

Oakland Moving Forward
Community Task Force Report on
EDUCATION & COMMUNITY LEARNING



Oakland Moving Forward
Community Task Force Reports

CITY GOVERNMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY LEARNING

HEALTH

HOUSING

PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVERSITY/HUMAN RELATIONS

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZING & CIVIC PARTICIPATION

TRANSPORTATION



Oakland Moving Forward Community Task Force Report

Introduction

October of 2005, various sectors of the Oakland community decided to revamp the process of selecting a candidate for Mayor. Historically, candidates were chosen based on the individual candidates announcing their intention to run for office and *then* proceeding to ask voters for their support. A coalition of residents of the City of Oakland decided to identify an individual rather than wait to be asked for their support. A petition drive was started to draft the Honorable Ronald V. Dellums to run for Mayor. After several months of gathering signatures for the petition to “draft” Mr. Dellums for Mayor, approximately 9,000 names were submitted to him for his consideration. It was this amazing act of civic participation, which began the “Ron Dellums for Mayor” campaign. Six months from the date of the primary election, the former Congressman who had served Oakland for more than twenty-seven years, began a campaign to once again answer the call to public service.

It was a phenomenal expression of the power of organized political action by residents to dare to fight **for** “City Hall.” On Election Day, Mr. Dellums’ candidacy rallied the support and votes of fifty plus one percent of the vote. It was a victory for citizen participation as well as a victory for the democratic process and the system by which citizens are represented in government. This unique coalition encompassed residents who were long-time activists and newcomers to the process. It bridged the generational, racial and gender divide to such an extent that it was often commented by observers, as well as participants, that the campaign had reenergized the passion within the community. Despite differences of opinion on some issues, the overall consensus was that this candidate could and would be a champion for all of the residents of Oakland and that together, anything was possible.

The task force process which was proposed during the campaign as a means of bringing forward specific recommendations to address the myriad of challenges faced by Oakland, as well as other urban centers around the nation, systematically reached out to a wide variety of citizens with a broad range of expertise on the issue addressed by each committee. The participants included residents in the medical profession, developers, academicians, social service providers, city and county employees, business owners – both large and small – union activists, public safety employees, artists, musicians, formerly incarcerated as well as other citizen and community activists. More than 800 citizens participated in the initial phase of the establishment of this process. Nine major committees were formed which ranged from education to City Hall. Subcommittees were formed within each committee to address a specific aspect of each issue. For example, the Education Committee had several subcommittees, one of which was to develop

recommendations regarding wrap-around services for the public schools. The participants were asked to frame their recommendations with three basic principles in mind; multi-jurisdictional collaboration, public/private partnerships and regional collaboration. All recommendations were to include strategies for implementation and further collaboration based on these principles.

The initial phase of the task force process begun by Mayor-Elect Ronald V. Dellums in September 2006 lasted through December 2006. This structure was designed to revitalize democracy by reinvigorating community participation in the City of Oakland and bring forth the brilliance and wisdom from within this community. Mrs. Cynthia Dellums helped to shape the process with the input of hundreds of people from every neighborhood collaborating on dozens of task forces dealing with every aspect of community life.

Over 800 people volunteered for forty-one committees as part of the task force, in conjunction with several "Neighbor to Neighbor" meetings held throughout the city. Each task force had one, sometimes two specific questions to address for deliberation. The task force operated with a set of organizing principles that combined democracy and structure. Agreement on any recommendation required a vote of two-thirds or more of their members. Some committees also developed minority reports as part of the recommendation process. The Mayor, city staff, task force members and others (e.g., business, labor, faith community, etc.) are currently engaged in an ongoing dialogue regarding the follow up on the recommendations.

A steering committee of the task force members provided the day-to-day leadership and logistical support for this largely volunteer process. The National Community Development Institute, an Oakland-based non-profit, provided strategic advice and consultation during this process. Special recognition and gratitude go to Kitty Kelly Epstein for her contribution to the coordination and outreach, which contributed to the success of this effort.

The "Oakland Moving Forward" Community Task Force developed the recommendations included in this document for review and consideration by Mayor Dellums.

The task force process and the structure, which continues to evolve, will be an integral component of this administration and the development and implementation of strategies for public policy moving forward.

Mayor Dellums would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all of the individuals who have participated in this process to date and to encourage those who would like to join him and their neighbors in creating a "Model City" for the twenty-first century.

Together, we **can** do great things!

Oakland Moving Forward
Community Task Force Report on

Education & Community Learning

- ▶ Teacher Training and Recruitment
- ▶ Literacy, Technology and Universal Access
- ▶ Wrap-Around Services
- ▶ Middle and High School Dropouts/Pushouts
- ▶ Foster Care & Group Homes
- ▶ Early Childhood Education/Headstart
- ▶ Higher Education
- ▶ Returning OUSD Schools to Local Governance
- ▶ Full Use/Collaboration between the City and the Peralta Community College System



Oakland Moving Forward
Community Task Force Report on
Education & Community Learning

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OVERVIEW

Nine education task forces met from approximately September to December 2006 working to answer an education question by creating a set of recommendations. Each recommendation was proposed, researched and revised. Adopting a recommendation required an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the members of that task force. Because each task force operated independently you will notice some overlap and an occasional contradiction between the recommendations of the various task forces. These recommendations have been shared with the Mayor and there will be on-going dialogue and action between the Mayor city staff, educational institutions and the task forces about follow-through on the recommendations.

TOPIC 1

Teacher Training and Recruitment

Question

How can Oakland ensure that there are enough effective, permanent teachers for all Oakland youngsters?

RECOMMENDATION 1

City of Oakland and Oakland Unified School District Teacher Recruitment Summit

This task force proposes that the City of Oakland and Oakland Unified School District sponsor a recruitment summit targeted to college seniors in Oakland and surrounding cities. The recruitment summit would generate candidates who are multilingual, multiethnic and committed to Oakland to fill vacant positions in the Oakland Unified School district.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Oakland Teacher Center

This task force proposes that an Oakland Teacher Center be created on behalf of Oakland youngsters to recruit and retain teachers. The Teacher Center will be able to guide any Oakland resident through the tests, coursework, fees and other requirements on their path to becoming a teacher. While the focus of the center is to explicitly solve the teacher shortage in Oakland Public Schools, teachers who work in parochial and independent schools will also have access to services provided by the center.

RECOMMENDATION 3

Profile Oakland Teachers on City Web site

This task force proposes that there be rotating teacher pictures and profiles on the City of Oakland Website that change monthly. Our idea is that the profiles reflect teachers at elementary, middle and high school levels. The profiles would include a brief narrative about the teachers, where they work and their pictures.

RECOMMENDATION 4

Increase Support for Oakland Teachers by Business Community

This task force proposes the creation of an Oakland teacher discount card. The card would allow Oakland teachers to get 10 percent off purchases or meals at the participating establishments. We want to target the business community in Oakland. Participating businesses would get a poster to put in their establishment that says: "I support Oakland Teachers."

RECOMMENDATION 5

Town Hall Meeting: High Stakes Testing

This task force proposes that the Mayor's Office hold two town hall meetings to inform the community about the impact of high-stakes testing on Oakland students, Oakland teachers and the public school curriculum.



Literacy, Technology and Universal Access

TOPIC 2

How can we achieve universal literacy and technology access (including the Internet) for all Oakland Residents?

Question

Coordination, expansion, and strengthening of literacy opportunities through creating a Mayor's Special Commission for Literacy working with the Oakland Adult Literacy Task Force, initiated by Councilmember Nancy Nadel in 2005.

RECOMMENDATION 6

Examples: Support and work with educational providers, youth advocates, foster youth advocates, homeless youth advocates, juvenile justice agencies and youth representatives to improve educational opportunities for youth leaving juvenile hall, foster youth and others.

Seek a reputable outside consulting group to evaluate educational approaches currently in use in the City, such as scripted curriculum and the current after-school tutoring programs, which use federal funds.

Bridge the "digital divide" in Oakland

RECOMMENDATION 7

Providing access to computers and the Internet; education on the use of computers; and technical support to all Oakland residents who need it.

Examples:

- Providing free, low-cost, or "sweat equity" computers to any Oakland resident who needs one by expanding the re-use program run by the Oakland Technology Exchange – West (OTXWest)
- Providing free/low-cost Internet access to homes through implementation of a city-wide WiFi project.
- Expansion of the technical support program at OTXWest.

Multi-Lingual Access to Literacy Initiative

RECOMMENDATION 8

Improving Access to Citizenship Literacy in Oakland through Citywide Translation Services for non-English Speakers.

In recognition of the importance of citizenship literacy and cultural fluency, this proposal calls for the city to expand translation services to reflect Oakland's rich linguistic composition by supporting the AT&T & Language Line dial-up service. "Your World Your Language" is available for implementation now at no cost to the city.

RECOMMENDATION 9

Public Access Initiative

Provide Oakland residents with a voice in their community through the utilization of multimedia and web-based technology.

While moving Oakland forward, no citizen should be left behind due to their lack of access to literacy or technology. In support of this premise, we recommend that Mayor Dellums establishes policy to:

1. Have television station, KTOP

- a. sponsor reruns of City Council meetings in languages other than English (including American Sign Language) utilizing translation software or interpreters,
- b. provide access to station and training in use of equipment to non-profit groups and citizens so that they have a forum to air their views.

2. Have television station, KDOL

- a. become the 'public access' station for the City of Oakland allowing for non-political programming of an educational nature. As a 'public access' station, KDOL would extend to all Oakland Residents the availability of its state-of-the-art equipment and studio for video productions.

3. Encourage television station PCTV to

- a. adopt a policy of encouraging and supporting local filmmakers by airing their works.

4. Remodel City of Oakland Website, oaklandnet.com, so that it is more in line with the inclusive and participatory nature of Mayor Dellums' vision. The site should:

- a. **Be user-friendly:** easy to find what and whom you are looking for. Resources, indexes and links should be readily available.
- b. **Foster transparency in government:** minutes of meetings, city contracts and reports, etc., how City Council members voted on issues - the full range of city documents, should be available online.
- c. **Promote civic participation:** agendas, proposed legislation, etc., should be available in a timely manner BEFORE a meeting takes place; allow for pro and con arguments on key issues.

5. In addition, have Web site, oaklandnet.com

- a. serve as host for a Web site for the Oakland community, thus providing such opportunities for an internet radio, non-profit bulletin boards, and chat rooms to exchange ideas and services. Using oaklandnet.com as a host portal* Web site would be advantageous because name recognition is already established and the portal will be tantamount to going from the boardroom to the living room where information is shared by non-profits and others who may have services available to Oakland Residents. The community Web site should be thought of as a one-stop clearinghouse for information on any subject and be available in as many languages as possible, complete with links to other sites of interest.
- b. *(addressed in 'Oakland Web Site Portal Initiative')

6. Encourage multi-language speakers to volunteer to translate City Council and other government meetings

RECOMMENDATION 10

Oakland Web Site Portal Initiative

Improve literacy throughout the City of Oakland via a localized search engine and Oakland community-focused Web portal.

A portal is a Web site that consists of information, resource links, web services and applications specifically tailored and relevant to a particular community – in this case Oakland residents. The Oakland Community Portal (OCP) would not replace the existing City of Oakland (oaklandnet.com) Web site, but co-exist with it focusing more on community-relevant information.

Literacy Events Proposals

RECOMMENDATION 11

- a. **Citywide Literacy & Adult Learning Week Proposal.** Oakland's Literacy & Adult Learning Week would be kicked off by a central event, such as a Literacy Resource Fair (exact name TBD), featuring booths manned by various literacy- and technology-related organizations, such as the Oakland Public Library, America Reads, Second Start, Adult Day Schools, Oakland Technology Exchange (OTX), local bookstores, etc.
- b. **Oakland "Wikipedia".** The City of Oakland and its residents would create an interactive online encyclopedia of Oakland History and Culture, to which adults and school classes would contribute, to build a center/resource that proudly proclaims Oakland's history, uniqueness, and connection to all parts of the world. This "Wikipedia" would exist on the Oakland portal discussed in the Oakland portal proposal.

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Education &
Community Learning



TOPIC 3

Wrap-Around Services

Question

How can we provide health, mental health, recreation, counseling, family and after school services to Oakland youngsters?

RECOMMENDATION 12

Recreating Oakland's Schools as Extended-Day Community Schools

Concept: Developing Oakland's schools as extended-day community schools will add two important additional features, currently unavailable at traditional schools:

- 1. Time:** A longer day for students provides enough time to offer a well-rounded curriculum, including: traditional academic subjects, arts, language, physical education, youth development programs, vocational training and other electives.
- 2. Services Enrichment:** Using the school as a hub for community activities and programs allows the students access to numerous programs and wrap-around services to be offered by community partners, such as local non-profits, business, and social organizations. provide access to station and training in use of equipment to non-profit groups and citizens so that they have a forum to air their views.
- 3. Youth-Centered Curriculum: 3-5 pm:** Determine, through student surveys, student activity interests and link these to school curricula. Involve students in the process.

Extended-day community schools are oriented toward the community, encouraging student learning through community service and service learning. Moreover, collaborations with community members serve to augment school offerings and support the students' overall success and well-being.

RECOMMENDATION 13

Comprehensive Neighborhood Services and Opportunities for Oakland Youth and Families

City of Oakland will create the infrastructure and policy to provide comprehensive outreach, services and opportunities for communities in an ecological model.

- Determine two to four neighborhoods in Oakland of greatest need to conduct survey and data collection of community needs and issues for comprehensive services and real, underlying problems.
- Mayoral analysis, evaluation and re-structuring/remediation of non-connective and non-effective infrastructure and agencies needed to support and coordinate, inter-connected, high-priority community agendas and youth programs.
- Develop database for funding and partnership opportunities, pilot programs that include, family ambassadors (COO), community and youth planning and dialogue – see attached supplemental information.
- Planning for sustainability/implementation of programs; creation of Office of Comprehensive Services to coordinate and oversee implementation of all related community services for the City of Oakland.

Middle and High School Dropouts/Pushouts

TOPIC 4

How can the Middle and High Schools operate to insure effective, exciting education and to lessen the numbers of drop/push outs?

Question

Youth Advocate Program

RECOMMENDATION 14

The proposal is to have advocates for youth in the middle and high schools. The advocate would check in with the youth and the school perhaps twice-a-week. The advocate would monitor the youth's progress academically, behaviorally and emotionally.

The advocate would be equipped with the knowledge of resources so that she/he would be able to find tutoring sources, mental health/grief counseling services, job training and referral and other relevant services.

The advocate would attend meetings with the students' teachers, counselors, and family, advocating for the student in such meetings. The advocate would work together with the students' families to help them navigate the OUSD and social services maze.

Eventually advocates could be trained and certified through the Peralta system, thus creating jobs for people and providing a certain amount of higher education, which makes the advocates more hireable in general and leads to a more educated community.

The hope is that eventually there would be advocates for all high school youth. The challenge is that there are approximately 13,000 youth enrolled in Oakland public high schools. We believe the best ratio for the advocates would be 20 to 1, which would require 650 advocates for all Oakland high school students and this is not even counting middle school. If we up the ratio to 25 to 1 it is 520 advocates and if we up it to 30 to 1 it is 433 advocates. Operating on the assumption that there is not a ready funding source at this time, we suggest picking one or two high schools and funding enough advocates to serve half of the students in each class at the schools chosen with the remainder of the students at each school as a control group. Monitor and record the impact of the advocates at the model sites and use that data to attract funding after the initial year.

RECOMMENDATION 15

Challenging NCLB and the Accountability Regime

We propose that the City of Oakland become a leader in the growing movement against profit-based educational reforms and high-stakes testing, as exemplified by the No Child Left Behind Act.

- A. Call on the City Council to pass a resolution opposing the No Child Left Behind Act and supporting return of OUSD to local control.
- B. Call on Congressman George Miller, Chair of the Education and the Workforce Committee, to dismantle both the No Child Left Behind Act and other forms of corporate control. Invite the Congressman and other potential allies to visit Oakland schools and hear testimonials regarding the affects of NCLB and high-stakes testing.
- C. Organize a series of local meetings that bring together the local community and grassroots organizations. Focus on reclaiming the discourse around accountability and the purposes of education and on educating stakeholders about the real affects of high-stakes testing and corporate control.
- D. Form alliances with local, state, and federal organizations working to challenge the law on a policy level. This process could culminate in an education summit with the goal of creating a cohesive strategy for challenging NCLB. The City of Oakland can be a model city by becoming the national epicenter for this organizing.
- E. Active encouragement and support of alternative curriculum and pedagogy, including support of an educator “clearinghouse” for curricula and assessments (see proposal for Center for Teaching and Learning).
- F. Active encouragement and support of teachers of color and local teachers, including guidance (see Center proposal) and financial support.

RECOMMENDATION 16

The Oakland High School Graduation Opportunity & Hope Project

We propose to ensure that every child that graduates from an Oakland public high school will have the opportunity to either go to college for free or be guaranteed admission into a career development program prior to graduation. As far as colleges, we see this as a partnership with the Peralta system, the CSU & UC system, Mills, Patten, Holy Names, historically black colleges.

The career development portion of our proposal is a way to ensure that Oakland youth/students can have a meaningful career in which they can actually support their families. Some of these students may be trained through the Peralta system in trades that will guarantee them fruitful employment or in partnership with the unions and already existing apprenticeship-type programs. Another potential part of the proposal is a partnership with the private sector to help train Oakland youth/students in a variety of fields and occupations so that they are employable either immediately after high school graduation or after completion of a career preparation program.

Our recommendation is that Mayor Dellums issue a public announcement of the project and publicly ask for help from the higher education community, the business community, foundation, philanthropists and unions. At some point, it may make sense

to convene a series of meetings with the essential people from all of the colleges listed above, heads of foundations and other philanthropic organizations, leaders from the business community, heads of large corporations based in Oakland, and several people involved in high school education. The purpose of this meeting is to get guarantees from all relevant stakeholders that we will be able to send every Oakland high school graduate to college or on the track to fruitful employment opportunities. The Mayor will obviously decide the most prudent path to follow. It is suggested that he could appoint someone to be in charge of the project.

Oakland Graduates! Interagency Collaboration

Declare “Crisis & Platform for Action” for our schools in Oakland to address the issues of dropouts/push-outs. We recommend that Mayor Dellums assign his education deputy to convene a permanent monthly “Mayor’s Committee of Concern” to address and shore up the linkages between the City, district, county and state agencies and community-based organizations which serve at-risk youth. Mayor Dellums must call for full commitment from collaboration partners to assess the current situation, to asset map city, county, community, student, and parent services and then to work to address the problems through established interagency collaborations. Collaboration must provide a safety-net for dropouts/push-outs. Collaboration must also be based on more of a case-management/rehabilitative/social work model.

Strategic plan must include community networking, academic learning, relationships and services, youth leadership, and career preparation. Challenge collaborative partnerships to take concrete steps which are likely to yield immediate and significant results.

Work with the county’s CRT (Critical Response Teams) to intervene and case manage when a student is on the verge of expulsion or being kicked out of school altogether. Furthermore, ensure that case management model is present to help transition formally incarcerated youth back into school.

Collaboration must set benchmarks to track key outcomes and to measure progress over time and develop a “community scorecard.”

Oakland Teaching and Learning Center

We propose to create a cohesive, collaborative teacher resource and curriculum center. The center will have two primary foci:

- A. Curriculum and training:** We envision the center as a “clearinghouse” for innovative, creative, and culturally relevant pedagogy (teaching and learning). This would include a library of non-standard curriculum and curriculum resources; international travel opportunities, student service learning projects and other opportunities. Non-profits, community-based organizations and universities should be encouraged to provide curriculum sets, professional development and opportunities for activism for both teachers and students.
- B. Teacher recruitment and support:** City should create an office for teacher recruitment and retention, focusing on actively recruiting teachers of color, supporting them through the credential and testing process, and assisting with placement and ongoing support. Housed in the Teacher Center, this office will be responsible for collecting information on teacher training and developing a

RECOMMENDATION 17

RECOMMENDATION 18

RECOMMENDATION 18 CONTINUED

“pre-teaching” pipeline. Individuals who come to this office should have the guidance of a well-trained resource person who can counsel them on the requirements and discuss the merits of different credentialing options. Components include:

- resources for teachers to research credentialing and professional development opportunities;
- recruitment and information sessions;
- personal guidance and support through the complexities of the teacher credentialing process; and
- ongoing support and professional development activities.

TOPIC 5 **Foster Care and Group Homes**

Question

What steps can the city take to improve the lives of youngsters placed in foster care and group homes?

RECOMMENDATION 19

Foster Youth Liaison

We propose that the position of foster youth liaison be created to address the needs of foster youth in Oakland.

RECOMMENDATION 20

Foster Youth Council

The purpose of the FYC is to create a forum in which Oakland foster youth can meet to discuss issues affecting them, serve as a liaison and work with existing entities, and most importantly the FYC allows foster youth to be a significant part of the solution.

The Foster Youth Council (FYC) will operate like the All City Council (ACC) that is already in existence in the Oakland Public Schools. Like the ACC, the FYC will elect two representatives from each foster home (FH), group home (GH) to serve a one-year term. The two representatives will represent the interests of other foster youth in monthly district meetings, where foster youth meet for an hour to discuss issues facing them in their district. This collective group will also partner with the Oakland Youth Commission and share in the activities and mission of the Youth Commission. District representatives will compile a monthly report of issues faced, recommendations and ideas. This monthly report will be presented to the Oakland City Council and Alameda County Department of Social Services via the city youth representatives.

Foster Care Awareness (FCA) Month

FCA Month is celebrated annually nationwide in May. Since our goal is to make Oakland a flagship city where the needs and protection of foster youth are paramount, the activities of FCA Month will be celebrated on the same level of Art & Soul. During this month, the Foster Care Liaison will coordinate the following activities.

- Heart Gallery
- Calendar of Bay Area-wide activities
- Conference in Oakland where FY are represented, OUSD, social service professionals, parents, dependency attorneys, group home providers, adoption agencies, foster parents, etc.
 - Potential future speaker: Antionne Fisher
- Dinner to honor outstanding FY, foster parents, employers and GH providers. In the next five years a college scholarship will be provided on behalf of the City of Oakland to an outstanding FY.

Group Homes Administration Council (GHAC)

The GHAC will be modeled after the FYC. However, unlike other Group Homes Administration Councils, our GHAC will include Welf. Inst. Code § 600 providers. Like the FYC, the GHAC will meet on both the district and city levels to provide support, offer recommendations, and plan activities. The GHAC will also meet with the FYC tri-monthly. Unlike the FYC, the GHAC's sole purpose is to improve the life of their residents. Accordingly, there will only be a monthly report prepared and provided to the GHAC.

Parent's Council/ Oakland Focus on Families (O.F.F.)

Since it truly takes a village to raise a child and because prevention is a key element in healing our community, it is essential that the Oakland FY Office (see Recommendation 1), and the Foster Youth Liaison spearhead the Oakland Focus on Families (O.F.F.) initiative. OFF will consist of carefully screened parents, seniors, and educators, who share the goal of providing parenting advice to parents and other caregivers who may need parenting assistance, or are at risk of losing their children to the dependency or delinquency system. The group will meet to come up with a program, curriculum and presentation format. Initially this group will meet people and parents where they are. In other words, they will visit churches, schools, drug rehabilitation centers, group homes that cater to young parents (both female and male), and adult education schools. During these presentations, OFF participants will hand out brochures, offer advice, answer questions, and provide the names of organizations that may be able to provide assistance.

TOPIC 6

Early Childhood Education/Headstart

RECOMMENDATION 24

Continue to provide Head Start services

It is recommended that Mayor Dellums ensure that the City of Oakland continues to provide Head Start services to low-income children and families in Oakland, by maintaining the city's commitment and financial support of the program, especially since there is likely to be another reduction in funds from the Federal Government.

RECOMMENDATION 25

Change/Increase the Income Eligibility Guidelines

It is recommended that Mayor Dellums lobby the State and Federal governments to change/increase the income eligibility guidelines to ensure that all families in need of early care and education services will qualify.

RECOMMENDATION 26

Develop a Coordinated Professional Development/Education System

It is recommended that Mayor Dellums support efforts to develop a coordinated professional development/education system for child care professionals with a focus on recruitment, training and retention of an exemplary early care and education work force.

RECOMMENDATION 27

Develop Partnerships

It is recommended that Mayor Dellums will develop partnerships with the state, federal government and business community to maximize and leverage financial support for early care and education programs.

RECOMMENDATION 28

Establish Early Care and Education (ECE) Advisory Committee

It is recommended that Mayor Dellums establish an Early Care and Education (ECE) Advisory Committee, which will work in conjunction with the ECE community to oversee and assist with the development and coordination of ECE policy for the City of Oakland.

Higher Education Task Force

TOPIC 7

How can Oakland ensure access to higher education?

Question

RECOMMENDATION 29

Scholarships

We propose scholarships be made available to schools where there are no scholarships, and then to schools with special needs.

RECOMMENDATION 30

Quality Education

We believe education is a solution to many of the issues affecting our communities. A **quality education** supports the entire Administrations' goals to confront and resolve current issues. There must be a focus on developing proficiency in reading and math. It is also necessary to improve language development and vocabulary skills of all students, as these skills are keys to **academic success**.

RECOMMENDATION 31

Extend Respect

Another solution to achieving educational success; **the entire community must extend respect** to each and to all of Oakland's teachers and students, a respect that is required in order to accomplish our goals. One aspect of respect is adequate salary for teachers

The schools must be expected to provide a curriculum of **universal college preparation**. The entire City and the schools must ensure sufficient support to this achievement. It is important that the education is rigorous. Sufficient tutoring must be provided after school, on Saturdays and during the summer. A great deal of time must be spent on the basics: reading and math. However, the arts and music should be offered to all, as it helps to balance a strenuous learning environment.

Teachers must be properly prepared, trained and retrained. There should be an emphasis on results, but also on team building, cooperation and creativity. Schools should be a rewarding place to work. Turn over in Oakland schools is close to 30 percent annually. This must be analyzed and must be corrected. Properly trained and stable teachers are a key to improving the school system.

TOPIC 8 **Returning our Schools to Local Governance**

Question **How can the Dellums Administration assist the Oakland Unified School District in gaining back local control from the State of California?**

RECOMMENDATION 32 Our Committee is recommending the development of alternative legislation to SB 39 (the bill that authorized the state takeover of OUSD) that provides the coherent plan for return of local governance of Oakland schools that SB 39 does not, combined with the leveraging of community support and financial resources to create the conditions for success in enacting that legislation.

The Task Force requests that Mayor Dellums rally all levels of government [local, state and national, and personalities, etc. representing the Bay Area to deliver a unified message demanding return of our school district to the democratic system of governance. Actions could also include the creation of a local initiative to return the district to local governance.

The Task Force recommends that we the people of Oakland, with the help of Mayor Dellums, rally local and federal forces to raise money locally [wealthy aspects of corporate Oakland] and federally [D.C.] to assist in financial recovery of the district.

RECOMMENDATION 33 The Task Force recommends that we the people of Oakland, with the help of Mayor Dellums, have the mayor oversee the district's fiscal responsibility, as we allocate the money, we may assume we get local and federal financial support.

RECOMMENDATION 34 The Task Force recommends that we the people of Oakland, with the help of Mayor Dellums, re-establish the school district Internal Auditor Department that reports to the school board and the Mayor/trustee.

Full Use and Collaboration between the City and the Peralta Community College System

TOPIC 9

How can the city collaborate most effectively with the Peralta system for the general education of Oakland residents and training in particular need areas – police and fire; parents as advocates; pre-teaching preparation, etc.?

Question

Mayor's Education Cabinet

RECOMMENDATION 35

During the first administration of former Mayor Elihu Harris he convened an Education Cabinet comprised of educational leaders the Task Force believes that Mayor Dellums should revisit this construct with the intent of designing and convening a Mayor's Education Cabinet that compliments his policy agenda.

Regional Public Safety Training Center

RECOMMENDATION 36

To develop a Regional Public Safety Training Center that provides the highest quality training in the public safety professions.

The intent is to provide the highest quality training for police, fire, homeland security and emergency medical services; and to provide career educational paths for Oakland residents to enter the public safety fields, as well as provide on-going emergency preparedness training to Oakland residents and community-based groups, such as NCPs, Home Alert Groups, home owner associations, churches, etc.

Adopt the proposal as an integral part of the Mayor's Public Safety Plan. Assign Mayoral staff to liaison, oversee and facilitate the implementation of the proposal.

**CONVENERS &
PARTICIPANTS
OF EDUCATION AND
COMMUNITY LEARNING
TASK FORCES**

Education Task Forces

HOW CAN OAKLAND HAVE ENOUGH EFFECTIVE TEACHERS TASK FORCE

CO-CONVENER, Kimberly Mayfield Lynch, *Education Professor*

CO-CONVENER, David Nettles

LITERACY AND TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE

CO-CONVENER, Ken Epstein, *Educator & Media Consultant*

CO-CONVENER, Darryl Weatherspoon

HEAD START/EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE

CO-CONVENER, Relena Ellis, *Oakland Education Association*

CO-CONVENER, Stella Collins

WRAP AROUND SERVICES TASK FORCE

CO-CONVENER, Mekael Johnson, *Administrator, Dewey High School*

CO-CONVENER, Michael Pace

CO-CONVENER, Johnny Lorigo

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS TASK FORCE

CO-CONVENER, Jeff Dillon, *Street Academy*

CO-CONVENER, Nirali Jani, *UC Berkeley Doctoral Student*

CO-CONVENER, Moyra Contreras, *Middle School Principal*

FOSTER CARE & GROUP HOMES TASK FORCE

CO-CONVENER, Reygan E. Harmon

CO-CONVENER, Ondrietta Johnson

HIGHER EDUCATION TASK FORCE

CO-CONVENER, Bob Brauer, *Cal State East Bay*

CO-CONVENER, Safi Jiroh, *Marcus A. Foster Educational Institute*

LOCAL CONTROL TASK FORCE

CO-CONVENER, June Ko-Dial, *Parent Organizer*

CO-CONVENER, Sylvester Hodges, *former School Board President*

CO-CONVENER, Qa'id Aqueel, *OUSD*

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