

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

June 9, 2010

To: Board of Education

From: Tony Smith
Lynne Rodezno

Subject: Defense of Funding for Early Childhood Education

ACTION REQUESTED

Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 0910-0285 – Opposing the Early Childhood Education Budget Reductions Proposed In the Governor’s May, 2010 State Budget Revision and Urging the California Legislature to Preserve Adequate Levels of Funding for Early Childhood Education.

BACKGROUND

Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed in the May 2010 State Budget Revision \$300 million in funding reduction for Early Childhood Education Programs in California. If enacted, these cuts will deprive the District of \$16 million in Early Childhood Education Program funding, eliminate at least 80 percent of the Early Childhood Program and result in more than 150 layoffs.

FISCAL IMPACT

Reduction and/or Closure of significant portions of the District’s Early Childhood Education Program.

RECOMMENDATION

Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 0910-0285 – Opposing the Early Childhood Education Budget Reductions Proposed In the Governor’s May, 2010 State Budget Revision and Urging the California Legislature to Preserve Adequate Levels of Funding for Early Childhood Education.

Attachment: Resolution No. 0910-0285

LEGISLATIVE FILE

File ID No. 10-1463
Introduction Date 6/3/10
Enactment No. 10-0872
Enactment Date 6-9-10 *29*

LEGISLATIVE FILE

File ID No. 10-1463
Introduction Date 6/3/10
Enactment No. 10-0872
Enactment Date 6-9-10 *28*

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 0910-0285**

**Opposing the Early Childhood Education Budget Reductions Proposed In the Governor's
May, 2010 State Budget Revision and Urging the California Legislature to Preserve
Adequate Levels of Funding for Early Childhood Education**

WHEREAS, a robust Early Childhood Education Program is critical to the development of young children and helps prepare them for academic and social success upon entering school; and,

WHEREAS, an Early Childhood Education Program is particularly critical for children from low-income families who do not always benefit from the same resources and exposure to educational stimuli available to families with greater means; and,

WHEREAS, Early Childhood Education plays a major role in not only increasing overall educational attainment, but also in closing the achievement gap separating African-American and Latino students from their white and Asian peers, a divide which perpetuates poverty, inequality, unemployment, crime and a host of pathologies while reducing California's economic competitiveness; and,

WHEREAS, In the District more than 2,500 children take advantage of the Early Childhood Education Program which employs 78 teachers; 97 instructional assistants; 18 clerks; 6 administrators; and,

WHEREAS, slashing \$300 million from funding for Early Childhood Education, at a time when tremendous effort is devoted to improving education in California, threatens to undermine the entire effort; and,

WHEREAS, such reduction will eliminate \$16 million in funding for Early Childhood Education in the District alone, a shortfall the District cannot hope to cover at a time when other school funding cuts have forced \$40 million in budget reductions over the past two years and necessitated another \$100 million in cuts effective July, 2010; and,

WHEREAS, the impact of the proposed cuts to Early Childhood Education will not be limited to the Program itself, but will create ripple effects across the entire District, forcing site closures and layoffs in other areas that serve the Program, such as nutrition services and custodial services; and,

WHEREAS, if the Governor's 2010 May Revise Budget for Early Childhood Education is adopted, six new Early Childhood Education building projects will have to be abandoned – or stopped in midstream – holding local tax dollars hostage in the process; and,

WHEREAS, Partnerships such as those addressing early mental health and early literacy may be lost, with devastating impacts on the psychological well-being of many of the

District's most at-risk children and families as well as their academic competitiveness; and,

WHEREAS, if the Governor's 2010 May Revision for Early Childhood Education takes effect on July 1, 10-month employees cannot be noticed by May 15 as required by law, meaning they will not be notified of their pending lay-off until they return in the fall and the actual layoff cannot not take place until October; and,

WHEREAS, the District will have to absorb the costs and pay these employees during the interim period without the benefit of the Early Childhood Program revenue pending implementation of a legal layoff; and,

WHEREAS, the financial impact of the Governor's 2010 May Revision is enormous, but secondary compared to the incredible social disruption that will accompany the proposed cuts to Early Childhood Education; and,

WHEREAS, the District recognizes that the State of California is in the midst of a fiscal crisis which requires legislators to make tough decisions regarding available revenue, but also knows that the Governor's 2010 May Revision will cost the State more money in the long run; and,

WHEREAS, cutting funds for Early Childhood Education now will result in increased costs for health, counseling, unemployment, law enforcement, prison and a host of other social services in the near and medium-term, which are compounded financial and social costs the District simply cannot afford and finds unacceptable; and,

WHEREAS, if the District is to realize its goals for education and to contribute to the stability and well-being of the community, state and country, the State must invest in children and do it as early and often as possible; and,

WHEREAS, if the State neglects to provide a strong, stable foundation for children, subsequent efforts are likely to fail and/or be significantly impaired; and,

WHEREAS, the task of the District to educate it Early Childhood Education eligible youth,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education **Opposes the Early Childhood Education Budget Reductions Proposed In the Governor's May, 2010 State Budget Revision and Urges the California Legislature to Preserve Adequate Levels of Funding for Early Childhood Education**;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor, members of the Legislature who represent the District, chairs and members of the policy and appropriations committees of the Legislature whose subject matter jurisdiction includes Early Childhood Education.

Passed by the following vote:

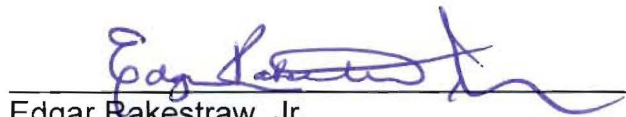
AYES: Jody London, Jumoke Hodge, Noel Gallo, Alice Spearman,
Vice President Christopher Dobbins, President Gary Yee

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: David Kakishiba

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 held June 9, 2010.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edgar Rakestraw, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

Edgar Rakestraw, Jr.
Secretary, Board of Education