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Introduction Date	8/19/15
Enactment Number	15-1306
Enactment Date	8/19/2015 

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

Memo

To Board of Education

From Antwan Wilson, Superintendent
Jacqueline P. Minor, General Counsel

Board Meeting Date August 19, 2015

Subject **Amendment to Board Policy 6146.1 and Adoption of Resolution No. 1516-0010 Authorizing the Issuance of a Diploma To Certain Students of the Class of 2015**

Action Requested **Approval of Amendment to Board Policy 6146.1 and Adoption of Resolution No. 1516-0010 Authorizing the Issuance of a Diploma To Certain Students of the Class of 2015**

Background and Discussion

On June 1, 2015, the California Department of Education ("CDE") sent a letter to all school districts notifying them of the cancellation of the July 2015 administration of the California High School Exit Exam ("CAHSEE"). The State cancelled the July CAHSEE because its contract with Educational Testing Service to administer the test had expired, and the State Legislature is currently considering SB 172, introduced by Senator Liu, which as currently amended would suspend the administration of the high school exit examination and would remove the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma for the Classes of-2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 school years.

The rationale for SB 172 is that the CAHSEE is based on the former state standards and is not aligned to the current State Common Core standards.

As a result of an article in the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper on August 12th, the District learned some California State universities had rescinded the acceptance of students in the Class of 2015 who met District requirements to graduate but needed to pass the CAHSEE in July 2015 in order to receive a diploma.

Oakland students in the Class of 2015 have been put in an untenable position as a result of the State's cancellation of the July 2015 CAHSEE. Staff is therefore recommending to the Board that diplomas be issued to students in the Class of 2015 who:



- a. Completed a total of 230 credits in grades 9-12 in the courses specified in Board Policy 6146.1;
- b. Earned a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.00 in courses that satisfy graduation requirements; and
- c. Prior to the May of 2015, had attempted to pass the CAHSEE.


Fiscal Impact

N/A

Attachment

Amendment to Board Policy 6146.1

Resolution No. 1516-0010

Legislative File	
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By:	

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

Resolution No. 1516-0010

**AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A DIPLOMA TO CERTAIN STUDENTS OF THE CLASS
OF 2015**

WHEREAS, Board Policy 6146.1 sets forth the high school graduation requirements for the Oakland Unified School District;

WHEREAS, under Board Policy 6146.1 a high school diploma is granted to any student who:

1. Completes a total of 230 credits in grades 9-12;
2. Earns a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.00 in courses that satisfy graduation requirements; and
3. Beginning in the 2005-06 school year, successfully passes the state exit examination in language arts and mathematics (Education Code 60851, 60859);

WHEREAS, the California Department of Education ("CDE") sent a June 1, 2015 letter to all school districts notifying them of the cancellation of the July 2015 administration of the California High School Exit Exam ("CAHSEE") because the test contract with Educational Testing Service had expired;

WHEREAS, the State Legislature is currently considering SB 172, introduced by Senator Liu, which as currently amended would suspend the administration of the high school exit examination and would remove the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma for each pupil completing grade 12, for the 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 school years;

WHEREAS, the rationale for SB 172 is that the CAHSEE is based on the former state standards, which are no longer taught in schools, and that the CAHSEE is not aligned to the current State Common Core standards;

WHEREAS, as a result of cancellation of the July CAHSEE, statewide 5,000 seniors, who would have been part of the Class of 2015, have missed the opportunity to take the July exam, thereby eliminating the chance to graduate over the summer of 2015;

WHEREAS, as a result of an article in the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper, the District learned some California State universities had rescinded the acceptance of students in the Class of 2015 who met District requirements to graduate but needed to pass the CAHSEE in July 2015 in order to receive a diploma;

WHEREAS, Oakland students in the Class of 2015 have been put in an untenable position as a result of the State's cancellation of the July 2015 CAHSEE;

WHEREAS, it is unfair and unethical to hold students to a standard they are not prepared to meet and reflects standards that are no longer being taught in Oakland public schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in view of the State's cancellation of the July 2015 CAHSEE, passage of which would have enabled some students to receive diplomas, the Governing Board of the Oakland Unified School District hereby grants a diploma to a student in the Class of 2015 who:

- a. Completed a total of 230 credits in grades 9-12 in the courses specified in Board Policy 6146.1;
- b. Earned a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.00 in courses that satisfy graduation requirements; and
- c. Prior to the May of 2015, had attempted to pass the CAHSEE; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governing Board shall review this Resolution every 90 days during the 2015-16 School Year in order to align District Policy with State law after the Legislature acts on SB 172.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Oakland Unified School District this 19th day of August, 2015, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Jukoke Hinton Hodge, Nina Senn, Roseann Torres, Vice President Jody London, President James Harris

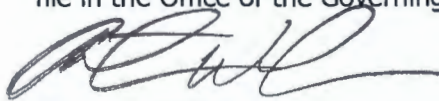
NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Aimee Eng, Shanthi Gonzales

CERTIFICATION

I, Antwan Wilson, Superintendent and Secretary of the Governing Board of the Oakland Unified School District, Alameda County, State of California, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly approved and adopted by the Governing Board of said district at a Special Meeting thereof held on the 19th day of August, 2015 with a copy of such Resolution being on file in the Office of the Governing Board.



Antwan Wilson

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