

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Superintendent of Schools

September 9, 2020

Legislative File	
File ID Number:	20-1612
Introduction Date:	09/09/2020
Enactment Number:	
Enactment Date:	
By:	

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent
Tara Gard, Deputy Chief Talent Officer, Talent Division

SUBJECT: Recognition — Phoebe Diamond, Ji-Yun (Jane) Kim, and Nathan Jackson - Collectively and Individually, for Oakland Unified School District's 2020-2021 Teachers of the Year

ACTION REQUESTED

Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2021-0055—Recognition of Phoebe Diamond, Ji-Yun (Jane) Kim, and Nathan Jackson - Collectively and Individually, as Oakland Unified School District's 2020-2021 Teachers of the Year.

BACKGROUND

Annually the District identifies and honors its own; OUSD's Teachers of the Year program aligns with the criteria set by the State of California's Teachers of the Year program. The District's Teachers of the Year are known as particularly outstanding candidates chosen from among a competitive group of high-caliber instructors Districtwide. Our purpose here is to identify and honor three outstanding teachers and to celebrate and pay special tribute to their tireless efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2021-0055—Recognition of Phoebe Diamond, Ji-Yun (Jane) Kim, and Nathan Jackson - Collectively and Individually, as Oakland Unified School District's 2020-2021 Teachers of the Year.

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 2021-0055**

- Recognition of Phoebe Diamond, Ji-Yun (Jane) Kim, and Nathan Jackson - Collectively and Individually, as Oakland Unified School District's 2020-2021 Teachers of the Year -

WHEREAS – the goal of the District's Teacher of the Year program is to identify and honor outstanding teachers and to celebrate and pay special tribute to the tireless efforts of outstanding instructors, and

WHEREAS - the Teachers of the Year are known as particularly outstanding candidates chosen from among a competitive group of high-caliber instructors Districtwide, and,

WHEREAS – Phoebe Diamond, Ji-Yun (Jane) Kim, and Nathan Jackson, were selected as Oakland Unified School District's 2020-2021 "Teachers of the Year," and,

WHEREAS – Phoebe Diamond, 3rd Grade Teacher at Chabot Elementary School has taught at OUSD for over twenty-nine years, and she continues to be a committed educator who, on a daily basis, strives to examine, reflect upon and improve her craft in all areas. She is said to have high expectations for every child and an unshakeable belief that every student is capable of mastering the standards, doing everything in her power unto that end. Her classroom is known as a place for deep learning and critical thinking, a place where academic discussions and vocabulary are commonplace. Her students are required to use evidence, show their thinking, explain their answers, and continually dig deeper. What she expects of her students matches her own personal rigor, spending untold hours figuring out how to make her lessons work for every child, providing opportunities for all students to shine and receive recognition from one another; and,

WHEREAS – Ms. Diamond is the kind of educator who has not only mastered critical social and emotional applications; she thoroughly understands that no child succeeds if they do not feel supported, seen and valued, which is why she focuses so much attention on the whole child. She is known to pause a lesson in midstream when an important social/emotional learning opportunity presents itself and to fully utilize the proverbial teaching moment. Whether the class needs teambuilding skills or is displaying deep-seated gaps in empathy, she masterfully develops artful, moving activities to build these important skills in her students; and

WHEREAS – Ms. Diamond has served Oakland Unified in multiple roles beyond the classroom such as Chairperson, Leader and Presenter over many years. She has served as a long-term Lead Math teacher, Lead Science Teacher, Member of the Site Instructional Leadership Team, and Member of the Math Core Curriculum Production Team, work she is especially proud of. She never stops trying to enable all students' ability to gain access to the concepts she teaches. She feels profound responsibility to teach the whole child, not just the academic one, developing their metacognitive awareness as a key element of each child's personal success;

WHEREAS – Ji-Yun Kim, 9th grade Biology, 11th grade Physiology, and Advanced Placement (AP) Biology Teacher at Fremont High School, is considered a mighty force on behalf of the creation of impeccable classroom culture, excellence in instructional design, skillful collaboration, leadership, and coaching. Colleagues say the school community counts on her for far more than what she accomplishes within her classroom, whether coordinating field trips for the 9th grade house, planning advisory curriculum to prepare 9th grade students for student-led conferences, or planning learning walks for her Science Department, Ms. Kim is attentive to ensuring tasks are completed effectively and on time while always keeping the big picture in mind. She is said to hold high academic and behavioral expectations for her students while also being a fierce advocate for students, fellow teachers, and the Science Department as a whole; and,

WHEREAS – Students identify Ms. Kim as an educator who has gone to great lengths to ensure her course content is relevant to their real lives and that her classroom is a safe space, not only for learning, but also for emotional support. Whether due to her daily warm welcome or check-ins with students who seem disengaged, Ms. Kim's aspiration is that each of her students feel individually recognized, enfolded, and supported. Walls of

memorabilia from past students wholly signify that her students, both current and former, are not only highly important to her but also an integral part of her identity as a teacher. She is known on the Fremont campus as a superwoman who, when she is behind something, gets the job done with passion, effectiveness, and care; and,

WHEREAS – Ms. Kim functions additionally as a Site-Based Coach, Science Department Chair and 9th Grade Co-Lead and has also served OUSD as a Beginning Teacher Support & Assessment Coach, Curriculum Developer, and as a High School Science Specialist with the Academic Innovation Division of OUSD. She is known as an incredibly reflective educator who constantly seeks feedback and support to improve her practice, coaching and facilitation leadership skills. And perhaps most importantly, she provides equitable opportunities for students to meet their greatest academic and personal potential;

WHEREAS – Nathan Jackson, Physical Education Teacher at Urban Promise Academy, is said to have incredibly high expectations for his students, demonstrating that they can excel and reach their fullest potential—while acquiring knowledge of sports—in interactive, entertaining ways. In his classroom, students are able to engage in rigorous physical activities, all the while, learning teamwork, student leadership, and having agency over their own education. Students say Mr. Jackson has helped them be better students and more certain of their success in all areas of their academic journeys; and,

WHEREAS – Mr. Jackson’s teaching space is known as a safe haven for students to try new things without fear and to grow in their social and emotional skills. He is viewed as an expert in classroom management, and it is clear how much students love to be in his classroom by the consistent 99.7% participation rate. Students say he does not give up on them and that it is a relief to come to Mr. Jackson’s class. He does not expect perfection; however, he does expect students to give their best effort, even if that means failing at first. Living out his learning philosophy, he shares his own failures and struggles, both physical and academic, which inspires his students and models his own philosophy of progress over perfection; meeting students where they are; and,

WHEREAS – Mr. Jackson supports the professional growth of other teachers in OUSD. Department Chair of Physical Education, he is also a member of the District Physical Education Leadership Team and an active member of the Black Teacher Project. He serves on the instruction and planning team for the California Physical Education Workshop where he teaches classroom management skills as well as restorative justice techniques to educators from around the state. He plans and facilitates professional development workshops for other Physical Education teachers across OUSD. It is no surprise that Mr. Jackson is a former West Contra Costa Ed Fund *Excellence in Education Teacher of the Year* award winner. He is said to have, as one of his greatest strengths, a hunger to learn and grow, despite having twenty years’ teaching experience;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District salute Phoebe Diamond, Ji-Yun (Jane) Kim, and Nathan Jackson - Collectively and Individually, for exceptional service to the students and city of Oakland and honor them as the District's 2020-2021 "Teachers of the Year."

Given under our hand and the District's seal this 9th day of September, 2020, in Oakland, California.

Jody London
President, Board of Education
Oakland Unified School District

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent
Oakland Unified School District

Passed by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NOE:

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

RECUSE:

ABSENT:

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held on September 9, 2020.

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