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Enactment Number	
Enactment Date	



Memo

To Board of Education

From Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent
Yvette Renteria, Deputy Chief of Innovation

Board Meeting Date April 7, 2020

Subject Proposed Name – Sankofa United Elementary School - For the Merged Schools of – Sankofa Academy and Henry J. Kaiser Elementary School - Effective July 1, 2020

Action Adoption by the Board of Education on Resolution No. 1920-0219 - Designating the Merged Schools of Sankofa Academy and Henry J. Kaiser Elementary School as Sankofa United Elementary School* effective July 1, 2020.

Background The Board held a Public Hearing on March 25, 2020 to discuss the proposed name change for the Sankofa/Kaiser merged school and obtain feedback from the community. There was little opposition to the name change.

On September 11, 2019 the Board of Education adopted Resolution No. 1920-0156C to Merge Sankofa Academy and Henry J. Kaiser Elementary School on the Sankofa campus at 581 61st St., Oakland CA 94609.

A Design Team composed of the Kaiser and Sankofa principals, 3 staff members from each site, and 3 family representatives from each site has been meeting twice monthly since November 2019 to make decisions about the merged school.

In order to determine a name for the merged school, the Design Team conducted an online survey in November 2019 to solicit ideas from members of both school communities. In December 2019, at the Design Team’s first community Report Back meeting, more name ideas were solicited from attendees. In January 2020, Kaiser principal Dennis Guikema conducted classroom lessons with students at both schools to solicit their ideas for names.

At the Design Team retreat January 30 to February 1, 2020 the team narrowed the list of name ideas to six possibilities, and asked the community to give input by voting.

Over two hundred (213) families shared input on these six finalists by voting online, at the February 19, 2020 Design Team report back event, or on paper ballots. Two possible names surfaced as clear favorites. *Sankofa Academy* (the previous name) received 45.5% of the vote. *North Oakland United* got 32.7% of the vote.

Given this outcome, the Design Team unanimously agreed to recommend connecting the two top votes into the school name **Sankofa United**.

- **Sankofa:** Keeping *Sankofa* in the name honors the legacy and the powerful symbolism of this school name. *Sankofa* is a word in the Twi language of Ghana that translates to "Go back and get it," and represents the importance of learning from the past as we move toward the future.
- **United:** Adding *United* reflects the unifying [mission, vision, and values](#) of our community that are in service to ALL of our students.

Discussion

Board Policy ("BP") 7310 authorizes the District, after a public hearing held by the Board at which members of the public will be given an opportunity to provide input, to rename a District school.

Fiscal Impact

Fiscal impact is limited to the cost of new signage and stationary.

Attachments

[Resolution No. 1920-0156C](#)

[Board Policy \("BP"\) 7310](#)

[Online Design Survey #1 \(Nov 2019\)](#)

[Name suggestions collected at Dec 2019 Design Team report back Ballot and results from February 2020 community vote](#)

[Mission, Vision, and Core Values of Sankofa United](#)

RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. 1920-0219

Designating the Merged Schools of Sankofa Academy and Henry J. Kaiser Elementary School as Sankofa United Elementary School - Effective July 1, 2020

WHEREAS, Oakland Unified School District (“District”) Board Policy (“BP”) 7310 authorizes the District, after a public hearing held by the Board at which members of the public will be given an opportunity to provide input, to rename a District school; and

WHEREAS, Sankofa Academy (“Sankofa”) is the current name of an elementary school located at 581 61st St., Oakland CA 94609; and

WHEREAS, Henry J. Kaiser Elementary School (“Kaiser”) is the current name of an elementary school located at 25 South Hill Court, Oakland CA 94618; and

WHEREAS, Sankofa and Kaiser are merging into one elementary school to be located at 581 61st St., Oakland CA 94609; and

WHEREAS, the District seeks to change the names of Sankofa and Kaiser to a merged school named “Sankofa United Elementary School” effective on July 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Board has held a public hearing at which members of the public have been given an opportunity to provide input on the foregoing name changes; and

WHEREAS, under California law the District must submit a County-District-School (“CDS”) application, by and through the District’s designated CDS Coordinator, to the California Department of Education (“CDE”) to rename a school or schools and to update said school’s/schools’ CDS information;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the District, as follows:

Section 1. Recitals. All of the above recitals are true and correct, and the Board so finds.

Section 2. Change of Schools’ Names. The schools currently named Sankofa and Kaiser are renamed to a single merged school named Sankofa United Elementary School effective on July 1, 2020.

Section 3. Submission of CDS Application to CDE and Other Necessary Actions. The Board hereby authorizes District staff, including the District’s CDS Coordinator, to submit to the CDE the State-required application to rename the schools and to update the renamed and merged Sankofa and Kaiser CDS information; to take all other actions required by the State of California and by law to effect the aforementioned school name changes; and to take all other actions necessary within the District to effect the aforementioned school name changes.

Section 4. Approval of Actions. All actions heretofore taken and to be taken by District staff, as set forth above, are hereby approved, confirmed and ratified.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its date of adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District this 7th day of April, 2020, by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NOE:

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

RECUSE:

ABSENT:

CERTIFICATION

We 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 on April 7, 2020.

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By:	

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jody London
President, Board of Education

Kyla Johnson Trammell
Secretary, Board of Education