

# Oakland Unified School District

Board of Education  
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**DRAFT**

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## **Minutes (Long)**

**Tuesday, December 08, 2009**

**5:15 PM**

**Special Meeting**

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

## **Facilities Committee**

***Christopher Dobbins, Chairperson  
Noel Gallo, Member  
Jody London, Member***

## A. Call to Order

*Chairperson Christopher Dobbins called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.*

## B. Roll Call

**Roll Call:** Present: Christopher Dobbins and Jody London  
Absent: Noel Gallo

## C. New Business



[09-3379](#)

### **Naming the Gymnasium at Bret Harte Middle School the "Ernest G. Fernandes Gymnasium"**

Adoption by Board of Education of Resolution No. 0910-0126 - Naming the Gymnasium Building at Bret Harte Middle School the "Ernest G. Fernandes Gymnasium."

**Attachments:** [09-3379 - Naming the Gymnasium at Bret Harte Middle School the Ernest G. Fernandes Gymnasium.pdf](#)

*Chairperson Dobbins said the Committee has a five page letter from Judge George Nicholson who was on the front line in naming the gymnasium at Bret Harte in honor of Mr. Ernest G. Fernandes. He said the Principal and faculty of Bret Harte have both endorsed the name change. He said a majority of the funding will be done by Judge Nicholson and those in attendance. Chairperson Dobbins asked Mr. White the approximate cost for the name change.*

*Mr. White said about \$1,500.*

#### *Public Comments*

*Keith Olson said he attended Fruitvale Elementary, Bret Harte Middle School and Oakland High School. Other classmates included Norm Pacheco and George Tomero. He said the name change request is to honor Mr. Fernandes who taught over three decades at Bret Harte Middle School as a Physical Education Teacher. He said it is about the quality of the person, not the longevity. Mr. Olson said was he in Mr. Fernandes's first class as a teacher at Bret Harte. Mr. Fernandes taught students integrity, morals and discipline.*

*Chairperson Dobbins read a paragraph from Judge Nicholson's letter. Chairperson Dobbins read: "Mr. Fernandes not only made us better student athletes he made us better boys and eventually men. Since then he has taught and coached thousands of students and student athletes at Bret Harte. In all, he taught and coached for more than 30 years. In the decade since those of us he taught and coached have responsibly assumed our roles and duties in life all over America inspired and enabled by him and his legacy; a legacy that remains out of site but omni present in our minds, our hearts and our souls."*

*Director London said she supports the renaming of the gymnasium. She wanted to know*

*how we are going to transmit to the children why we are naming the gymnasium for this person. Director London suggested a video should be made of the Bret Hart Alumni talking about the impact Mr. Fernandes had on them. She said the video could be shown at a ceremony. She also suggested a kiosk or signage near the gymnasium. Director London said she would be interested in making sure the students know why we are naming the gymnasium for this person.*

*Mr. Olson said the alumni could raise the money for the signage for the gymnasium.*

*Chairperson Dobbins told Mr. Olson that assuming the committee approves it tonight it will go before the Full Board next Wednesday for approval. The goal is changing the name in early 2010.*

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

- Votes:** Adv Aye: 0
- Adv Nay: 0
- Adv Abstain: 0
- Aye: 2 - Christopher Dobbins and Jody London
- Nay: 0
- Recused: 0
- Absent: 1 - Noel Gallo
- Preferential Aye: 0
- Preferential Abstention: 0
- Preferential Nay: 0

## **D. Adjournment**

*Chairperson Dobbins adjourned the meeting at 6:11 P.M.*

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

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