

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

April 24, 2019

Legislative File	
File ID Number:	19-0442
Introduction Date:	04/24/2019
Enactment Number:	19-0558
Enactment Date:	4/24/19
By:	os

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent
Tara Gard, Deputy Chief Talent Officer, Talent Division

SUBJECT: Designation/Selection – Precious James, Tontra Love, and David Ramirez –
Individually, as Oakland Unified School District’s 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year

ACTION REQUESTED

Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 1819-0093—Designation/Selection of Precious James, Tontra Love, and David Ramirez, Individually, as Oakland Unified School District's 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year.

BACKGROUND

Annually the District identifies and honors its own, including one or more 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.

The Teacher of the Year Team has recommended to me, as Superintendent, that Precious James, Tontra Love, and David Ramirez, collectively and individually, be put forward to the Board of Education as District Teachers of the Year for 2019-2020. I have accepted the recommendations made by the Teacher of the Year Team and recommend and request that the Board of Education selects and designates Precious James, Tontra Love, and David Ramirez, collectively and individually, as the District's 2019-2020 "Teachers of the Year." They are now eligible to advance in the County, and, if further selected, the state and national levels.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 1819-0093—Designation/Selection of Precious James, Tontra Love, and David Ramirez, Individually, as Oakland Unified School District's 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year.

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 1819-0093**

- Designation/Selection of Precious James, Tontra Love, and David Ramirez, Individually, as
Oakland Unified School District's 2019-2020 Teacher 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 up to three 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 Team has received and considered applications from nominated candidates for District's 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year, and;

WHEREAS, the Teacher of the Year Team has recommended to Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammel that Precious James, Tontra Love, and David Ramirez, collectively and individually, be recommended to the Board of Education for selection as Oakland Unified School District's 2019-2020 "Teachers of the Year"; and

WHEREAS, Precious James, 4th/5th Grade Teacher, Mathematics all-grade team lead, and team lead for Grades 3-5 at Madison Park Academy, teaches a combination class of what she terms student-heroes. She oversees a Mathematics intervention program and teaches in the Grades 3-5 Reading Intervention, Late Bird Program. She is known as a Teacher-Hero herself, and, alongside her fellow Teacher-Heroes, is proudly co-creating generations of Mathematicians. It is her mission to foster and produce superheroes who use their imaginations, explain their solutions, look for patterns, explore their local and global community, communicate and share their ideas, and use their toolboxes of problem-solving strategies to prove or disprove their own theories. A huge proponent of the OUSD value of *Students First*, she says her purpose is KIDS, and she advocates for them "by any means necessary," as Malcolm X used to say. Ms. James does not believe in "idle time" when students are facing life or death as a result of their reading ability; therefore, students and teachers are engaged in grade level, standards-based, and rigorous instruction concentrated in conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and real-world application. She wholeheartedly believes it is her duty to provide all students with a learner's stance, in that, they are always seeking out learning and shaping it for themselves; and

WHEREAS, Tontra Love, Transitional Kindergarten Teacher at Sequoia Elementary School, Diversity Committee member—helping make key decisions about curriculum, strategic direction, and professional development—and Hiring Committee member—assisting with teacher and principal hiring—teaches Oakland's youngest students. She loves teaching transitional kindergarten since it is the entry point for elementary school; her classroom is a place where students feel safe, loved and challenged, and she actively contributes to the love of learning that will stay with them throughout their lives. Her students leave Transitional Kindergarten with a strong academic foundation, accountable for making their community and their extended world a better place. She compellingly exposes her class to the world

around them, and she expects much from them, grounding them in academic rigor. She partners with the community because she says schools are most successful when the community is involved. For example, each week in an activity called *Life Like Mine*, lifting up an individual student, she invites families to come into the classroom and share about their lives, which helps to build community inside and outside of her classroom. Ms. Love believes teachers are also the protectors of childhood and that the social/emotional health and wellbeing of our students is the most critical element for their success in life, that they need time to play, explore, discover, and learn; and

WHEREAS, David Ramirez, Math Teacher at Urban Promise Academy, District Instructional Leadership and School Leadership Team member, Department Chair of Math and Science, School Site Council member, UPA/Fruitvale Aim High Site Director, School Site Council member, and OEA Union Representative, teaches 8th grade Math and Algebra Compression. Mr. Ramirez also serves as the Outdoor Wildness Coordinator, organizing overnight trips for students and is Crew Coordinator, responsible for creating social emotional lesson plans. He believes his responsibility as a teacher is not only to provide standard-based instruction but habits that will develop students into well-rounded individuals and leaders in their community. He believes every student is capable and it is his undertaking as their teacher to guide students to their strengths and build their self-confidence. He connects what students are learning to their everyday lives, offering them connections with the content they are learning and the purpose it has in their lives. He is adamant that students should learn and be assessed based on a variety of modalities with ultimate assessments such as projects with different ways of learning, academic discussions, and open-ended questions to assess their knowledge of content rather than standardized testing. He believes that teachers have the capacity and the ability to change lives which is a responsibility he does not take lightly;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell and the Teacher of the Year Selection Team, the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District hereby selects and designates Precious James, Tontra Love, and David Ramirez, individually, for exceptional service to the students of the District, as Oakland Unified School District's 2019-2020 "Teacher of the Year," to be fully recognized at the first Regular Meeting of the Board in September, 2019.

Passed by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:	Student Director Chavez
PREFERENTIAL NOE:	None
PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:	None
PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:	None
AYES:	Jumoke Hinton Hodge, Gary Yee, Shanthy Gonzales, James Harris, Vice President Jody London, President Aimee Eng
NOES:	None
ABSTAINED:	None
RECUSE:	None
ABSENT:	Student Director Omosowho, Roseann Torres

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 24, 2019.

Legislative File	
File ID Number:	19-0442
Introduction Date:	04/24/2019
Enactment Number:	19-0558
Enactment Date:	4/24/19
By:	os

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Aimee Eng
President, Board of Education



Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education