

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

May 13, 2020

Legislative File	
File ID Number:	20-0787
Introduction Date:	05/13/2020
Enactment Number:	
Enactment Date:	
By:	

TO: Board of Education

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

SUBJECT: Designation/Selection – Phoebe Diamond, Ji-Yun (Jane) Kim, and Nathan Jackson
– Individually, as Oakland Unified School District’s 2020-2021 Teachers of the Year

ACTION REQUESTED

Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 1920-2027—Designation/Selection of Phoebe Diamond, Ji-Yun (Jane) Kim, and Nathan Jackson, individually, as Oakland Unified School District's 2020-2021 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.

The Teacher of the Year Selection Committee has recommended to me, as Superintendent, that Phoebe Diamond, Ji-Yun (Jane) Kim, and Nathan Jackson, collectively and individually, be put forward to the Board of Education as District Teachers of the Year for 2020-2021. 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 Phoebe Diamond, Ji-Yun (Jane) Kim, and Nathan Jackson, collectively and individually, as the District's 2020-2021 "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. 1920-2027—Designation/Selection of Phoebe Diamond, Ji-Yun (Jane) Kim, and Nathan Jackson, individually, as Oakland Unified School District's 2020-2021 Teachers of the Year.

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 1920-2027**

- Designation/Selection of Phoebe Diamond, Ji-Yun (Jane) Kim, and Nathan Jackson,
Individually, as Oakland Unified School District's 2020-2021 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 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 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year, and;

WHEREAS, the Teacher of the Year Team has recommended to Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammel that Phoebe Diamond, Ji-Yun (Jane) Kim, and Nathan Jackson, collectively and individually, be recommended to the Board of Education for selection as Oakland Unified School District's 2020-2021 "Teachers of the Year"; and

WHEREAS, Phoebe Diamond, 3rd Grade Teacher at Chabot Elementary, has served Oakland Unified for several years in multiple roles beyond the classroom such as Chairperson, Leader and Presenter. She has been a long-term Lead Math teacher, Member of the Site Instructional Leadership Team, and Member of the Math Core Curriculum Production Team. Ms. Diamond has taught at OUSD for over twenty-nine years and she has come to savor valued memories; for instance, recalling having overheard students who had struggled linguistically and academically using academic language to convince their peers. Or how, after having provided opportunities for students to shine and receive recognition from their peers, she has been moved to tears while typing their Appreciation Day statements for each other, later learning from former students that they still have their lists from third grade. She is known for having high expectations for every child and for having an unshakeable belief that every child can master the standards; she is said to do everything in her power to ensure students succeed. Additionally, she believes developing students' metacognitive awareness is a key element to their success. Colleagues say that Ms. Diamond's young scholars are fully supported to use evidence, show their thinking, explain their answers and dig more deeply into the curriculum. Her classroom is a place where academic discussions and vocabulary are commonplace. She is the kind of educator who has mastered critical social and emotional applications; she understands that no child succeeds if they do not feel supported, seen and valued. She is known to pause a lesson in midstream when an important social/emotional learning opportunity presents itself and to utilize the teaching moment; and

WHEREAS, Ji-Yun (Jane) Kim, 9th grade Biology, 11th grade Physiology, and Advanced Placement (AP) Biology Teacher at Fremont High School, functions additionally as a Site-Based Coach, Science Department Chair and 9th Grade Co-Lead and has also served OUSD as a Beginning Teacher Support & Assessment Coach, Curriculum Developer, and as a High School Science Specialist with the Academic Innovation Division of OUSD. She has gone to great lengths to ensure her classroom is a safe space—

whether due to her warm welcome, or a check-in with students who seem disengaged, Ms. Kim wants each of her students to feel individually recognized, welcomed, and supported. She says the walls of memorabilia from students she has formerly taught indicates to anyone in the space that her students, both current and former, are important to her and an integral part of her identity as a teacher. Colleagues say the school community counts on her for far more than what she accomplishes within her classroom, whether coordinating field trips for the 9th grade house, planning advisory curriculum to prepare 9th grade students for student-led conferences, or planning learning walks for her Science Department, Ms. Kim is attentive to ensuring tasks are completed effectively and on time while always keeping the big picture in mind. Owing to her innovation in piloting Lesson Study and the success of her protocol and tools within the Science Department, school administration chose to implement Lesson Study school-wide, leading many teachers to utilize Ms. Kim’s protocols and documents which speaks to her strength, grounding site teachers in working toward best instructional practices and generating innovative learning opportunities for developing teachers, all who hold deep trust in her; and

WHEREAS, Nathan Jackson, Physical Education Teacher at Urban Promise Academy, is a member of the OUSD P.E. Leadership Team, and active member of the Black Teacher Project. He serves on the instruction/planning team for the California Physical Education Workshop and plans and facilitates professional development workshops for other P.E. teachers across the District. It is no surprise that Mr. Jackson is a former West Contra Costa Education Fund’s Excellence in Education Teacher of the Year award winner. He is known as a Coach who is always open to coaching and feedback with an eagerness to learn himself and grow as an educator, supporting new teachers enthusiastically. He has high expectations for all of his students, confident in their ability to engage in rigorous physical activities, learn a variety of sports and teamwork skills, and show student leadership, which is demonstrated in his classroom every day. His teaching space is known as a safe haven for students to try new things without fear and to grow in their social/emotional skills. He is viewed as an expert in classroom management and expectations, and it is clear how much students love to be in his classroom, which has a 99.7% participation rate where students increase their fitness levels without even realizing it. ;

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 Phoebe Diamond, Ji-Yun (Jane) Kim, and Nathan Jackson, collectively and individually, for exceptional service to the students of the District, as Oakland Unified School District’s 2020-2021 “Teachers of the Year,” to be fully recognized at the first Regular Meeting of the Board in September, 2020.

Passed by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

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 May 13, 2020.

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OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jody London
President, Board of Education

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education