



Superintendent Report to the Board of Education August 22, 2018

OPENING REMARKS

The purpose of the Superintendent Report is to share progress and updates on our District Priorities: Fiscal Vitality, Quality Community Schools & Organizational Resilience.

Focusing on these priorities are in service of reaching our mission and vision of creating quality community schools where our students can thrive.

Vision: All OUSD students will find joy in their academic learning experience while graduating with the skills to ensure they are caring, competent, fully-informed, critical thinkers who are prepared for college, career, and community success.

Mission: To become a **Full Service Community District** focused on high academic achievement while serving the whole child, eliminating inequity, and providing each child with excellent teachers, every day.

FISCAL VITALITY

Ensuring a healthy financial district is critical towards providing the necessary resources and services to provide Quality Community Schools in every neighborhood so that students with the greatest need receive the resources they deserve. To promote fiscal vitality we must design and launch a comprehensive approach to fiscal management that ensures OUSD garners and deploys financial resources in a manner that is strategic, transparent and aligned to key district priorities. Here are some highlights of progress we are making in this goal area:

- **Leadership Vacancy Update:**
 - Deputy Chief of Innovation Position: We are completing the second round of the interview process and plan to select a finalist by the end of this month.
- **Facilities Update:** The following videos highlight the progress on several of our key facilities projects. You will hear more in the Facilities Update tonight from our Deputy Chief of Facilities, Tim White.
 - [Fremont High School OUSD New Construction](#)
 - [Glenview](#)
 - [Madison Park Academy](#)
 - [The Center](#)
 - [OUSD New Construction Projects](#)
- **ESCAPE:** The launch of ESCAPE has by all accounts been successful so far, we have a large payroll for teachers and 10 month and 12 month employees coming up on August 31. This will be the biggest test for our ESCAPE transition and staff are planning to have additional support ready in the event OUSD staff need payroll assistance.



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- **Budget Update:** The financial services team is in the process of closing the district books for FY 2017-18. The process has gone very smooth and staff have performed extra diligence to ensure a full and accurate accounting of the district's books.
- **Nutrition Services Update:** The district has reached out to the Alameda County Food Bank, Revolution Foods, and the Alameda County "All in Initiative" to help OUSD in bridging the GAP to support our sites and students who have been impacted by the discontinuance of the Supper Program. The group is working collaboratively with the district to develop an option to continuing these services and a recommendation is expected by the middle of next month.

QUALITY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

To ensure that students with the greatest need have access to PreK-12 schools that provide quality academic and social emotional programs, excellent teachers and a nurturing learning environment to ensure that every student is college, career and community ready. Here are some highlights of progress we are making in this goal area:

- **First Week of School Visits to Sites:** On Monday, August 13, tens of thousands of young people returned to class and to the task of expanding their minds, building good habits and learning as much as they can. It's also the day our teachers, administrators and other school staff have been preparing for since the last day of school in June. I visited thirteen schools in the first week. On the first day I was joined by Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, OUSD Board of Education Directors, partners such as SupplyBank, the Lend A Hand Foundation, Wells Fargo and Kaiser Permanente in helping our students start the year off strong. We had backpack giveaways at Brookfield Elementary, where I was honored to give backpacks filled with school supplies to students. Their faces lit up as they received the support. We also had giveaways at PLACE at Prescott, Castlemont High School (where UPS helped out) and the co-located Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary, Lafayette Elementary and West Oakland Middle School. The last schools had the added bonus of the Wells Fargo stagecoach and horses giving the kids rides around the playground. At all schools, we toured classrooms, met students, spoke with educators and watched the sponge-like minds of our young people absorb the information they were learning. At Skyline, which is Mayor Schaaf's alma mater, she and I both spoke to the leadership class and toured the Skilled Trades FabLab. We then held a press conference in which we told the media how excited all of us are about the new year, the progress we have made as a District - including our improved graduation rates, and how this will be a fantastic year at Skyline with its new leadership team and across the District.
- **Linked Learning Update:** The 2018-19 school year will be a great time for Oakland Unified School District. We are building on our rising graduation rate by expanding our linked learning with more pathways for students to gain true career work experience while still in high school. For example, Skyline High will be all pathways this year. In fact, on Thursday, August 9th, we



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opened Skyline’s Skilled Trades FabLab - which I mentioned. This is where students will learn to use tools in skilled trades and advanced manufacturing, perhaps leading them to lucrative careers after graduation.

- **Importance of Student Attendance:** I want to remind everyone of the importance of attendance. Our staff is in place to make sure that students learn all that they need to be successful in our society. If students are not in class, or if they come in late repeatedly, they will fall behind quickly, making it more likely they won’t be able to catch up. We need every student in class every day ready to learn. Building these good habits now will help them as they progress through their educational careers and once they venture off into their professional careers no matter what path they follow.

- **Blueprint for Quality School Update:**
 - Engagements and planning has begun in our Cohort 1 Schools:
 - Futures and CUES: They are resuming their planning aligned to the SIG. The director of the SIG and director of the Blueprint are collaborating to support alignment
 - Alliance and ECP: Kilian Betlach, principal at ECP, has been designated as the Design Principal of the merged school. Design team members from both sites have been identified and have begun to work together. The first area to determine is the program design for the merged school and the number of 6th graders for the merged school. There will be several design team, staff, and community meetings in the coming two months to reach this first decision point.
 - MetWest: A design team of past and current MetWest staff are working together to brainstorm ideas for how to expand MetWest. The first area to determine is the number of 9th graders for next year’s program and program location, should there be a need to expand beyond the current campus. There will be several design team, staff, and community meetings in the next two months to reach this first decision point.
 - The application has been released for schools or community partners to be considered for Cohort 2. Called the Preliminary Proposal for Change in School Program, all applications are due by August 30, 2018. The Strategic Schools Decision team will review and respond to all applications, and consider them alongside District-identified schools for Cohort 2. Schools identified for further review will participate in several months of site-based engagement to determine if they will be a part of Cohort 2. For details and a Preliminary Proposal Application, please use the links below:
 - [Preliminary Proposal Application - English](#)

ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCE



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The bedrock of an effective organization is people. To promote organizational resilience we must continuously invest in building the capacity of staff as we work towards creating a high quality school system. Here are some highlights of progress we are making in this goal area:

- **August 25th Sanctuary District Kick-Off:** We are less than two weeks from our 2018 Sanctuary Kick-Off Event. We hope to see you there to join district staff, educators and families in resisting the tide of anti-immigrant discourse and policy and create sanctuary in our schools and neighborhoods. Saturday August 25th, from 9:30 - 3:00 @ Metwest/La Escuelita. The first 100 educators will receive a free Sanctuary Welcome Poster. Come for all or a part of the day. Please help us spread the word! Highlights include:
 - Son Jarocho with Maria de La Rosa
 - Mam Dancers
 - Student Performers
 - Graffiti Art
 - A panel on policy and organizing updates featuring Rachel Prandini from the International Legal Resource Center (ILRC), OUSD graduate and Asian Law Caucus Community Advocate Mohamed Taleb, and Benita Jain from the Immigrant Family Defense Fund.
 - Breakout sessions for parent leaders and family engagement staff on ICE Family Preparedness and for educators on creating trauma-informed, emotionally safe classrooms.
 - Rapid Response Training

We will serve lunch and childcare and translation is available upon request. Please indicate your need on the [RVSP form](#). We are grateful to the San Francisco Foundation for making this event possible and free to the community!

- **Equity Office 17-18 End of Year Report:** We hope to continue the work started last year in the Office of Equity to energize, inspire, and empower staff at all levels of the district as well as students, parents, and community to join in interrupting inequity, examining biases, and creating inclusive and just conditions for all. With equity at the forefront, and taking the lessons learned from the African American Male Achievement initiative, the Office of Equity expanded the African American Female Excellence initiative and launched the Asian Pacific Islander Student Achievement and Latino/a Student Achievement targeted initiatives, in partnership with internal and external organizations. Click on the link to read the our [Equity Office End of Year Report](#), which includes initiative goals and highlights from the 2017-18 school year.

CLOSING REMARKS

We are collectively responsible for the narrative of OUSD. We need to share the good news and continue to get the word out about all the incredible work happening in our schools on a daily basis.