

**Board Office Use: Legislative File Info.**

File ID Number	14-0556
Introduction Date	3-26-14
Enactment Number	14-0523
Enactment Date	3-26-14

**OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT***Community Schools, Thriving Students*

# Memo

**To** Board of Education  
**From** Jacqueline Minor, General Counsel  
**Board Meeting Date** March 26, 2014  
**Subject** Employment Contract for Chief Financial Officer Ruth Alahydoian

**Action Requested** Approval of Employment Contract for Chief Financial Officer Ruth Alahydoian

**Background** Ruth Alahydoian is currently, Vice President at KNN Public Finance, a financial advisory firm serving public agencies in California, including OUSD. She has a MBA from Yale University, and Bachelor of Arts degree from Occidental College.

**Discussion** The Chief Financial Officer for the District is responsible for leading, planning, coordinating and supervising the District's Financial, Compliance, Risk Management, Accounting, and Procurement functions, implementing programs to assure the financial stability of the District, and approving financial plans and budgets, formulating financial analysis, and providing financial data as required, directing the District's investment program and cash management, serving as the primary liaison with Alameda County and Alameda County Office of Education with regards to the District's investments and functions, as the custodian of a variety of trust funds, preparing, administering, and controlling the annual general fund and all special fund budgets. Ruth Alahydoian will serve as the Chief Financial Officer for the District from the term May 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017 at compensation not to exceed \$150,000 per year.

**Recommendation** Approval of Employment Agreement with Ruth Alahydoian as Chief Financial Officer for the District for a term from May 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017.

**Fiscal Impact** Funding resource name: (GP) not to exceed \$150,000

**Attachments**

- Employment Agreement for Chief Financial Officer

## **EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT**

### **Ruth Alahydoian, Chief Financial Officer**

In consideration of the mutual promises made herein, the Oakland Unified School District, ("OUSD") a local public entity pursuant to Government Code § 811.2 and by the California Education and Government Codes (hereinafter "District"), and Ruth Alahydoian, an individual (hereinafter "Employee"), enter into this Employment Agreement ("Agreement") and agree as follows:

#### **Article 1      Acceptance of Employment and Term**

- 1.1 District hereby employs Employee and Employee hereby accepts employment with the District on the terms and conditions stated herein. In approving and adopting this Agreement, the Governing Board hereby resolves and designates the position of Chief Financial Officer as senior management of the classified service pursuant to Education Code § 45100.5. In entering into this Agreement, Employee hereby acknowledges and agrees that, as Chief Financial Officer, she is a member of the senior management of the classified service and that no other employment classification is applicable to her employment with the District.
- 1.2 The term of employment shall be from on May 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2017 ("Term"), unless extended in writing by mutual agreement of District and Employee or terminated sooner at the discretion of District.

#### **Article 2      Duties and Obligations of Employee**

- 2.1 Employee shall direct, lead, plan, coordinate, supervise and evaluate the District's Financial, Compliance, Risk Management, Accounting, and Procurement and Distribution, and is principal support to the Deputy Superintendent, Business Services and Operations; supervises, reviews and evaluates the directors and managers. Employee shall also among other responsibilities assigned by the Deputy Superintendent: 1) serve as the Chief Financial Officer for the District, implementing programs to assure the financial stability of the District and approving financial plans and budgets; 2) formulate financial analysis, and provide financial data as required for District labor negotiations; assist in preparing and/or presenting the District's position in collective bargaining negotiations; 3) direct the District's investment program and cash management; serve as the primary liaison with Alameda County and Alameda County Office of Education with regards to the District's investments and functions as the custodian of a variety of trust funds; and 4) prepare, administer, and control the annual general fund and all special fund budgets, coordinate and verify all student enrollment and attendance reports required by the State.
- 2.2 Employee shall adhere to and comply with all laws, statutes, regulations, policies and administrative bulletins that presently or prospectively govern District and the conduct of its employees.
- 2.3 District and Employee agree that any intellectual property created by Employee related to or concerning the legal work of the District is owned jointly. Employee shall grant to District the right to share equally in any royalties received by Employee arising out of any



intellectual property created by Employee related to or concerning the legal work of the District.

- 2.4 District may use Employee's name during the term of employment as necessary or convenient without additional compensation to Employee.
- 2.5 Employee warrants and represents that she has the ability and authority to enter into this Agreement, that there are no restrictions or limitations on entering into this Agreement, and that entering into this Agreement will not violate any agreement(s) Employee has with any third parties.

### **Article 3      Obligations of District**

- 3.1 District agrees to defend, indemnify and hold Employee harmless against any claims, demands, actions, lawsuits, losses or damages of any kind or nature arising out of or related to the course and scope of Employee's discharge of her duties as Chief Financial Officer. District may continuously maintain throughout the term of employment adequate insurance for such purpose.

### **Article 4      Compensation**

- 4.1 The salary of Employee shall be fixed at \$150,000 per year, payable on the same schedule as other non-represented senior management employees, or at such other times as the District may provide for the payment of employee salaries. Employee shall be entitled to a cost of living adjustment equivalent to three percent of her 2014-15 salary, effective July 1, 2015. During the term of this Agreement, Employee shall be entitled to salary increases provided to all unrepresented management staff. Employee shall be eligible for stipends provided to other unrepresented management staff.
- 4.2 District shall have the right and obligation to deduct or withhold from compensation due Employee those sums required for applicable federal, state and local income taxes and Social Security taxes.
- 4.3 Employer shall fund Employer's portion of PERS retirement based upon the salary herein.

### **Article 5      Vacation, Sick and Personal Leave**

- 5.1 Employee shall be entitled to twenty (20) annual vacation days with pay. Employee is encouraged to take all vacation days during the year in which such days are earned. At District's option, Employee may be reimbursed annually at her daily rate of pay for any unused days not to exceed twenty (20) per year. Employee shall not accrue (carry over?) more than twenty vacation days annually without the expressed approval of the Employer.
- 5.2 Employee shall be entitled to accrue paid sick leave at the rate of 1.0 days per month up to 12 days per year. If Employee does not utilize the total amount of accrued sick leave authorized during any year, Employee may carry over the unused time to sick leave in the subsequent year.

- 5.3 Employee is entitled to accrue annual paid personal leave at the rate of 5 days per year. If Employee does not utilize the total amount of accrued personal leave authorized during any year, such leave may be carried over to unused sick leave in the subsequent year.

## **Article 6 Employee Health Benefits and Expense Reimbursement**

- 6.1 District agrees to pay directly to Employee's or future existing health, dental and vision providers, not to exceed the maximum benefits afforded to any other employee, the insurance premiums associated with Employee, and her qualified dependents under Internal Revenue Code § 152. District further agrees to maintain during the term of employment long term disability insurance for Employee.
- 6.2 District shall pay the reasonable expenses of Employee to attend appropriate professional and official meetings at the local, state and national level subject to constraints of the budget.

## **Article 7 Termination of Employment**

- 7.1 District and Employee agree Employee shall serve at the pleasure and will of the Superintendent and Employee agree that this Agreement may be terminated by either party for no reason upon thirty days written notice given as provided below. In the event the Agreement is terminated for no cause, in accordance with Government Code § 53260, Employee shall be entitled to an amount equal to the monthly salary of Employee multiplied by the number of months left of the unexpired term of the Agreement. However, if the unexpired term of the Agreement is greater than six (6) months, the maximum cash settlement shall be an amount equal to the monthly salary of the employee multiplied by 6. No other or additional non-cash settlement may be agreed to, except that health benefits may be continued, limited to the same time restrictions as for cash settlement, or until new employment is found, whichever occurs first. Any payment made under this section shall be made no later than thirty (30) days after the last day of employment. The Superintendent may terminate this Agreement for cause, pursuant to Section 7.2c below, in which case the above shall not apply. Copies of this Agreement and any settlement shall be made available to the public upon request.
- 7.2 This employment contract may otherwise be terminated by:
- a. Retirement of Employee.
  - b. Death or disability of Employee. For purposes of this Agreement, "disability" means Employee's inability, by reason of physical or mental infirmity or both, to perform the duties contemplated under this Agreement for a period of 120 consecutive days or 150 days in the aggregate in a consecutive twelve (12) month period. "Disability" shall be determined by a licensed physician acceptable to District and Employee. The physician's fee shall be paid by District. Any termination for disability shall not prejudice any rights under any disability policies benefiting Employee.



- c. Discharge for Cause. For purposes of this Agreement, "cause" shall mean Employee's (a) conviction (or a *no lo contendre* plea) to any felony; (b) dishonesty in performing her duties under this Agreement; (c) repeated and willful misconduct under this Agreement; or (d) willful neglect of her duties under this Agreement.

Prior to final determination by the Board of Education of cause for termination, Employee must have been given forty-five (45) calendar days written notice of such possible action, and of the grounds therefore, and a reasonable opportunity to be heard by the Board of Education in the way of explanation or defense.

In the event that such termination is determined by the Superintendent (or later adjudicated) to be "without cause," the sole remedy shall be to make Employee whole in salary and benefits for the balance of the term hereof, subject to the following: (i) Employee's duty to mitigate such loss through alternative available employment; (ii) offset for Employee's earnings from any active alternative employment or contractual engagements; and (iii) the limitations of Government Code § 53260 (if the remaining contract term exceeds six (6) months). The term "alternative available employment" shall not be construed to require Employee to seek, obtain or mitigate her loss through employment that is not comparable to the position of Chief Financial Officer, including as it pertains to salary, benefits, duties and responsibilities, or with an employer that is located outside the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

- 7.3 Pursuant to Education Code § 35031, Employee shall be provided written notice at least forty-five (45) days in advance of the expiration of her term if she is not to be reemployed.

## **Article 8      Evaluation**

- 8.1 Employer shall evaluate Employee prior to the end of the 6 month probation period and thereafter, not less than annually upon a schedule to be determined by Employer. The evaluation and assessment shall be reasonably related to the position description of the Employee and to the goals and objectives of the Board of Education for the year in question.
- 8.2 In the event that the Superintendent determines that the performance of the Employee is unsatisfactory in any respect, it shall describe in writing and in reasonable detail specific instances of unsatisfactory performance. The evaluation shall include recommendations as to areas of improvement in all instances where the Superintendent deems performance to be unsatisfactory. A copy of the written evaluation shall be delivered to the Employee. Employee shall have the right to make a written response to the evaluation and be placed in the personnel file along with the evaluation.

## **Article 9      Changes in Agreement**

- 9.1 Additional written amendments may be added to the Agreement by mutual consent of the Employee and the Superintendent at any time during the period of this Agreement.

## **Article 10    General Provisions**

- 10.1 All notices required to be given under this Agreement shall be delivered via hand delivery, by first class mail or via email as follows:

To District:  
Vernon Hal, Deputy Superintendent  
Oakland Unified School District  
1000 Broadway, Room 680  
Oakland, CA 94607  
Email: vernon.hal@ousd.k12.ca.us

To Employee:  
Ruth Alahydoian, CFO  
Oakland Unified School District  
1000 Broadway, Room 680  
Oakland, CA 94607  
Email: ruth.alahydoian@ousd.k12.ca.us

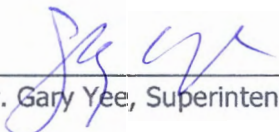
The Deputy Superintendent or Employee may change the designated address for the giving of notices by providing to the other amended notice information in writing.

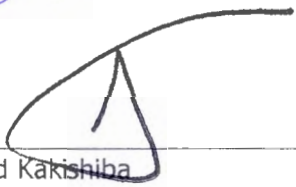
- 10.2 Any controversy between OUSD and Employee involving the construction or application of any of the terms, provisions, or conditions of this Agreement shall, on the written request of either party served on the other, be submitted to binding arbitration. Arbitration shall comply with and be governed by the provisions of the California Arbitration Act. District and Employee shall agree on the selection of one person to hear and determine the dispute. If the parties are unable to agree on a single arbitrator to hear the dispute, they shall obtain a list of arbitrators from the American Arbitration Association and select the arbitrator by alternative strike method. The arbitration shall be governed by the California Arbitration Act, Code of Civil Procedure § 1280 *et seq.*
- 10.3 "Year" as used in this Agreement means a fiscal year, July 1 through and including June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 10.4 No waiver of any rights or obligations under this Agreement may occur unless provided in writing.
- 10.5 This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between District and Employee concerning the subject matter of this Agreement. Any prior agreements or understandings between District and Employee concerning the same subject matter not contained within this Agreement are null and void.
- 10.6 This Agreement is subject to all applicable laws of the State of California, to the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and to the lawful rules and regulations of the Board.
- 10.7 If during the term of this Agreement it is found that a specific clause of the Agreement is illegal under Federal or State law, the remainder of the Agreement not affected by such a ruling shall remain in force.
- 10.8 This Agreement may be modified or extended only in writing and must be signed by District and Employee.
- 10.9 This Agreement shall be effective upon execution by Employee and the President and Secretary of the Board of Education.

**By Employee**

  
Ruth Alahydoian

**The Oakland Unified School District**

By:   
Dr. Gary Yee, Superintendent

By:  3-27-14  
David Kakishiba  
President, Board of Education  
Oakland Unified School District

By:  3-27-14  
Secretary, Board of Education  
Oakland Unified School District

Approved as to Form

  
Jacqueline Minor, General Counsel

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