

| Board Office Use: Legislative File Info. |            |
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| File ID Number                           | 24-3039    |
| Introduction Date                        | 12/11/2024 |
| Enactment Number                         |            |
| Enactment Date                           |            |



# Board Cover Memorandum

**To** Board of Education

**From** Sheila Haynes

**Meeting Date** December 11, 2024

**Subject** New Legislative Matter: Resolution 2425-0191, "Saving Our Future"

**Ask of the Board** Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2425-0191, "Saving Our Future"

**Background** On April 30, 2024, the Board President received a communication from me, as a Special Education Parent, below asking the Board to put on the Board's Agenda a Resolution, as a new legislative item, regarding services to Special Education Pupils.

I have had conversations with several District officials including President Davis, Jennifer Blake, Director, Special Education and others from whom I have received and accepted suggestions for my legislative request and who have helped me to draft legislation to address my concerns. My initial communication is below:

**Dear Board**

It's [REDACTED] mother, Sheila. He is autistic and has been learning online for 4 years, because there's no safe place for him. This is my 2nd request. He continues to suffer learning loss due to OUSD's actions of closing schools back in 2016, he never recovered.

Not only has he suffered ongoing learning loss, and emotionally, but physical trauma at a school where he ended up after his school was closed.

With today being the Final Day of Autism Awareness Month, I strongly Urge you to please think about [REDACTED], and all of our most vulnerable students, and ALL Students, by mandating a loving environment

through reinforcements, and through therapeutic music and arts activities. Will you please place this resolution on the next Agenda?

Until minimal changes are made to make schools safer, I don't see a high school where he can go and be safe. It's critical [REDACTED] be able to regain some of the skills he has suffered, and although the trauma is still with us all, I pray that you look deep inside your heart, and please Help.

I thank you in advance for having Love in your heart, and praying all is well with you and your families.

Sincerely,  
Sheila

#### Discussion

The intent of the Resolution, which the aforementioned parties, among others, have helped me to draft, is as follows:

- To recommend that each school site develop a daily reinforcement of Joy at the beginning and/or ending of the school day, that encourages Everyone to Behave in a loving way and respect each other, their peers, staff, and school family as a whole.
- To recommit the District, in light of a resurgence of racism, misogyny and homophobia across the United States as a result of national elections and trends, to forbidding the use of all racial slurs and homophobic or misogynistic hate speech in our district whether during the school day or between students on social media outside of school hours.
- To highlight the importance of continued implementation of a Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) program which emphasizes joy through creative activities for our Disabled, Black and all students in OUSD, available to any students whether engaged in in-person or online (independent study) programs in the District.
- To continue expansion of the VAPA programs using funding from Proposition 28 and Measures G, G1, N and H, to foster Love For Ourselves and Each Other, through classroom activities that include music and arts.
- To institute annual reporting to the Board or its Committee(s) on the use of Proposition 28 funds, Measure G funds, Measure G1 funds, Measure N/H funds, and Least Restrictive Environment funding to school sites to Support Disabled Black Students and ALL Students, including students of Color, that Pay for Added Supports during times of VAPA instruction and activities, to ensure that these funds are continuing to support the implementation of the Board's vision of equitable access for all students,

including Black students and students with disabilities, to VAPA instruction, afterschool programming, sports and physical education, and other instruction and school activities that foster joy.

**Fiscal Impact** To be determined.

**Attachment(s)** Proposed Board Resolution 2425-0191, "Saving Our Future"

**OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION NO. 2425-0191**

**SAVING OUR FUTURE**

**WHEREAS**, The Oakland Unified School District ('District') is charged with supporting the healthy development of all students, which includes prioritizing our Most Vulnerable Students, including those who are black and disabled; and

**WHEREAS**, The district must protect Our Black Students with Disabilities and emotionally disabled students from systematic displacement and racism by supporting all students, including Disabled BLACK students, to the highest level possible while at school. WE MUST Provide Added support to ALL students, especially students of color, While Fostering a Loving Environment For ALL Students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Attorney General's letter dated 1/29/2024 acknowledges that for more than 2 DECADES There has been an ongoing Disproportionality of subgroups, especially Black Disabled Students, being Suspended More than any other Students, and it is incumbent on the District to address and eliminate this disproportionality; and

**WHEREAS**, due to systemic and societal oppression, Many Oakland Students do not have adequate supports at home or within their communities, and therefore they are turning to their home schools as their best Hope to Develop in a most positive and Loving Way, and they are looking to the school district as a support along with their families to Provide the Safety and Loving environment needed to Thrive, and IT TAKES A LOVING ENVIRONMENT WITH specially trained professionals to BEST Support Our Most Vulnerable Students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oakland Board of Education ('Board') received in 2017 and 2019 a community petition to Save our Future recommending the daily recitation of a pledge to enforce a loving and respectable environment," and The District wishes urgently to foster A LOVING ENVIRONMENT; and

**WHEREAS**, the District acknowledges that program and school closures over the last 20 years due to declining enrollment have caused serious harm to students, including Black Disabled students, which has impeded their ability to consistently thrive physically, academically and emotionally, and which the District has sought and continues to seek to mitigate through better supporting those students, family and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, District Special Education Staffing, including Highly skilled Paraprofessionals and professionals have also been heavily impacted by program and school changes, having to leave long standing school sites, not only affecting them personally, (including physical and emotional trauma) but their families, and the communities as a whole, Too many students, staff, and families throughout many communities within Oakland have suffered Harm, which the District

has sought and continues to seek to address through better supporting its school site and district-level teachers and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, We Recognize that the District handles very heavy responsibilities, but always strives to put the Lives of its Disabled Black Students, and All Students at the FRONT, as their lives are at continued Risks of Harm without CHANGE, and NOW; and

**WHEREAS**, the District MUST make a stand now to repair some of the harm that has been caused over many decades of institutional and systemic racism and ableism, and to move forward to take steps to bring down suspension rates, while mandating a loving environment for ALL students; and

**WHEREAS**, despite a commitment to a loving environment and zero tolerance for hate speech on our campuses, due to recent national trends, there has been an uptick in the use of offensive derogatory words targeting students for their racial or gender identities on our campuses,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board recommends that the Superintendent, prior to June 30, 2025, direct each school site to develop a daily reinforcement of Joy at the beginning and/or ending of the school day, that encourages Everyone to Behave in a loving way and respect each other, their peers, staff, and school family as a whole; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board recommits the District to forbidding the use of all racial slurs and homophobic or misogynistic hate speech in our district whether during the school day or between students on social media outside of school hours; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board directs the superintendent to create and make available a Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) program which emphasizes joy through creative activities for our Disabled, Black and all students in OUSD; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that these VAPA programs will be available to any students engaged in Online learning; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board directs the Superintendent to implement no later than June 30, 2025, BOTH The recommendations regarding the Reinforcement of Joy, in Addition to continued expansion of the VAPA programs using funding from Proposition 28 and Measures G, G1, N and H, to foster Love For Ourselves and Each Other, through classroom activities that include music and arts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board directs the Superintendent to provide annually to the Board or its Committee(s) a report or reports on the use of Proposition 28 funds, Measure G funds, Measure G1 funds, Measure N/H funds, and Least Restrictive Environment funding to school sites to Support Disabled Black Students and ALL Students, including students of Color, that Pay for Added Supports during times of VAPA instruction and activities, which may be provided to the Board or its Committee(s) as an individual report or a series of reports to ensure

that these funds are continuing to support the implementation of the Board’s vision of equitable access for all students, including Black students and students with disabilities, to VAPA instruction, afterschool programming, sports and physical education, and other instruction and school activities that foster joy.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** on \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, by the Governing Board of the Oakland Unified School District by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NOE:

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

RECUSED:

ABSENT:

**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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

| <b>Legislative File</b> |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
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**OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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TBD

President, Board of Education

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Kyla Johnson-Trammell

Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education