Observer under The Oakland Unified School District's Teacher Growth and Development System (TGDS) I was shocked to hear that he had been selected for non-reelection. I have seen first hand the positive gains he is making with students in his drama classes and have full faith in his ability to grow his teaching practice when given pedagogical support. I urge you to rescind his non-reelection and instead instill an improved program of mentorship and guidance.

In support of the youth of Oakland,  
Persephone Hintlian



March 21, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of Mr. Asedo Wilson to call for the letter of non reelection to be rescinded.

I have been teaching at Fremont High School for 18 years and in those years I have seen good teachers come and go. I have witnessed how difficult is it to look for Arts teachers and retain them. Now, here is a teacher who is willing, able, and dedicated to teach our students and the district is letting him go? Does Fremont High School have to go through the hiring process again to find a new Art teacher when the school has already one? Mr. Wilson is one of those teachers who loves being in the classroom teaching and making difference in the lives of our students. Aside from being a classroom teacher, he has been a valuable member of our school, participating on the School Site Council, the school's Facilities Committee, and the school's Site Governance Council. He organizes talent shows for students to showcase students' ability in performing arts.

I ask for you to reconsider your decision and have Mr. Wilson do what he loves to do... teaching our students.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Editha C. Soliman  
Science Teacher  
Fremont High School  
Editha.soliman@ousd.org

Dear Principal,

I don't think that Mr. Wilson should be let go, because he is someone who is very funny and he really is passionate about what he teaches. Which means that he actually helps students out with no limit. But at the same time he does have his own way of teaching. At first yeah I thought he was strict and all but then when you stay in his class more you get to realize that he's very nice. ~~and~~ He shouldn't be let go of because this class helps a lot on improving the stage fright and people self confidence. No other teacher helps with that. He shouldn't be let go of at all.

Sincerely,  
Samantha  
Raymundo



Dear Ms. W,

My name is Essai Taleb, and I am in Drama class with Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson is a great teacher. He teaches us great and I think he is cool. He teaches us a lot and I learned a lot from his class. He tells us to get up and get in a circle. When we get up in a circle we move a lot so if someone is sleepy they wake up. We get up in a circle and he teaches us not to be afraid to act. He taught us how to act. Mr. Wilson is a great teacher and he teaches us well. Bring Mr. Wilson back.

Sincerely,

Essai Taleb

Deisy Garcia

March 16, 2016

Sometimes letting go of a teacher can be really unfair, mostly if you know that teacher.

-Teachers in Fremont should be energetic

They should be supportive and they should take the initiative to make all students in Fremont come together and have fun.

Mr. Wilson has done that. He has organized events such as talent shows to unite the students so they can have fun.

Fremont needs elective classes. I honestly didn't want to do drama but I ended up in drama and I actually enjoyed it.

Mr. Wilson has taught us that we can be shy. We have to talk loud and be confident to speak in front of teachers.

Cesar Romero

P2 #1

3/16/16

I would like to keep all the teachers we have all of them bring support to us students one way or another plus I think we all got use to the teachers. What I think is that we should keep Mr. Wilson because he is a very good teacher He isn't strict but even so you can't fool around and get away with it. It wouldn't be fair to us the students because we need someone who knows what is happening but we can't be productive if you bring someone else in who doesn't know anything about Fremont or the classes. That's why I think we should keep Mr. Wilson in Fremont.

Springfield Esquire

3/16/16

p 8

- Mr. Wilson should 100% ~~be~~ return next year. Not only has he shown me ~~that~~ how to not be shy he has ~~also~~ also help out a lot in how to get over the fright of being in front of the class. To be honest the district ~~should be fired~~ people should be fired because they have not given us the money we need to rebuild the school so instead of firing Mr. Wilson take care of the people that are really not doing their jobs ~~and~~ instead of Mr. Wilson who actually ~~was~~ taught me something useful. Plus he was able to bring a singer to our school that was from Oakland and that was a huge opportunity for me to see someone ~~over~~ successful that came from ~~to~~ Oakland that went ~~through~~ through hard times and is famous. So if Mr. Wilson goes we won't have these opportunities and he has actually done his job so this is not fair for him.

Dear, Ms. Watson

3/16/16

Chris Brandon

I love this class. I get to be myself.  
It is super fun, we learn a lot and  
I feel we can be in Broadway.  
I gained experience & I learned specific  
terms & definitions. Yes I think Mr. Wilson  
should be asked to come back bc  
he is one of the many amazing  
teachers

P.S. Make the right  
decision.

Sincerely

- Christopher  
Brandon



Khyne

I don't want Wilson to leave because  
he is a good teacher.

1.



3/16/16

Dear District,

Mr. Wilson leaving will affect us a lot because he is a good teacher he teach us a lot and makes us have fun. I think that you should let him stay because he is the best teachers to teach drama. Also you should stop taking good teachers like Mr Wilson away from the district. There no other teacher that will teach drama so good than how Mr. Wilson does so you should let him stay in Fremont

From,  
Fremont student

Dear OUSD, I believe you should re-consider firing Aseba Wilson. For one we need more classes like Drama class, Mr. Wilson helped me choose what career I'd like to be in the future, I discovered my hidden talent which is writing. I hope to one day write and produce my own movie. Mr. Wilson would like to come back to OUSD and Fremont. He is a Native to Oakland and knows the struggles of living in such an environment. Mr. Wilson also has dedicated his time and effort to be in a classroom, unlike many teachers from our Spanish department here at Fremont. Just to name a few. Please re-consider firing such a great teacher.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Reyes

Kindasha

R.

Crosby

3/16/16

# KEEP MR. WILSON

I think Mr. Wilson should be able to stay because he is a good teacher. He is very energetic and makes the class fun. He tries to make sure everybody participates. He grades everybody fairly. I think Fremont should keep him as a drama teacher, I think a lot of students like him. Everybody has fun in this class and it is productive. If Mr. Wilson leaves I think it would make students upset.

Dear Ms. Watson

I am a girl that is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. I am happy of being here at Fremont, but there is some things that are happening that I and my fellows students don't like. For example teachers being dismiss when they are the great teachers we have, that cares about our education. Not like the other teachers that walks out for no reason, and don't come back, is like they don't care about our education. But I have a question → why the teachers that educates us like they should do and completes their work are being dismissed, like Mrs. Wilson, in drama class? Also I want to talk about next year about the school schedule. For me I think you staffs should change the schedule by decreasing the time in every class for 70 minutes and getting 10 more minutes for lunch b/c sometimes the lunch line is really long. But also get release d early from school, like around 3:00pm. That would be great for me because sitting down for 90 minutes in a class is a lot, and it makes students don't want to do anything. Thank you for reading this.

Sincerely,

Student.

Zaria W.

Dear Ms. Watson,

Per 4

3-16-14

Drama

Mr. Wilson needs to return next year to Fremont High School.

He is one of the only African-American male teachers here.

It is essential that we have diverse teacher to fulfill the need of every student. If he leaves that leaves us only a couple of black teachers.

He is in fact one of my favorite teachers and I will be disappointed if he loses the job he loves and cherish.

Why ask a teacher who genuinely cares about us to leave? But

keep unnecessary teachers who don't have an impact on us

students at all. Drama class has been the only class I

have look forward to go to this year and I have a lot of fun while im learning the content.

Mr. Wilson is a perfect teacher for Fremont High School because he comes from Oakland so he understand us culturally. Also, he

have a lot of passion for his job and it shows that's why kids engage. Think twice before you let go one of the best things that came to Fremont High school.

Love Julia Woods.

P.S.- Mr. Wilson is the only teacher who kept the art of theater in Fremont. Which he had a lot of assemblies for us, celebrity guest and talent shows. The only exciting things that happened this year at ~~Fremont~~<sup>Fremont</sup>, since Mr. Carson left.



Dear Ms.Watson,

I can not express the emotions I felt when I was informed that one of my dearest teachers would no longer be returning next year. Fremont is a school for career pathways, link learning, and professional development. My overall career profession is to go off into the Entertainment Business, a very demanding profession. How will we be able to live up to the school's purpose if we do not meet the standards and needs of all of our students? We can not afford to lose another magnificent teacher, mentor, friend and/or role model. This is my third year here at Fremont High School, and out of these three years this would be my first year taking Mr.Wilson's Drama class. I was inspired to join based upon other students experiences; the class having been fun and useful towards self improvement. Just last year I was in a position where I was being made fun of and allowing myself to be in front of a class or even participate in group assignments were intimidating. It seemed like it would never be an option for me. I wanted to disappear into the shadows and hope I'd make it by without being noticed. I had major self doubt in the profession I wanted to aspire to become. And this class has done so much more for me. In just my first semester I've learned to open up to others, I've build self confidence and most importantly I've allowed myself to dream again. This is a safe place and a home for me. I'm excited every morning to wake up and come to Mr.Wilson's Drama class, to study and volunteer to recite lines in front of the class. The spotlight is on me and I feel like people actually notices me and I'm no longer afraid. The students feel like another family. I can not imagine how many times I have came to Mr.Wilson's during class, lunch or after school for advice and personal experience for my career and issues I am faced with in life and never once was he unavailable. I wouldn't want my younger peers to miss out on an amazing opportunity to experience what I have and I would love to take another course of Drama with Mr.Wilson next year. Me and my peers have created a strong bond with Mr.Wilson, which is hard to say for most teachers, due to all of the changes that have been made. Mr.Wilson is an outstanding teacher, mentor and role model. Fremont cannot go on without him.

Sincerely,

Aleah Jefferson  
Junior, Fremont High School

3-17-16.

Dear Ms. Watson,

Good afternoon, my name is Ana Soavedra. I'm a former and future student of Mr. Wilson drama class. I'm writing this letter to let you know that I feel devastating because I don't want to lose one of the best of the best teachers. Taking his class, for me personal was incredible because I found myself, I'm not that timid girl people see, that was something that Mr. Wilson taught me to break. Drama class teaches students to be who they are, to be independent, also to be outrageous, and have fun. This man is like my father because he shows up every single day ready with a lesson plan of the day, which our parents can't, and that's called preparedness emotionally, physically, mentally, and spiritually. Students can rely on him if they have a problem. This man does whatever he can to be in his students' education but mostly to be part of their lives. I look up to this man so much because he done so much for me. If I have a problem or need help I can always count on him. He is very supportive with his students and staff. This class is very important to take because it prepares students for the outside world to be successful. This course prepares you for life. Mr. Wilson teaches from the heart, not from a book. I know this man, and he loves teaching what he does. He is unique because he fights for what he loves to do. He inspires me a lot, because of his creativity. Teachers like him need to STAY!!! Mr. Wilson is very remarkable to each and every single one of us. Thank you for taking your time reading my letter and hope this can change your mind and reconsidered.

Attentive,  
Ana Soavedra.

Peca A.  
3/16/16

Honestly, NOT allowing MR. Wilson to come back next year is not a good thing to do. Who is going to be here to teach drama next year? In order to pass high school, you need drama. This class is really fun! I can be myself, I have gained confidence since I have been here since day one. I am no longer shy to go in front of people.

This whole situation is bizarre and uncalled for. Instead of firing Mr. Wilson you should reconsider most of the other teachers you hire. You should rethink this whole thing.

- Roberta "Peca" Aguilar

Dear Ms. Watson,

It is unfair in the way a teacher is taken away without our opinion. We the students who are the ones to learn from this teacher should be the ones to decide.

Mr. Wilson is one of the best teachers, he is a person from the Bay Area. He understands where we come from. His ways of teaching are very good and very strategically. He engages us in our learning, teaching us to not be shy in front of class. I have become so close to the people in this class because of Mr. Wilson and the way he engaged us to communicate with each other. I think students should choose our teachers because we are the ones learning from this teacher.

Angel Manzo  
period: 7

3/16/15

I really enjoy Drama class with Mr. Wilson. I honestly at first didn't care about drama and never did I ever imagine I would enjoy drama. Mr. Wilson's class has changed my life completely. I have gained confidence, discipline, and comfortness around not only my classmates, but ~~my~~ entire surroundings. Drama is the only class I look forward to when I attend school ~~due~~ due to the fact I can express myself and become another person entirely and not be judged by who or how I act. Mr. Wilson's class also introduced me to amazing opportunities such as filming and acting. Drama with Mr. Wilson has kept my attitude and ~~emotions~~ emotions from bursting. Wilson should be chosen to keep attending and teaching at Fremont High School because if he doesn't I promise to not attend another Drama class ever again and I will receive followers to follow my decision in protesting him to stay. What if your favorite and most reliable teacher was going to be removed from your school and you don't have anyone to depend on or talk to? How would you feel? Please take concern to my opinion before making your decision because I honestly love this class with Mr. Wilson as its teacher.



March 16, 2016

Dear Ms. Watson,

Theres word around school about our teacher Mr. Wilson being fired. I feel quite upset. You never told us that one of our favorite teachers are leaving fremont. I dont like the decision you made, first of all, you havent really seen what has mr. Wilson has been doing in his classroom, since you rarely leave your office, you would of known better than to just give an opinion and not discuss about it. I know that the staff has been lacking at giving respect towards the students, and I feel as its only an opinion for them, not the students. Only the head staff can decide wether or not our teacher leaves. Why can't the students decide? Its not right when only you and your staff members decide whats best for us, when sometimes its not. You want to change rules to a even more stricter level, Change the school and mdscoth, when its our school? You and your allies are not the only people to take over control of the school. Its us too.

Sincerely, Julia  
Aleman

Stephanie a.

Dear Mr. Watson,

I honestly think Mr. Wilson shouldn't leave Fremont High School. He brings a lot of pride to Fremont. He's the one who starts talent shows, brings pride to everyone's culture, brought in Kehlani! That was a very special day because she is such an inspiration. Especially knowing she comes from Oakland too. Mr. Wilson is such a good teacher, before I came to this class I didn't really have much interest in Drama/Art. But when we started acting, reading skits, reading plays, watching movies from the old days it made me interested. I always look up to going to Wilson's class. It's such a good class and I feel like all my classmates bond. We already don't have a lot of extra curricular classes like cooking class, French, driving ed etc. It would be sad to let the only Drama and involved teacher at this school go. When we heard the news everyone started freaking out because everyone loves Wilson. I really hope you guys change your mind about letting him go.

Sincerely, Stephanie Alvarenga



3/16/16

Dear Watson,

I feel like Mr. Wilson should not leave Fremont High School because he has done so much things for this school and the students that attend here. For example, he made it possible for me to see my idol Kehlani in person for free. He has also helped me better my acting skills too. I feel like he deserves to stay at Fremont because I know that he truly cares about his job here. Mr. Wilson is a very generous guy and I feel that you guys are being unfair by letting him go from this school and the district. He also cares about the students at this school because he is the one that makes the talent shows and he appreciates our talents unlike most of the teachers here. I think he also understands us more because he is also from Oakland and he knows how it is around here.

Sincerely,  
Consuelo Avitia

Dear Ms. Watson

I am a girl that is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. I am happy of being here at Fremont, but there is some things that are happening that I and my fellows students don't like. For example teachers being dismiss when they are the great teachers we have, that cares about our education. Not like the other teachers that walks out for no reason, and don't come back, is like they don't care about our education. But I have a question → why the teachers that educates us like they should do and completes their work are being dismissed, like Mrs. Wilson, in drama class? Also I want to talk about next year about the school schedule. For me I think you staffs should change the schedule by decreasing the time in every class for 70 minutes and getting 10 more minutes for lunch b/c sometimes the lunch line is really long. But also get released early from school, like around 3:00pm. That would be great for me because sitting down for 90 minutes in a class is a lot, and it makes students don't want to do anything. Thank you for reading this.

Sincerely,

Student.

Esmeralda  
03/16/16

Dear Ms Watson,

I am really upset over the fact that Mr Wilson will not be here next year. What will happen with our A-G requirements if we don't have electives as an option anymore. What's going to happen if we have to re-take his class again. I think that Mr Wilson is a really excellent teacher and has qualities that help us. He believes in us and actually helps us get through his class. I think that if Mr Wilson is replaced or the class is not an option the students aren't going to try anymore. Mr Wilson is a teacher who tells it to us like it is. He tells us what we have to do in order to be successful. If Mr Wilson leaves it will make many people upset. I feel like people like Mr Wilson b/c he is genuinely a good teacher. We need Mr. Wilson to stay.

Sincerely,

Esmeralda Hernandez

Naji M.

Per 1

3-16-16

I like teachers that can relate to me. Also, teachers of my color or grew up in the bay area. Teachers from other cities do not understand the struggle of us. ~~They~~ They don't know how hard it is to live in Oakland. To be honest, if Wilson doesn't come back next year, the OAK DISTRICT is worthless. They don't want real black teachers teaching students of color from the area they lived in.

03/16/16

Dear Ms. Watson,

We were just informed that MR. Wilson our drama teacher is leaving Fremont High. I feel like this is unfair to him and to us his students because you're taking away a teacher who actually cares about us. You guys made a mistake with MR. Wilson because he's smart, inspiring, caring and creates a positive and fun atmosphere around his students. Even now that he got the news that he's leaving, he hasn't gave up on us like most teachers that get that news would. We are still getting done what needs to be done. These are the type of teachers to keep around not to get rid of. By letting MR. Wilson go, you're ignoring how students feel on the subject. It gets me mad how you guys can just tell someone they're not going to be here anymore, what if they don't want to leave? I'm sure MR. Wilson still wants to be part of the Fremont community. He's always involved in activities and engaging with students. I respect MR. Wilson and I'm proud to have him as a teacher. It's sad how you guys take away a great teacher & the chance for new students to meet these type of teachers that make you feel like you're cared for here at Fremont. My brother is coming to Fremont next year & he's not going to get to see the great job MR. Wilson does, that's pretty sad. Before making those big decisions, students

should be taken in notice and how it affects us.

Sincerely,

Dann Olson

Dear Ms. Watson

What is affecting the teachers, it also affects the students. Mr. Wilson being a Drama teacher was the best position he had. I wonder why Wilson is being fired / dismissed. He also doesn't know why. Mr. Wilson has been working on making a positive spirit on Fremont High School, and then it was all for nothing. Last year in 9<sup>th</sup> grade I had Spanish class. Through my eyes I have seen many things. The best teacher I had in that Spanish class was Mr. Lawson. I have seen many more teachers leave and come. Ms. Cully is gone and replaced by Ms. Marr. Mr. Tucker is another art teacher for art! But why need two teachers for one subject, well probably because there are too many students. We are in a public school, and don't want to be a private school, we are meant to be free and not in jails. If it wasn't for Wilson getting me in 10<sup>th</sup> grade I wouldn't thought that Drama class was suited for me. This class has developed me to be the character I am now. Mr. Wilson believes in me and I respect him and any other teacher in Fremont High. Ms. Watson we as students want to have a good environment. Respect our decisions.

Sincerely,

Student from Fremont