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

Resolution No. 2021-0079

Increasing Opportunities and Supports for Our Unsheltered Students and Families and OUSD Workforce.

Whereas lack of affordable housing in Oakland is a significant obstacle faced by many individuals and families, contributing to rates of transiency, housing insecurity, and homelessness among district students and their families, as well as district employees;

Whereas research conducted by UC Berkeley’s Urban Analytics Lab shows Alameda County residents need to earn at least \$8,650 a month to afford the median asking rent in the region;

Whereas during the 2018-2019 school year, the district enrolled more than 1,000 students identified as homeless — those who are living in shelters, motels, cars, abandoned buildings, with other families, or are otherwise temporarily unsheltered;

Whereas this number of unsheltered district students and families reflects a growing city-wide crisis in which Oakland’s homeless population rose by 47% between 2017 and 2019 — the single largest increase among California cities;

Whereas overwhelming research shows that students who are unsheltered are at greater risk for falling behind academically and are far more likely to drop out of school, face myriad social and health challenges, and engage with the criminal justice system;

Whereas additional studies show that high teacher attrition rates correlate to lower student academic achievement;

Whereas 21% of California’s chronically absent students are also classified as unsheltered — meaning districts serving these young people are often shortchanged by the state’s attendance-based funding formula;

Whereas other districts nationwide have successfully adopted housing plans to support unsheltered students and families, as well as their district workforce;

Whereas San Francisco’s “Stay Over Program” — a multi-agency initiative in which city schools, supported by a local non-profit service provider, open their gymnasiums nightly to provide meals, shelter, and housing resources to students and their families experiencing homelessness or housing instability — successfully exited two-thirds of families served by the program to secure housing in its first year;

Whereas Dallas (Texas) Independent School District is working with a local nonprofit collaborative to provide supportive housing for unsheltered teenage students at one of the district's vacant sites, as well as a 24/7 drop-in center to meet immediate needs for unsheltered students, including meals, showers, and laundry services;

Whereas a Santa Clara Unified School District partnership with a non-profit development corporation that provides affordable housing for school educators and employees was found to lower attrition rates among those involved in the program;

Whereas California Education Code Section 17515 provides for any school district to enter into leases and agreements relating to real property and buildings to be used jointly by a district and any private person, firm, or local governmental agency for a term not to exceed 66 years;

Whereas the Teacher Housing Act of 2016 allows state funds to be allocated toward the creation of affordable rental housing for educators and school district employees on land owned by school districts;

Whereas certain full- and part-time classified employees — such as teacher assistants, library aides, cafeteria workers, school office workers, and custodians — may be eligible for low-income housing developed for individuals in the 30-percent-to-60-percent Average Median Income (AMI) bracket;

Whereas certain properties or portions of the District's approximate 6,400 acres of land assets could be considered underutilized, providing opportunities for the District to leverage these assets to support the development of affordable housing for District employees, generate revenue, and, using the Joint Occupancy provision of the Education Code, provide facilities for District use; **now, therefore be it**

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Oakland Unified School District reaffirms its commitment to serving all of its students, faculty, and staff, and recognizes that each of these groups faces significant barriers as a result of rising costs of living;

Resolved further, That the Governing Board directs the Superintendent to conduct a study to address this crisis by:

1. Identifying surplus District-owned properties that can be repurposed for the construction or renovation of district housing projects based on the Asset Management Plan developed for the 2020-2021 school year;
2. Under Education Code 17515, developing plans for converting or building new buildings in the District property sites using dedicated homelessness bond funds from Low-Income Tax Credits, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act programs, and all district, county, and state bonds to create permanent shelter for homeless youth or families, in coordination with the existing efforts of the District to review its existing facilities and plan for their best use;
3. Assessing the effectiveness of our current Homeless Education Program, including its impact on student learning, and exploring opportunities to improve and expand the District's Homeless Education Program and supports, including seeking additional State,

local, and philanthropic funding as well as partnerships with non-profit organizations to provide greater supports to unsheltered students;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent will submit recommendations regarding goals and priorities for future developments in a report to the Board by March 2021, including:

1. Affordable workforce housing options for eligible employees;
2. Housing and/or securing housing vouchers for students and families experiencing homelessness;
3. Maximizing revenue generation of District land assets;
4. Partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations to support this work;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent will set advocacy priorities at the federal, state and local levels to:

1. Increase the amount of funding allocated to State and Local Educational Agencies under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and any other federal legislation introduced, as well as advocate for allocating different bonds, such as the Alameda County's Measure A-1 housing bond, towards housing projects;
2. Increase the number of Section 8 vouchers available to meet the growing needs of our unsheltered students and families; and
3. Enact relevant laws or regulations and provide approval to allow preferences for the rental of housing units developed on District property to employees, students, and families of District; and

Resolved further, That the Board be presented with quarterly reports on the progress on the financial models, new partnerships, and any policy directed toward the housing development for the District's community stakeholders beginning in March 2021.

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.

Legislative File	
File ID Number:	20-1778
Introduction Date:	
Enactment Number:	
Enactment Date:	
By:	

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jody London

President, Board of Education