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**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Community Schools, Thriving Students

Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education

From Azlinah Tambu, member of the public
Rochelle Jenkins, member of the public
Jaz Fortes, member of the public
Max Orozco, member of the public
Holly Shogbesan, member of the public

Meeting Date June 29, 2022

Subject Resolution No. 2122-0096 - Reversal and Rescission of School Consolidations

Ask of the Board Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2122-0096 - Reversal and Rescission of School Consolidations

Background Pursuant to Board Bylaws and state law, members of the public have a right to submit items to the Board for consideration. More specifically, under Board Bylaw 9322: “Members of the public may request, in writing, that specific matters directly related to School District business be placed on the agenda of a regular meeting of the Board. The Board President shall determine when to place the requested item on a Board agenda and whether to do so as a presentation, discussion, or action item.”

After a proper request is submitted, the item is first introduced as a new legislative matter. Like all such matters, there is no discussion or vote at the Board meeting at which it is introduced. Any Board discussion or vote would occur at a subsequent meeting when the item is agendized.

Discussion The proposed Resolution was properly submitted by the above listed authors. It was introduced as a new legislative matter on June 22, 2022. It is now being agendized pursuant to Board Bylaw 9322.

Fiscal Impact To be determined as there was no sufficient time to analyze the impact given the short time between the introduction of the item on June 22, 2022 and the publication of this item for June 29, 2022.

Attachment ● Resolution No. 2122-0096 – Reversal and Rescission of School Consolidations

**RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Resolution No. 2122-0096

Reversal and Rescission of School Consolidations

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2021, this Board passed Resolution 2122-0026 making up to \$6 million in budget cuts “in lieu of” cohort 3 school closures, thereby fulfilling its requirement as set forth in Resolution 2021-0128 “Advancing District’s Citywide Plan Work”;

WHEREAS, in November 2021, the Alameda County Office of Education (“ACOE”) issued a “letter of going concern” claiming the District must identify additional budget reductions to remain solvent;

WHEREAS, on February 8, 2022, this Board passed Resolution 2122-0030 “School Consolidations for 2022-23 and 2023-24” wherein 7 schools were identified for closure (Parker K8, Community Day School, Carl B. Munck Elementary, Grass Valley Elementary, Horace Mann Elementary, Brookfield Elementary and Fred T. Korematsu Elementary) and 2 schools were identified for middle school grade truncation (La Escuelita and Hillcrest);

WHEREAS, Resolution 2122-0030 was passed in violation of this Board’s own policies requiring community engagement of at least 9 months prior to the closure of any school (Resolution 1819-0178), (Resolution 2021-0037);

WHEREAS, this Board acted precipitously on February 8, 2022 under the belief that OUSD was in immediate fiscal danger;

WHEREAS, OUSD applied for funding through the California Community Schools Partnership Program (“CCSPP”) in March, 2022, including 4 schools that are slated for closure pursuant to Resolution 2122-0030 (Brookfield, Horace Mann, Grass Valley, and Fred T. Korematsu);

WHEREAS, OUSD has been awarded funding in the amount of \$66,737,500 under the CCSPP, including the four schools slated to be closed, which funding will be forfeited if those schools close;

WHEREAS, the Governor’s “May Revise” to the 2022-23 budget provides a 10% or approximately \$40 million increase in Local Control Funding Formula (“LCFF”) as well as a 6.56% Cost of Living Adjustment to LCFF;

WHEREAS, the ACOE rescinded its Letter of Going Concern in March, 2022 and OUSD is not in immediate fiscal danger;

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2022 at the end of the regular school year for students the Parker school community has established the Parker Community School to continue to meet the needs of the Parker community, including providing meals and classes to former Parker K-8 students;

WHEREAS, this Board now recognizes that the school is the anchor of the neighborhood and provides a safe place for neighborhood families to send their children to school, and that those children are able to walk to Parker because it is their neighborhood school and that forcing them to walk, or requiring them to take public transportation, to further schools jeopardizes the safety and well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, this Board recognizes that closing schools without a community driven process for imagining school changes can have dire negative consequences not anticipated by this Board;

WHEREAS, this Board recognizes that keeping Parker Elementary School has several benefits: 1) children can access a school in their own neighborhood; 2) families can keep their children in one school location versus splitting across the city at different campuses; 3) The near centennial legacy and culture of this neighborhood will serve to uphold honor and respect to a community being rapidly pushed out by Oakland city policies that serve gentrification; 4) As one of the only critical resources accessible to this community due to extreme divestment, keeping this school here demonstrates investment in the livelihood of one of Oakland's poorest, Blackest neighborhoods; 5) Revitalization of community investment in their school; 6) Overall, it promotes safety, accessibility, and sustainability in enrollment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we hereby direct the Superintendent or her designee to create a new process for imagining school changes and budget adjustments which explicitly follows its own policies and procedures as set forth in Resolution No. 2021-0037 (Reparations for Black Students), Resolution No. 1819- 0178 (Improving Community Engagement for Proposed School Changes), or any prior Board direction or action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby direct the Superintendent or her designee to implement a new community driven process for imagining school changes which includes impacted community control of community schools fully funded by public resources allocated to the district

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board hereby reverses its decision to close Parker K-8, Community Day, La Escuelita Middle, and resolves instead to keep Parker open as a K- 8 school, La Escuelita Middle open and Community Day open, utilizing the CCSPP and increased LCFF funding and other available funding as needed to ensure that these schools remain fully funded by public resources allocated to the district, including community control; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we direct the Superintendent to immediately begin to work with the La Escuelita Community to create a plan to reestablish the middle grade program to ensure that La Escuelita Students have a safe preK to 12th grade continuum on their campus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we direct the Superintendent to create a plan to provide a safe, in person learning program in Oakland for students who would otherwise be assigned to Community Day School, in partnership with the educators and students impacted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby rescind the order closing Brookfield, Grass Valley, Horace Mann and Fred T. Korematsu and will instead use the CCSPP grant to help these schools grow into full service community schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we direct the Superintendent to begin a process of engagement with the remaining schools on the list to be closed in the next school year, Carl B. Munck and Hillcrest middle school, immediately at the start of the 2022-23 school year and that the Superintendent come back to this board not later than November 1 with a plan for the future of those schools that fully incorporates the feedback and input from the impacted communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OUSD end school closures as an approach to fiscal management, given the trauma experienced by dozens of school communities from school closures and consolidations, actual or threatened, that do not result in either fiscal savings or improved outcomes for students but do destroy communities and fuel gentrification;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OUSD work to repair the consequences of the decision to close and consolidate schools in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, to wit: Students at schools identified for closure as well as receiving schools must receive additional support in the form of counseling and mental health services; schools suffering from lower enrollment in 2022-23 due to OUSD announcing their pending closure be fully funded at historic levels; and that OUSD make additional efforts to drive enrollment at these school sites.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District this ___ day of _____, 2022, by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE: None

PREFERENTIAL NOE: None

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION: None

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE: None

AYES: VanCedric Williams, Mike Hutchinson

NOES: Aimee Eng, Clifford Thompson, Vice President Benjamim "Sam" Davis, President Gary Yee

ABSTAINED: None

RECUSED: None

ABSENT: (Vacancy), Samantha Pal (Student Director), Natalie Gallegos Chavez (Student Director)

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at the Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held on _____, 2022.

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OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gary Yee
President, Board of Education

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education