

<b>Board Office Use: Legislative File Info.</b>	
File ID Number	23-0526
Introduction Date	04/12/2023
Enactment Number	23-0596
Enactment Date	4/12/2023 CJH



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

### Board Cover Memorandum

**To** Board of Education  
**From** Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent  
Tara Gard, Chief Talent Officer, Talent Division  
**Meeting Date** April 12, 2023  
**Subject** Designation/Selection – Niesha Johnson and Sean Gleason – Collectively and Individually, as Oakland Unified School District’s 2023-2024 Teachers of the Year - Talent/Human Resources Department

**Ask of the Board** Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2223-0112 — Designation/Selection of Niesha Johnson and Sean Gleason, collectively and individually, as Oakland Unified School District's 2023-2024 Teachers of the Year.

**Background** Annually the District identifies and honors its own, including three outstanding teachers to recognize and pay special tribute due to their tireless efforts, outstanding instructional skills and/or the achievements of their students. These honorees are able to go on to compete in the Alameda County Teacher of the Year Competition, and, if further selected, compete at the state and national levels, respectively.

**Discussion** The Teacher of the Year Selection Committee has recommended to me, as Superintendent, that Niesha Johnson and Sean Gleason, collectively and individually, be put forward to the Board of Education as District Teachers of the Year for 2023-2024. I have accepted the recommendations made by the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee and recommend and request that the Board of Education selects and designates Niesha Johnson and Sean Gleason, collectively and individually, as the District's 2023-2024 "Teachers of the Year." They are now eligible to advance in the County, and, if further selected, the state and national level.

**Fiscal Impact** N/A

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE  
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Resolution No. 2223-0112**

- Designation/Selection – Niesha Johnson and Sean Gleason – Collectively and Individually, as  
Oakland Unified School District’s 2023-2024 Teachers of the Year -

**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 instructors, collectively and individually, 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 more of these teachers will go on to compete at the state and national levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the District’s Teacher of the Year Selection Committee has received and considered applications from nominated candidates for District’s 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year, and

**WHEREAS**, the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee has recommended to Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammel that Niesha Johnson and Sean Gleason, collectively and individually, be recommended to the Board of Education for selection as Oakland Unified School District's 2023-2024 "Teachers of the Year"; and

**WHEREAS**, Niesha Johnson, 3rd Grade Inclusion Teacher at Chabot Elementary, has served Oakland Unified for nearly nine years, and her class is viewed as a model of community, joy, and inclusion. She ensures that each child becomes fully known to her, but perhaps more importantly, to themselves by helping to develop their confidence and capacity. Colleagues say she builds on students’ strengths and assists every child in meeting grade level expectations. Her data points consistently show significant growth across all subgroups of students. She is known not only for tangible statistical outcomes, but also for the subtleties that tie to each student’s more profound sense of self. Ms. Johnson explicitly teaches her students the importance of academic risks, but she also facilitates them becoming each other’s biggest supporters. She strongly believes that learning cannot happen until students feel safe, seen, heard, and valued by not only their teachers but their peers; therefore, her students co-create their learning environment. She also shares data with her students to help them foster their metacognitive life skills. It is said that student choice is a hallmark of her classroom, and her third graders are supported to articulate *what* they are learning and *why* it is important.

Outside of the classroom, Ms. Niesha is considered an unquestionable leader on the Chabot campus. She has mentored new teachers, serves on the Instructional Leadership Team as well as the Equity and Leadership Team which exists to interrupt inequalities in school systems, culture, and curriculum. She coordinates Chabot’s Black History Month program where she has worked with her peers, parents, and large groups of students across grade levels to build a sense of community and pride that transcends color lines and focuses on the beauty and diversity of culture and pride within the school community. She contributes six Saturdays to lead a Math-based Saturday School for students and their caregivers, teaching math concepts and strategies. She also serves on her site’s Personnel Committee which has helped increase the diversity of staff, and

**WHEREAS,** Sean Gleason, 9th - 12th Grade English 4 Teacher at Ruidsdale Continuation High School, has served Oakland Unified for nearly nine years. Having previously done work that challenged the prison industrial complex and supported prisoner advocacy, he has deliberately worked at the margins of the District, in the field of alternative education. He has delved into practices that aim to address the shortcomings of conventional schooling by re-envisioning institutionalized learning. His focus on social justice and the environment and culture educators can create in and out of classrooms has resulted in an outstanding commitment to his students and their growth. Mr. Gleason consciously shows love, patience, and compassion, while also holding his students to high standards and expectations. He specializes in project-based learning units which center on skill building, scaffolding, and having students grapple with and understand text to support the understanding of concepts. Within an environment in which nearly every student has had unsuccessful, and oftentimes harmful, histories at their comprehensive schools, his commitment is to radically rethink traditional structures. Aside from his credential subject area, he also teaches and manages the *Bike Hub* on the Ruidsdale campus. During electives-block on Wednesdays, he and a small group of students work on and restore bicycles. Almost all students leave the *Bike Hub* with their own personal, custom-built bike.

In the 2015-2016 school year, Mr. Sean, as he is known, led a team in renovating Ralph J. Bunche Academy's programming to a more student-centered model. He brings this experience to Ruidsdale and currently sits on the School Site Council and the School Site Safety Team. He serves as LGBTQ+ Liaison and OEA union representative for his site, has spearheaded the Student of the Marking Period assembly awards, and has participated on the Instructional Leadership Team. He has been a volunteer Lead Instructor in San Quentin State Penitentiary to incarcerated men who are pursuing their associate degree. As a curriculum author, trainer, and coach with *Moving Forward Education*, he also influences curriculum for OUSD in a wider way;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** with this brief interim introduction, and upon recommendation of Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell and the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District hereby selects and designates Niesha Johnson and Sean Gleason, collectively and individually, for exceptional service to the students of the District, as Oakland Unified School District's 2023-2024 "Teachers of the Year," to be fully recognized at the first Regular Meeting of the Board in September, 2023.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Board of Oakland Unified School District on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT:

Passed by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE: None

PREFERENTIAL NOE: None

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION: None

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE: None

AYES: Benjamin "Sam" Davis, Jennifer Brouhard, VanCedric Williams, Valarie Bachelor, Vice President Clifford Thompson

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

RECUSE: None

ABSENT: Student Director Natalie Gallegos Chavez, Student Director Linh Le, President Mike Hutchinson, Board Member - Vacancy

**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 12, 2023.

<b>Legislative File</b>	
File ID Number:	23-0526
Introduction Date:	04/12/2023
Enactment Number:	23-0596
Enactment Date:	4/12/2023 CJH
By:	

**OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**



4/13/2023

Mike Hutchinson  
President, Board of Education



4/13/2023

Kyla Johnson-Trammell  
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education