

Board Office Use: <b>Legislative File Info.</b>	
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Enactment Number	16-1874
Enactment Date	12-14-16 <i>af</i>



OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Community Schools, Thriving Students*

# Memo

**To** Board of Education

**From** Antwan Wilson, Superintendent  
David Montes, Senior Deputy Chief, Continuous Improvement

**Board Meeting Date** December 14, 2016

**Subject** **School Portfolio Management – Sankofa Academy – Grade Configuration Change from PreK-8 to PreK-5 Effective School Year 2017-18**

**Action Requested** **Approval of Resolution No. 1617-0005 - School Portfolio Management: Sankofa Academy – Grade Configuration Change From Prek-8 To Prek-5 Effective School Year 2017-18**

**Background Discussion** The Superintendent is recommending that Sankofa Academy grade configuration be changed from PreK-8 to PreK-5 effective for the 2017-18 school year. The reasons supporting the recommendation are:

- 1) Sankofa's average school performance framework (SPF) tier for past two years is 2.0, (Red in 2015-16 and Orange in 2016-17) which is the lowest average among 22 middle school grade options in the District.
- 2) Sankofa's Academic Status Tier over the past two years has been Red.
- 3) Sankofa's Academic Growth over the past three years has been flat and in fact, declined this past year.
- 4) The middle school program at Sankofa has the lowest ELA state test performance of all 22 District middle school grade programs and the 3rd lowest math performance of all 22 District middle school grade programs.
- 5) The middle school culture/ climate status tier at Sankofa, while it has improved from the prior year, is orange, signifying that it is low.
- 6) Less than half of the 2013-14 and 2014-15 5th graders at Sankofa chose to attend the middle grades at Sankofa the following year.
- 7) The SQR revealed very low levels of instruction and a lack of systems for professional learning, as well as for consistently



managing student behavior.

- 8) Currently OUSD operates higher performing and higher growth middle school options in North, Central and East Oakland with capacity to serve the current 6th and 7th grade students next year.
- 9) Disproportionate amounts of people, time and resources are required to address the many needs of the middle grades program at Sankofa, at the expense of a focus on improving the elementary grades program.

The Superintendent is further recommending that:

1. Call for Quality Schools investments shall be made to support the Sankofa Academy elementary grades program for 2017-18, with the amount to be determined through budget development process.
2. Call for Quality Schools investments will be made to support the smooth transition for middle grades students and families into new program options for 2017-18, with the amount to be determined through budget development process.
3. District Staff shall continue to be engaged with the Sankofa community and staff to ensure the best options for middle school students who will be assigned to other schools for the 2017-18 school year.
4. Personalized supports through the District Enrollment Center and Community Engagement teams will ensure each family is connected with and supported in their decision-making and transitions.
5. The District's Talent and Labor Relations teams will support teachers and other school site personnel who may be affected by this decision.

**Recommendation**

**Approval of Resolution No. 1617-0005 - School Portfolio Management: Sankofa Academy – Grade Configuration Change From Prek-8 To Prek-5 Effective School Year 2017-18**

**Fiscal Impact**

Funding resource name: GP -unknown

**Attachments**

- Resolution No 1617-0005

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

**School Portfolio Management – Sankofa Academy – Grade Configuration  
Change from PreK-8 to PreK-5 Effective School Year 2017-18**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1617-0006**

**WHEREAS**, it is the goal of the Oakland Unified School District to create quality schools in every neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, aligned to the District's vision is the goal of ensuring that every effort is made to prepare students at Sankofa Academy, as well as future students with the greatest likelihood of graduating college, career and community ready; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16 school years, as a part of the District's School Portfolio Management, the District reviewed school performance for a number of District schools; and

**WHEREAS**, District schools demonstrating very low performance and limited growth received increased support, funding, and guidance to improve; and

**WHEREAS**, based on performance over the past three years, in the spring of the 2015-16 school year, Sankofa Academy was identified, along with fifteen other schools, to enter a special District network called the Elevation Network in order to receive intensive supports; and

**WHEREAS**, together with five other schools newly entering the Elevation network, Sankofa underwent a School Quality Review (SQR) during the fall of 2016, which included a two day, in-depth visit to observe the program, review documents, and interview students, staff, and parents; and

**WHEREAS**, with the School Performance Framework, the District used the SQR results to consider recommendations regarding how best to support dramatic improvements in school quality at Sankofa Academy; and

**WHEREAS**, District Staff has determined that it is critical to invest -- over multiple years -- in a high quality elementary school program at Sankofa Academy; and

**WHEREAS**, District Staff has also determined that it is in the best interest of the long-term success of a Sankofa Academy elementary program to focus resources on the elementary program; and

**WHEREAS**, District Staff at a community on Thursday, November 17, 2016, informed the school community of the recommendation that commencing for the 2017-18 school year that Sankofa be reconfigured as a PreK-5 School; and

**WHEREAS**, there continues to be additional engagements with staff and families at Sankofa and those engagements will continue to occur throughout the year; and

**WHEREAS**, more specifically, the reasons for the recommendation that Sankofa be reconfigured as a PreK-5 school are as follows:

- 1) Sankofa's average school performance framework (SPF) tier for past two years is 2.0, (Red in 2015-16 and Orange in 2016-17) which is the lowest average among 22 middle school grade options in the District.
- 2) Sankofa's Academic Status Tier over the past two years has been Red.
- 3) Sankofa's Academic Growth over the past three years has been flat and in fact, declined this past year.
- 4) The middle school program at Sankofa has the lowest ELA state test performance of all 22 District middle school grade programs and the 3rd lowest math performance of all 22 District middle school grade programs.
- 5) The middle school culture/ climate status tier at Sankofa, while it has improved from the prior year, is orange, signifying that it is low.
- 6) Less than half of the 2013-14 and 2014-15 5th graders at Sankofa chose to attend the middle grades at Sankofa the following year.
- 7) The SQR revealed very low levels of instruction and a lack of systems for professional learning, as well as for consistently managing student behavior.
- 8) Currently OUSD operates higher performing and higher growth middle school options in North, Central and East Oakland with capacity to serve the current 6th and 7th grade students next year.
- 10) Disproportionate amounts of people, time and resources are required to address the many needs of the middle grades program at Sankofa, at the expense of a focus on improving the elementary grades program.

**WHEREAS**, District Staff is organizing a comprehensive set of supports to address the transformation of the elementary program at Sankofa and support the successful transition of the approximately 53 middle grades students needing alternative program options for 2017-18; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that, in order to serve the whole child, eliminate inequity, and ensure students have an excellent teacher every day, and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District approves the Sankofa Academy grade configuration change from PreK-8 to PreK-5 effective for the 2017-18 school year; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that

1. Call for Quality Schools investments shall be made to support the Sankofa Academy elementary grades program for 2017-18, with the amount to be determined through budget development process.
2. Call for Quality Schools investments will be made to support the smooth transition for middle grades students and families into new program options for 2017-18, with the amount to be determined through budget development process.
3. District Staff shall continue to be engaged with the Sankofa community and staff to ensure the best options for middle school students who will be assigned to other schools for the 2017-18 school year.
4. Personalized supports through the District Enrollment Center and Community Engagement teams will ensure each family is connected with and supported in their decision-making and transitions.
5. The District's Talent and Labor Relations teams will support teachers and other school site personnel who may be affected by this decision.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 2016, by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:** Jody London, Aimee Eng, Shanthi Gonzales, Vice President Nina Senn and President James Harris

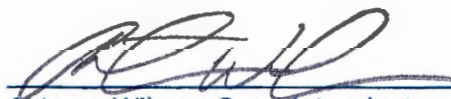
**NOES:** Jumoke Hinton Hodge and Roseann Torres

**ABSTAINED:** None

**ABSENT:** None

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly approved and adopted by the Board of Education of said district at a meeting thereof held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016 with a copy of such Resolution being on file in the Office of the Board of Education of said district.



Antwan Wilson, Superintendent and Board Secretary

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