

# Oakland Unified School District

Board of Education  
Paul Robeson Building  
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**DRAFT**

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**Minutes (Long)**  
**Monday, August 01, 2011**  
**5:00 PM**

**Board Room, Paul Robeson Building, 1025 2nd Avenue, Oakland, CA  
94606-2212**

## **Teaching and Learning Committee**

***Jumoke Hodge, Chairperson***  
***Gary Yee, Vice Chairperson***  
***Jody London, Member***

## A. Call to Order

*Chairperson Jumoke Hodge called the meeting to order at 5:12 P.M.*

## B. Roll Call

**Roll Call:** Present: Jody London, Gary Yee and Jumoke Hodge

## C. Speaker Request Cards/Modification(s) To Agenda

*Director London asked the Committee to table discussion of the Montessori Charter School for 2-4 weeks so that we can have a better opportunity to discuss it among District staff. Given the break, she said she has not had enough time to fully vet the item and implications of the item going forward.*

*Director Yee asked if there were any requirements to act within a time frame?*

*Chairperson Hodge said the Committee discussion does not necessarily mean that we cannot table at this particular time. She said staff is prepared to talk to us about it.*

*Director London said her challenge is that she did not see the staff report until the weekend and today is Monday.*

*Gail Greely, Coordinator, Office of Charter Schools, responded the Statute allows one extension of time on the time line for 30 days upon agreement of the petitioner. In this case, the end of the 90 days would occur on August 23. A decision will be required either on August 10th or at a Special Meeting to occur before the 23rd. If we do not meet the deadline, it would be a violation of the Statute.*

*General Counsel Minor said the deadlines are viewed as statutory. Advice previously given is that it is one extension agreed to by the petitioner, and, thereafter the statutory framework is mandatory. There are circumstances under which petitioners opt to withdraw. If that were to happen, the statutory time frame would be reset.*

*Director Yee said he would be uncomfortable in tabling the item because of the time.*

*Chairperson Hodge stated she, too, would be uncomfortable in tabling the item.*

*Secretary Rakestraw stated the Legacies of Excellence petitioners have withdrawn their charter request.*

*Director Yee said this is the second time the petition has been withdrawn. The Committee needs to know whether it has been withdrawn to be revised. Some of our interests could be served if we met informally on that.*

## D. Adoption of Committee Minutes



### [11-1659](#) Minutes - Teaching and Learning Committee - June 13, 2011

Approval by Teaching and Learning Committee of its Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2011.

**Attachments:** [11-1659 - Minutes - Teaching and Learning Committee - June 13, 2011](#)

**A motion was made by Jody London, seconded by Gary Yee, that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** Adv Aye: 0  
Adv Nay: 0  
Adv Abstain: 0  
Aye: 3 - Jody London, Gary Yee and Jumoke Hinton Hodge  
Nay: 0  
Recused: 0  
Preferential Aye: 0  
Preferential Abstention: 0  
Preferential Nay: 0

## E. Adoption of the Committee General Consent Report



### [11-1236](#) Master Memorandum of Understanding - San Francisco Bay Area Council, Learning for Life - 2011-2012 School Year

Approval by the Board of Education of a Master Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between District and San Francisco Bay Area Council, Learning for Life, San Leandro, CA, for the latter to provide Arts, Recreation, Leadership and Family Literary activities in its capacity as a Comprehensive After School Program Lead Agency at school sites to be determined, for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, in an amount not to exceed \$640,000.00, pursuant to the terms and conditions as specified in the MOU.

**Attachments:** [Document\(s\)](#)

**This Matter was Recommended Favorably on the Consent Agenda.**

**Votes:** Adv Aye: 0  
Adv Nay: 0  
Adv Abstain: 0  
Aye: 3 - Jody London, Gary Yee and Jumoke Hinton Hodge  
Nay: 0  
Recused: 0  
Preferential Aye: 0  
Preferential Abstention: 0  
Preferential Nay: 0



### [11-1238](#) Master Memorandum of Understanding - Aspiranet - 2011-2012 School Year

Approval by the Board of Education of a Master Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between District and Aspiranet, South San Francisco, CA, for the latter to provide Arts, Recreation, Leadership and Family Literary activities in its capacity as a Comprehensive After School Program Lead Agency at school sites to be determined, for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, in an amount not to exceed \$1,688,475.00, pursuant to the terms and conditions as specified in the MOU.

**Attachments:** [Document\(s\)](#)

**This Matter was Recommended Favorably on the Consent Agenda.**

**Votes:** Adv Aye: 0  
Adv Nay: 0  
Adv Abstain: 0  
Aye: 3 - Jody London, Gary Yee and Jumoke Hinton Hodge  
Nay: 0  
Recused: 0  
Preferential Aye: 0  
Preferential Abstention: 0  
Preferential Nay: 0



**11-1541**

**2011 - 2012 Single Plan for Student Achievement - Urban Promise Academy**

Approval by the Board of Education of the 2011-2012 Single Plan for Student Achievement for Urban Promise Academy.

**Funding Source: Title I, EIA/SCE, (Economic Impact Aid/State Compensatory Education/ EIA/LEP, (Economic Impact Aid/Limited English Proficiency)**

**Attachments:** [Document\(s\)](#)

**This Matter was Recommended Favorably on the Consent Agenda.**

**Votes:** Adv Aye: 0  
Adv Nay: 0  
Adv Abstain: 0  
Aye: 3 - Jody London, Gary Yee and Jumoke Hinton Hodge  
Nay: 0  
Recused: 0  
Preferential Aye: 0  
Preferential Abstention: 0  
Preferential Nay: 0



**11-1627**

**Amendment No. 1, Memorandum of Understanding - Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland, East Bay Innovations and District**

Approval by the Board of Education of Amendment No. 1, Memorandum of Administrative Understanding (MOAU) between District and Children's Hospital & Research Center of Oakland (CHRO), Oakland, CA, and East Bay Innovations, San Leandro, CA, for the District's Department of Adult and Career Education to provide instruction to adults with disabilities recruited, screened and placed in Project Search Program by CHRO, pursuant to terms and conditions stated in MOAU, with the District receiving adult education apportionment for operation of class(es) pursuant to regulations, extending period of Agreement from August 1, 2008 through August 1, 2011 to July 31, 2014. All other terms and conditions of MOAU remaining in full force and effect.

**Attachments:** [Document\(s\)](#)

**This Matter was Recommended Favorably on the Consent Agenda.**

**Votes:** Adv Aye: 0  
Adv Nay: 0  
Adv Abstain: 0  
Aye: 3 - Jody London, Gary Yee and Jumoke Hinton Hodge  
Nay: 0  
Recused: 0  
Preferential Aye: 0  
Preferential Abstention: 0  
Preferential Nay: 0



**11-1696**

**Professional Services Contract - Peacemakers, Inc. - Claremont Middle School**

Ratification by the Board of Education of a Professional Services Contract between District and Peacemakers Inc., San Leandro, CA, for the latter to provide mentorship and academic support for youth and families; to build character; and to develop a code of moral behavior to help students reach their highest potential at Claremont Middle School, for the period February 14, 2011 through June 10, 2011, in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00.

**Resource Code - 0522-201**

**Funding Source: TIIG**

**Attachments:** [Document\(s\)](#)

**This Matter was Recommended Favorably on the Consent Agenda.**

**Votes:** Adv Aye: 0  
Adv Nay: 0  
Adv Abstain: 0  
Aye: 3 - Jody London, Gary Yee and Jumoke Hinton Hodge  
Nay: 0  
Recused: 0  
Preferential Aye: 0  
Preferential Abstention: 0  
Preferential Nay: 0



**11-1739**

**Contract - First Five Alameda County - Early Childhood Education**

Approval by the Board of Education of the Memorandum of Understanding between First Five of Alameda County, San Leandro, CA, for the latter to provide implementation of the School Readiness Initiative by coordinating with preschools, child care programs, and elementary schools; coordinate effective school transition and parent education practices by coordinating new and existing program and services toward reaching all families with children ages 0-5 for the Early Childhood Education Department for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013, at no cost to the District.

**Funding Source: First Five of Alameda County**

**Attachments:** [Document\(s\)](#)

**This Matter was Recommended Favorably on the Consent Agenda.**

**Votes:** Adv Aye: 0  
Adv Nay: 0  
Adv Abstain: 0  
Aye: 3 - Jody London, Gary Yee and Jumoke Hinton Hodge  
Nay: 0  
Recused: 0  
Preferential Aye: 0  
Preferential Abstention: 0  
Preferential Nay: 0



**11-1773**

**Memorandum of Understanding - Caring Schools Community Initiative - Leadership, Curriculum and Instruction**

Approval by the Board of Education of a Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Developmental Studies Center, Oakland, CA, for the Caring School Community Initiative at seventeen elementary school, as described in the MOU, incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth, with the District accepting a pass through grant of \$50,000.00 from the SD Bechtel Junior Foundation, for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

**Attachments:** [Document\(s\)](#)

**This Matter was Recommended Favorably on the Consent Agenda.**

**Votes:** Adv Aye: 0  
Adv Nay: 0  
Adv Abstain: 0  
Aye: 3 - Jody London, Gary Yee and Jumoke Hinton Hodge  
Nay: 0  
Recused: 0  
Preferential Aye: 0  
Preferential Abstention: 0  
Preferential Nay: 0



**11-1868**

**Restablishment/Reopening of Castlemont High School - School Year 2011-2012**

Approval by the Board of Education of the reestablishment and reopening of Castlemont High School, effective School Year 2011-2012, and authorizing the filing of the appropriate CDS code application, and other related documents, if any, with the California Department of Education to effect the foregoing authorized action.

**Attachments:** [Document\(s\)](#)

*Chairperson Hodge asked staff to explain the process.*

*David Montes de Oca, Executive Director, Quality Schools Development Office, stated the application is an opportunity for us to establish the new Freshman Academy on the Castlemont campus which begins operation this year with ninth grade students, then develop over time more robust articulation in a forthcoming school portfolio presentation. The pre-existing CDC code for Castlemont is no longer eligible to be reinstated per the California Department of Education. The State has asked us to pursue a new CDS Code to establish this school and begin counting ADA for the school.*

*Chairperson Hodge asked if the other CDS included East Oakland School of the Arts, CBITS, and Leadership Academy? Will those schools graduate themselves out and no other students matriculate into those schools?*

*Mr. Montes de Oca said no new students will enter from the lower grades and there will be a phase-out plan. There will continue to be East Oakland School for the Arts, Leadership Preparatory High School, and CBITS this year. Their CDS codes remain. The California Department of Education's perspective is had we ceased to operate any one of those three schools, the State would have required us to determine which of those three schools we wished to continue the CDS code to operate as the new Castlemont campus. Because those schools will continue to operate this year, we have to apply for a new CDS code.*

*Director Yee asked if any students will be in Castlemont for this coming year?*

*Mr. Montes de Oca said we can give an update to the Board on the number of students.*

*Director Yee asked if incoming ninth graders will be the only students in that particular school?*

*Mr. Montes de Oca stated all of the incoming ninth graders of the Castlemont campus will be served by that program.*

**This Matter was Recommended Favorably on the Consent Agenda.**

**Votes:** Adv Aye: 0  
Adv Nay: 0  
Adv Abstain: 0  
Aye: 3 - Jody London, Gary Yee and Jumoke Hinton Hodge  
Nay: 0  
Recused: 0  
Preferential Aye: 0  
Preferential Abstention: 0  
Preferential Nay: 0

## Passed The Committee General Consent Report

A motion was made by Jody London, seconded by Gary Yee, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: Adv Aye: 0  
 Adv Nay: 0  
 Adv Abstain: 0  
 Aye: 3 - Jody London, Gary Yee and Jumoke Hinton Hodge  
 Nay: 0  
 Recused: 0  
 Preferential Aye: 0  
 Preferential Abstention: 0  
 Preferential Nay: 0

## F. Unfinished Business

*None*

## G. New Business



### 11-1363 Decision - Urban Montessori - Petition and Proposed Charter - Denial

Approval by Board of Education - Resolution No. 1112-0035 - Denying Charter Petition of Urban Montessori and Written Finding for Support Thereof.

**Attachments:** [Document\(s\)](#)  
[11-1363\\_Urban\\_Montessori\\_Charter\\_School\\_Petition\\_and\\_Proposed\\_Charter.pdf](#)  
[11-1363\\_Public\\_Hearing\\_Presentation\\_Urban\\_Montessori\\_Charter\\_School\\_Petition\\_and\\_Proposed\\_Charter.ppt](#)  
[11-1363 - Decision - Urban Montessori - Petition and Proposed Charter.pdf](#)  
[11-1363 - Resolution - Decision - Urban Montessori - Petition and Proposed Charter - Resolution No. 1112-0035 - Denying Charter Petition of Urban Montessori and Written Finding for Support Thereof.pdf](#)

*Gail Greely, Coordinator, Office of Charter Schools, stated the petition review process included a petition review team, interviews with the petitioning group and governing board, a thorough review of the petition and all appendices with reference to the charter criteria and the standard rubric that has been in place; including references to specific evidence in the petition and from the interviews. She said staff recommendations reflect a consensus of the District reviewers on the petition review teams and the reports are a synthesis of the comments from the various reviewers. Approval is based on a judgment that the school is likely to succeed which is then followed up with ongoing oversight by her office and in five years a full evaluation of the school's performance at the time of charter renewal.*

*Ms. Greely said the approach to charter authorizing is subject to reconsideration. These*



reviews were done with the current authorizing strategy. The proposed opening of Urban Montessori is for fall of 2012 with grades K-2 and 252 students to be located in the downtown Lake Merritt area. Two locations under consideration are 16th and Harrison and 171- 12th Street. The school will grow to K-8 by 2018-19 school year with a total proposed enrollment of 681 students.

Ms. Greely said it is a Montessori Program, recruiting students district wide, rather than a specific target population. The target are those who are interested in the Montessori approach.

She said the petitioners had previously submitted to the Alameda County Board of Education for a County-wide charter which was denied because there was insufficient justification for the County-wide nature of the school. The County Board said the same goals could be accomplished by a single District authorization.

Ms. Greely said staff found the educational program, as presented in the petition, a complete and clear description of the program with an emphasis on merging the Montessori approach with California standards. There were multiple assessments of a strong assessment plan that was also integrated into the individualized planning process that is typical of Montessori schools. The petitioner capacity demonstrated a wide range of experience. The petition demonstrated knowledge on the educational and operating side. The content of the petition was thorough, including multiple appendices that reflected a great deal of planning work having been done to date.

Ms. Greely said it was staff's conclusion, based on the standard rubric, that the petition meets the standards for approval established in the California Charter School Act and in the Board's Charter School Policy.

She said the recommendation of the staff is that the petition be approved for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2012, subject to the required text revisions and conditions of opening that are contained in the staff report.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THIS ITEM:**

Randy Weiner thanked the Office of Charter Schools. They greatly appreciate the efforts of Gail Greely and her team's feedback and support.

Peter Laub, Lead Petitioner, availed himself to answer questions from the Committee.

Jim Mordecai stated he is an opponent to the privatization of public education for the use of charter schools. He said we have people who had worked for the Oakland Public Schools and there is no requirement in the number of years to be away from the District and then apply for a charter.

#### **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

Director Yee commented on the K-8 application. He said most of the Montessori's work was with early childhood education and early primary. Most developmental strategies and curriculum developed was in that level. He did some review of the literature on Montessori in middle schools and he found it not persuasive. He said most was anecdotal about people

*having Montessori middle schools, but not necessarily research on the connection between it.*

*Director Yee asked for a team member to comment on the research on Montessori. Did staff consider the middle school implementation of Montessori a potential issue?*

*Ms. Greely responded we were aware that Montessori is largely a primary program. We had many questions for the petitioning team regarding development of the middle school program. They are planning to rely on work that has been done at middle school and secondary Montessori schools at other locations, including one in Ohio. They had done a significant amount of work in planning the curriculum for the upper grades. They included a specific roll out plan. Because they are starting with grades K-1-2, they do not get to the upper grades until the second term of the charter. Their three year planning cycle for the initiation of the school included planning for development of that secondary level curriculum.*

*Director Yee said it would have been more convincing if it had been a five-year roll out of an elementary program. Because it is K-8 application, he is looking at the entire likelihood of success across the entire spectrum. He does not find it necessarily convincing to follow another model unless that model meets all the standards of an urban Montessori in a charter school environment in California.*

*Ms. Greely said there are approximately 6 of the 13 currently operating California Montessori Charter Schools that go to the 8th grade. Staff felt that examining the potential for the group to succeed in developing the full K-8 spectrum, that they had an Ohio model that had been particularly successful, but they had work from other schools in California that are part of the California Montessori Project they could rely on rolling out the curriculum over the coming years. Our conclusion was primarily based on the fact they had resources to rely on, had done some preliminary work already, and seemed likely to be able to effectively develop a middle school curriculum.*

*Hae-Sin Kim Thomas, Lead Petitioner, said her background is predominantly in Special Education and middle school, and she opened a K-8 school in Oakland Unified. She said Montessori has a curriculum that goes to the end of sixth grade. The seventh and eighth grade is definitely not strictly Montessori. It is why we integrated a design standard into this school which has opened a lot of secondary schools. We think that the Montessori design team integrated quite seamlessly and simultaneously in terms of being developmentally appropriate for adolescents. It seems very logical to have kids going from Montessori to a place where they are asking questions and then looking for solutions to real problems and integrating the content.*

*Ms. Kim Thomas said they have a comfortable model laid out, have credentialing, and they work with teachers. She said the Ohio model is quite inspiring and they serve a very diverse population of students, 100 percent college going, and a very large special education program. She said they are in conversation with the Ohio folks and will be modeling a lot of things that are working for them and taking a lot of best practice.*

*Director Yee said when this item comes before the Board as a whole, he would like to see any actual research on Montessori and middle school. He asked about Montessori training of teachers. He is aware of Montessori certification of teachers. How would the*

*petitioners handle the situation if Montessori training was a precondition. The phrase "highly desirable" is the language used; does a teacher have some experience with Montessori and would it be acceptable to have a highly effective Montessori teacher who was not credentialed to play an important role in the school? He asked if the staff did any comparison of the Montessori training with a CCTC training of teachers to determine if there is any consistency in the training preparation with the California Commission for Teacher Credentialing and are there any areas in which the training may conflict?*

*Ms. Greely said our understanding of the teacher requirements was that the Lead Teachers in the Montessori classrooms were required to be Montessori trained. There are additional teachers where Montessori experience was desired. Because they are not the primary teacher in the classroom, i.e., arts, physical education, world languages, they would not be required to be Montessori trained. In terms of credentialing requirements, the petition states that, Montessori trained or not, they will meet California credentialing requirements and NCLB requirements for Highly Qualified."*

*Amanda Klein stated the initial recruiting and posting of the teacher position received about 20 inquiries from teachers who had both Montessori and California credentials. She said we will comply with all NCLB and California Teaching Credentialing requirements. The Lead Teacher of each classroom with up to 36 children would be both Montessori and California credentialed. Secondary teachers will meet credentialing requirements and be credentialed as single subject teachers in the subjects they are teaching.*

*Director Yee asked about single subjects teacher credentialed with a California Credential who may have chose not to get the Montessori certification.*

*Ms. Klein said there is no Montessori secondary. The program is in development in terms of being able to be consistent with the program that we can offer for our elementary and our early childhood education.*

*Director Yee asked if Montessori training would be required for all teachers at some point? Right now, it says "highly desirable".*

*Ms. Klein said every Lead Teacher would be Montessori credentialed and California credentialed.*

*Chairperson Hodge asked about the Lead Teacher and teachers in other subject areas. Are there cases of non lead teachers who would have some Montessori training?*

*Ms. Klein stated their model provides for two adults at all times for the children. One would have a Montessori credential and a California State credential. The other would be a support teacher and would have some training.*

*Ms. Kim Thomas said this one comes from the Montessori school and it is common practice at primary and preschool level to have a classroom that has a lead and multiple assistants. The assistants are often teachers in training. Our interests is to build that pipeline. Our hope is to bring in some elementary folks that will teach 4, 5 and 6 who we can work with to build the 7-8 program. Our ideal is that middle school people have Montessori training and understand where the kids are coming from.*

*Director Yee said he appreciates the opportunity and the effort to expand the Montessori opportunities throughout the entire city. He was not sure how the lottery worked in terms of positions available. It seems the active people involved in the beginning have some priority. What will the petitioners do to ensure that the selection process reflects the target population that the school seeks to serve?*

*Ms. Greely said the petition gave a very limited preference for founding families, siblings, and Oakland preference. Their recruitment to date has reflected what we saw to be significant outreach and to a variety of neighborhoods.*

*Director Yee stated he usually questions the petitioners during the renewal process if the ethnic distribution of a school ultimately does not reflect the ambitions of the petitioner in the beginning. He would like to know the extent to which the petitioner takes seriously that the outcomes by which they will be measured early on will be the outcomes of the commitment they make to the population so that it is not an aspirational goal, but rather an actual measurable goal.*

*Bernadette Shea said their passion is to bring Montessori to children. Their outreach is very focused and broad. They are specifically planning to call meetings with various community organizations in neighborhoods across Oakland to start presentations about Montessori to families and communities that may not know about it. Some of the neighborhoods include West Oakland, Fruitvale, San Antonio, Laurel and Dimond, Grand Lake, and downtown Oakland. If they are not seeing the families and the diversity in the first year, they will go out into the communities and continue to build the relationships.*

*Director Yee asked what would happen in the second year if they did not see the outcomes? Ms. Shea said it is about taking a case management approach in terms of the recruitment of families and building the relationships and student support at the school. If they do not see those results, then they need to continue to think every day and every year about ways to bring the families in so that it is truly diverse.*

*Director Yee said there is a certain economic filtering for people who are Montessori teachers and he has no idea what the diversity of the current Montessori teaching staff is.*

*Chairperson Hodge asked if they had considered an "in-district charter"? She said this is going to be a broader issue involving technology. In our Strategic Plan, where do charter schools fit and how are we talking about an incorporation of taking the best thinking of our charters and putting them internal to our school district so that we do not have to compete anymore? Has this one triggered anything for staff about how to put it inside of our own system?*

*Ms. Greely said the petitioners did follow up after the public hearing and contacted OEA. Both raised questions about our charter authorizing strategy and in light of the Strategic Plan, is it time to do some reconsideration of relationship of the District to charters.*

*Chairperson Hodge asked if any of our Task Forces are going to be able to take this on?*

*Mr. Montes de Oca said an upcoming school portfolio management presentation will address strategies on integrating the Strategic Plan into the set of schools that we operate and will include the role of California Charter Law, our charter school authorizing*

*practices, lessons learned, and effective practices that we aspire to implement in our own schools.*

*Ms. Kim Thomas said they did reach out to OEA leadership and Troy Christmas in Labor Relations. Ms. Olson Jones responded to an initial Email. The Superintendent directed them to David Montes de Oca and a meeting has been scheduled with him later this week. The Urban Montessori team did approach the District before going to Alameda County Office of Education and they spoke to the Charter Schools Office and did ask about the possibility of having a District charter status. At the time, it was their understanding that the District did not have any plans around that. They did pursue the solely external charter route as a result. They did regroup as a team to have a conversation about what it means to be in or out and where they want to be and how do we make this vision happen? She said while there is mention in the Strategic Plan of dual immersion and stem Schools and K-8, it does not mention differentiated conditions for different kinds of schools. It does not mention other innovative models. She said the Strategic Plan is full of great things and there is a lot to do there. She has been in conversations with the District where it was very clearly articulated to her that differentiated conditions for specific schools entitles some schools over others and that was not the direction of the District. Ms. Kim Thomas stated they are very committed to a 2012 opening. Parents are still calling them to figure out their options. They have a comprehensive plan that outlines their actions backwards from that date. The Districts' Strategic Plan outlined many great things, but not specifically to this. The message she received that it is not prepared to differentiate conditions for specific schools. Today, there are no policies, no in-District procedures and no offices dedicated to this and no resources. They have thought deeply about this and it is with personal remorse that they are going to stay the charter route and they hope to find ways to partner to ensure best practices with both the District and find ways to be a good partner in other ways.*

*Chairperson Hodge said she had a question about an element in the Strategic Plan about the African American Male Achievement piece that we have tied to our Special Education outcomes in terms of acknowledging so many African American males being in Special Education. She asked about the approach of Montessori around working with African American males and Special Education.*

*Ms. Klein said serving the African American students well is a key motivator of why we are hoping to open a school and it is key in their thinking about conditions that being a charter school will allow. There is a lot of research that exists that individualized learning and meeting children where their interests are allows for broader and deeper learning. A one size fits all model does not work for all children and they see that it is not working for children of color in Oakland. Ms. Klein said she has worked with students that have individualized learning plans and IEPs and that each child has an individualized learning plan. Children who have been traditionally disadvantaged have the most to gain from this model.*

*Director London said she is not opposed to Montessori. She would like for them to be a Montessori public school within Oakland. We have enough charter schools in Oakland. We have more charter schools per capita. What we need is to rebuild our system as a Unified School District. The lesson she takes from the three applications are there are certain educational strategies, philosophies and ways of approaching things that are community values and one of them is Montessori. From what she has seen, everyone who has come forward is middle or upper middle class folks who want to go to a Montessori*

school. They do not want to go to Sankofa, Santa Fe, or Emerson. She is interested in the option of a Montessori within the public school system. She is not supportive of having another charter, particularly one that is going to draw 700 kids from our enrollment pools.

Chairperson Hodge said the take away for her is capacity. She said she is going to support the charter and move it forward, if nothing else to say that we better get busy about having the conversation to build our capacity inside the District.

Director Yee stated he shares very much the perspective of Director London. He has issues with any school that identifies itself specifically with a philosophy and believes that the ideology is primary. He said it is relatively easy for him to say that Montessori schools have a certain perspective and philosophy. He would find it difficult for a Montessori school to come into the District and say we want to be Montessori. The Strategic Plan identifies schools as community centers. Any school that draws across the District he has to ask does it benefit a community or does it benefit individual parents? He said by far, this particular charter would benefit individual parents and students. If it targeted a particular set of at-risk students, he would have had a difficult time saying NO to it. This charter does not do that. He is interested in the improvement of neighborhoods through schools and public education with schools as the center of communities.

At Committee Request, following failure of motion of recommend favorably, a Motion to Discharge from Committee will be scheduled on the August 10 Board of Education agenda.

**A motion was made by Jumoke Hinton Hodge, seconded by Gary Yee, that this matter be Recommended Favorably - Failed. The motion failed by the following vote:**

**Votes:** Adv Aye: 0  
 Adv Nay: 0  
 Adv Abstain: 0  
 Aye: 1 - Jumoke Hinton Hodge  
 Nay: 2 - Jody London and Gary Yee  
 Recused: 0  
 Preferential Aye: 0  
 Preferential Abstention: 0  
 Preferential Nay: 0



### 11-1364

#### **Decision - Rocketship Education - Petition and Proposed Charter**

Adoption by Board of Education of Resolution No. 1112-0013 - Denial of Rocketship Education - Petition and Proposed Charter and Written Findings In Support Thereof.

**Attachments:** [Document\(s\)](#)  
[11-1364\\_Rocketship\\_Education\\_Rocketship\\_Oakland\\_Petition\\_and\\_Proposed Charter.pdf](#)  
[11-1364\\_Public\\_Hearing\\_Presentation\\_Rocketship\\_Education\\_Rocketship\\_Oakland\\_Petition\\_and\\_Proposed Charter.ppt](#)  
[11-1364 - Decision - Rocketship Education - Petition and Proposed Charter.pdf](#)

Gail Greely, Coordinator, Office of Charter Schools, said the proposed opening is fall of 2013 to serve K-3 with 416 students to be located in West Oakland, no specific site identified, growing to Grades K-5 or K-6. The petition was not entirely clear on that with a

*total enrollment of 555 at the K-5 level. Ms. Greely said this is known as a hybrid program and has elementary programs with teachers specializing in humanities or in science/math and with students spending a significant amount of time in computer learning labs and in small group intervention learning. The organization is a charter management organization with existing schools in Santa Clara County. There are currently three schools operating in Santa Clara County.*

*Ms. Greely said the initial charter review process included a petition review team, interviews with the petitioning group and Governing Board, a thorough review of the petition and all appendices with reference to the charter criteria and the standard rubric that has been in place, including references to specific evidence in the petition and from the interviews. The staff recommendations reflect a consensus of the District reviewers on the petition review teams and the reports are a synthesis of the comments from the various reviewers. It is staff's recommendation for denial of the charter petition. With respect to the educational program, we found that it lacked a tie to the West Oakland target population. The program description repeatedly describes how it is designed for an ELL population which is not what would be the bulk of those served in West Oakland. The needed partnerships and community supports in West Oakland have not been developed. Pupil outcomes are not specific enough compared to our customary approach and they are not based on knowledge of the target population. With respect to capacity, there is a local governance structure that has been proposed, but it is underdeveloped at this time. There is no plan for facilities other than a general approach to development. It is an organization that has built its own schools. The staffing model has raised some questions about teacher retention and the development of teacher mastery. Content of the petition had some inadequacies in target population, pupil outcomes and facilities. There were some inconsistencies in the petition that made it appear that it was a cookie cutter and slightly adapted to the West Oakland environment, but not clearly designed for that population. Our conclusion was that it did not meet the standards for approval established in the Act or by this Board through its charter school policy.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THIS ITEM:**

*Jim Mordecai spoke in opposition to privatization of public schools. He said staff shoots down this petition because it is not tied to the student population, the facilities are not clear, and it is cookie cutter. He said the last petition which was not denied by staff, there is something about the area of the Lake Merritt near BART and it is not going to open up for at least another year. Regarding the target population, he would challenge anyone to show him a charter school law that requires tie-in to the population. There is a priority in serving an underserved population, but that is nothing about what the characteristics of the population or subpopulation of a school district. He said this is a question of the Board applying a reason to deny this which is illegal. He said the District is putting itself at risk of being sued if the petition is denied.*

*Evon Cohn and Preston Smith thanked everyone for taking the time to review their petition. They are here to respond to questions.*

*Director London said she does not know where we will go on this, but if the charter is denied, and it is appealed to the County Board, she will be disappointed. She would appreciate if they would respect our interests in taking some time to figure out how charter schools are going to fit into our Strategic Plan.*

*Chairperson Hodge commended staff. She said we finally got a measure around equity and around what this community really needs. In this particular charter, it was very clear that they were coming to serve West Oakland. She was very appreciative of a sense of looking at this charter, but there is a way in which there has been a dedication to educate our children in West Oakland and being able to see that this charter needs to do a lot more work if they are going to step into that population and into that community. It gave her a lot of hope. She thanked staff for all their work. As a District we are seeing how we can deepen our work through our Strategic Plan.*

*Ms. Greely said it is the rubric that takes all of the reviewers to ask those questions about how does this serve this target population and how will this petitioner successfully implement in this community with this population, with the needs of this population.*

**A motion was made by Jody London, seconded by Gary Yee, that this matter be Recommended Favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** Adv Aye: 0  
 Adv Nay: 0  
 Adv Abstain: 0  
 Aye: 3 - Jody London, Gary Yee and Jumoke Hinton Hodge  
 Nay: 0  
 Recused: 0  
 Preferential Aye: 0  
 Preferential Abstention: 0  
 Preferential Nay: 0



## **11-1650**

### **Decision - Legacies of Excellence - Petition and Proposed Charter**

Adoption by Board of Education of Resolution No. 1112-0014 - Denial of Legacies of Excellence - Petition and Proposed Charter and Written Findings In Support Thereof.

**Attachments:** [Document\(s\)](#)  
[11-1650\\_Legacies of Excellence\\_Petition\\_and\\_Proposed\\_Charter\\_Vol.1.pdf](#)  
[11-1650\\_Legacies of Excellence\\_Petition\\_and\\_Proposed\\_Charter\\_Vol.2.pdf](#)  
[11-1650\\_Public\\_Hearing\\_Presentation\\_Legacies of Excellence\\_Petition\\_and\\_Proposed\\_Charter.ppt](#)  
[11-1650 - Decision - Legacies of Excellence - Petition and Proposed Charter.pdf](#)  
[11-1650 - Withdrawn - Legacies of Excellence - Petition and Proposed Charter.pdf](#)

*[Secretary Rakestraw noted at Agenda Item C that Legacies of Excellence has withdrawn petition.]*

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON THIS ITEM:**

*Jim Mordecai asked if they linked up with the El Dorado County Office?*

*Director London said there is something coming from the community with this application, in particular, the focus of the application on a particular target age group and population.*



*The three petitions on the agenda tonight represent interest from the community about particular ways of approaching things that merit further consideration.*

*Director Yee said the story was compelling and the population is compelling. He wished that the curriculum was more substantial. There were strategies that the petitioners had that could be well integrated into opportunities for our Continuation Schools, the Barack Obama Academy and our Community Day School.*

*Chairperson Hodge said the petitioners were promised that there would be conversations and support from the Charter Office to help the community group with the Legacies of Excellence. What happened in the interim?*

*David Montes de Oca, Executive Director, Quality Schools Development Office, said when the petitioners brought their first petition which was originally recommended for denial, staff had recommended an opportunity to encourage the Board to consider how it could invite his office to engage with the petitioners differently. He said we have Board Policy and Administrative Regulations that speak to the fact that it is not going to be the practice of this District to provide technical assistance to petitioners prior to approval. He said his office took that very seriously at the onset of his administration that we would have policy that would speak to that so that the Board would be confident in every recommendation that was made that they were coming from the merits of the petitioner. He said this was an instance where we were inviting the Board to invoke on our staff the opportunity to engage differently.*

*Mr. Montes de Oca said we initially did some engagement with the petitioning group at that time. What we discerned from that were a few things: This particular petitioning group has a commitment to a particular facility. They have invested a great deal in a facility that they originally intended to operate as a residential home for young people. The opportunities for funding and resources in that area have changed dramatically over time and the pursuit of the charter school is a different strategy to provide services to students and families and they also have a particular approach to a school model that is not inherently integrated into a school program given the amount of development that is still needed. It is the kind of program that is not uncommon for a charter to implement where it will likely take a small group of students initially, develop that program over time and designed to be highly differentiated and specialized for specific students. At that time we talked about their willingness to collaborate around discussions focusing on mental health partners that we have serving Oakland schools and about how to diversify our portfolio to provide support and services to our students. They were fairly explicit about their efforts previously to reach out and connect with some of the other mental health providers that operate in the Bay Area and they acknowledged a certain culture among providers that does not always promote collaboration because each agency is seeking to develop their own programs. They also expressed their own interest in their own programs and intellectual property being maintained which diminished somewhat at that time the capacity to initiate a wholesale collaboration as we anticipated. We had some focus on our emphasis on looking deeply at the Barack Obama Academy Program which was offering a similar strategy toward providing a mental health integrated academic program for students in the middle grades. We deduced from an existing high quality collaboration at Community Day School between Seneca and the District an opportunity to build off and integrate directly into that program the current Barack Obama Academy Program that we are looking forward to implementing this year.*

*Mr. Montes de Oca said this petitioner would require a charter school incubator. Part of our discussion about the vision for the role that Charter Schools may play in this District can entertain what that means and why some groups warrant that versus others, but the breadth and support that particular petitioning group and/or petition effort to date would require something nothing short of a year-long charter school incubator.*

*Director Yee said that raises an exciting alternative. He said Barack Obama Academy got put on some kind of watch list. He said that model is actually where he would entertain some charter applications. That would suggest a reconstitution of school around an academic instructional model that is appealing and has a long history and would be a partnership he would have interest and that is direction that is consistent with the Strategic Plan.*

**Withdrawn**



**11-1822**

**Amended Board Policy - BP 5131 - Students - Conduct**

Adoption by Board of Education of Amended Board Policy - Students - BP 5131- Conduct, revising policy as published, to wit: to include a prohibition against cyberbullying; defines cyberbullying as bullying through email, instant messaging, chat rooms, cell phones or other forms of information technology; consequences; outlines the steps in investigating claims of cyberbullying; requires education on the issues and makes it clear that students have no expectation of privacy when using District equipment.

**Attachments:** [Document\(s\)](#)

*General Counsel Minor stated the policy relates to student conduct. CSBA and the Federal Department of Education have urged school districts to include in their policy clear prohibitions against cyber bullying. She said we are seeing more and more of these cases. The policy provides for training, support of students and reinforces expectations as technology changes. General Counsel Minor said the intent of the policy is to look at telecommunications equipment and facilities that are provided by the District.*

**A motion was made by Jody London, seconded by Jumoke Hinton Hodge, that this matter be Recommended Favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** Adv Aye: 0  
 Adv Nay: 0  
 Adv Abstain: 0  
 Aye: 3 - Jody London, Gary Yee and Jumoke Hinton Hodge  
 Nay: 0  
 Recused: 0  
 Preferential Aye: 0  
 Preferential Abstention: 0  
 Preferential Nay: 0

## **H. Public Comments on All Non-Agenda Items Within the Subject Matter Jurisdiction of the Committee**

*Jim Mordecai said he had a concern about looking at the structure with the first charter school item. He stated there is an issue with accountability for the corporate board. It was set up very clearly to direct who would be their governance board.*

## **I. Superintendent of Schools or Designee's Committee Liaison Report**

*Maria Santos, Deputy Superintendent, Instruction, Leadership, and Equity-in-Action, stated we look forward to welcoming all administrators on August 15-17 at McClymonds.*

*Deputy Superintendent Santos stated we are, as Director Yee asked earlier, looking at contracts and how we outline the work for the year. We will be presenting a detailed report on the contracting process as to the types of programs we are supporting, what we have been purchasing, and the alignment with the Strategic Plan. We look forward to establishing an agenda for the year as initiatives roll out.*

*Director London asked staff to think about topics which would be appropriate for the full Board to know about. Many of the issues discussed in this committee would be worthwhile for presentation to the full Board.*

*Director Yee asked about the controversy at Skyline High School regarding the AP exams and proctoring.*

*Director Yee asked about the start of school and if we will be fully staffed? Did we end up hiring back any of the temporary teachers? Do we have a pool of people for substitutes? Do we have any Stip Substitutes? Are we doing any kind of resetting of our auxiliary staff?*

*Director Yee said he had spoken to David Montes de Oca about the three charters and he had mentioned there is quite a bit of work in terms of portfolio management. There was interest about scheduling a workshop around portfolio issues of school consolidation and realigning some of our schools into K-8. We thought a portfolio management study session would be appropriate.*

*Deputy Superintendent Santos said that is an area that we should address early on to look at how we are thinking about creating rich programs. She would recommend a session for the full Board.*

*In terms of the AP issue at Skyline, Deputy Superintendent Santos stated there was an investigation related to the AP courses. There was a determination of a set group of students that will be given the opportunity to retake the exams at no cost. There is training of staff on appropriate procedures and space configurations to ensure kids are well positioned to do their best work.*

*Deputy Superintendent Santos added we have been aggressively working to fully staff schools. We are hiring temporary teachers as we have vacancies in the areas of Math, Science and English.*

*Deputy Superintendent Santos stated we are all engaged in opening of school. We meet regularly on Wednesdays to determine where we are on all the elements of opening of*

*school.*

*Director Yee asked if the Back to School Report could be included in the Superintendent's Report at August 10, 2011 Board Meeting.*

## **J. Introduction of New Legislative Matter**

*Director London requested a report on the results of the teacher survey and our plan of action to address what we learned through the teacher survey.*

*Secretary Rakestraw said the teacher survey results are on the agenda also for the Finance and Human Resources Committee for this Thursday.*

*Deputy Superintendent Santos, in response to request by Director Yee, stated we are looking at contracts and how we outline the work for the year. We will be presenting a detailed report on the contracting process as to the types of programs we are supporting and what we have been purchasing in terms of their alignment to the Strategic Plan.*

## **K. Adjournment**

*Chairperson Hodge adjourned the meeting at 7:12 P.M.*

Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_