



OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board of Education 2009

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November 19, 2009

The City Council of Oakland
Honorable Jane Brunner, President
City Hall
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear President Brunner and Honorable Members, Council:

The Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District greatly appreciates the ongoing commitment from the Oakland City Council to collaborate on issues of youth and education in our City. As you know, the Board in late June regained local control. We have hired a new Superintendent, Dr. Tony Smith, whom we are confident, will lead our schools to further success.

We would like to strengthen our collaboration with the City Council, particularly the City-Schools Education Partnership ("Partnership"). With the proper commitment from each of us at the political leadership level, this joint Partnership can improve the quality of education and other opportunities for children and youth in our City.

We propose that the focus exclusively for the next several months be on issues of safety. We are all aware of the tragedies that have befallen several Oakland Unified students in recent months. While our staffs are working together to respond to these situations, and on a range of other issues that will improve the climate at our schools, as policy makers we jointly can provide them with guidance, leadership, and a comprehensive policy direction. Great examples of targeted projects can be included but are not limited to Developing Safe Walking and Biking Passages initiatives surrounding neighborhood schools, i.e., implementing crossing guards, stop signs. The District along with the City has already established restorative practices as a part of its policy direction to address safety and peacemaking throughout the schools and the City. We propose the Partnership continue to join in developing policies cross departments and sectors that share in this philosophy.

We propose a study session on issues that affect school safety on a date certain to be mutually set within the next thirty (30) days. The East Bay Community Foundation has offered to host us in this initial study session. After the study session, we are committed to meeting with you monthly to make sure we are together making progress.

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We look forward to the Council's responsive commitment to enhance our mutual collaboration beginning with the urgent work around safety for our youth and for all residents of our City.

Sincerely,

Noel Gallo
President, Board of Education

cc: Members, Board of Education
Members, City Council