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**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Community Schools, Thriving Students

Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education

From Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent
Tadashi Nakadegawa, Deputy Chief of Facilities
Jody Talkington, Senior Director of Strategic Projects

Meeting Date March 24, 2021

Subject Resolution No. 2021-0045 – Ratifying the Temporary Location of Bunche Academy at the Former Lowell Campus

Ask of the Board Adoption of Resolution No. 2021-0045 – Ratifying the Temporary Location of Bunche Academy at the Former Lowell Campus

Background The former Lowell campus (“Lowell”), located at 991 14th Street, is the current and permanent home to West Oakland Middle School (“WOMS”). Since 2019, Envision Academy (“Envision”), a charter middle school, has also been located at Lowell. However, Envision is planning to move to a new location for next school year (2021-22).

Up until February 2020, the permanent location for Ralph J. Bunche Academy (“Bunche Academy”), an OUSD continuation school, was 1240 18th Street. However, that month the possibility of contaminated groundwater underneath McClymonds High School (“McClymonds”) forced the District to temporarily move Bunche Academy to Lowell in order to use the Bunche facility as a space for McClymonds students. Bunche Academy was still located at Lowell when COVID-19 forced it (and the rest of OUSD) to close to in-person instruction in March 2020. Bunche Academy has remained closed to in-person instruction since then.

With the likely return to in-person instruction, staff has determined that the Bunche facility is not suitable for students to return. The facility has ongoing pest infestation, dry rot, access compliance concerns, alarm deficiencies, lead paint, and trace amounts of lead in the soil. Many of the systems—including mechanical, plumbing, sewer, and electrical—are also at their end-of-life and need to be replaced. In fact, prior to the pandemic, OUSD had begun to investigate an alternate location for Bunche Academy.

Discussion	<p>While the Superintendent had the authority to move Bunche Academy to Lowell due to the emergency situation as McClymonds, the decision to continue to locate Bunche Academy at Lowell, even if still temporary, must be ratified by the Board of Education given that the initial emergency has receded. The Resolution would officially authorize Bunche Academy to remain at Lowell through the end of the 2023-24 school year.</p> <p>The Resolution will support Bunche students with a safe and healthy facility. It will also bring long-term stability for WOMS, which has been co-located with many different schools and programs in recent years. District staff is confident that the two schools can safely share the facilities at Lowell. Each school will have its own areas to learn and socialize. The principals, in partnership with OUSD leadership, have been working together to figure out the necessary details (e.g., agreements about space usage, facility upgrades, safety, staffing, etc.). More information is available at https://www.ousd.org/Page/20788.</p>
Fiscal Impact	<p>The cost will be minimal given that Bunche Academy is already located at Lowell.</p>
Attachment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Resolution No. 2021-0045 - Ratifying the Temporary Location of Bunche Academy at the Former Lowell Campus

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

Resolution No. 2021-0045

Ratifying the Temporary Location of Bunche Academy at the Former Lowell Campus

WHEREAS, the former Lowell campus (“Lowell”), located at 991 14th Street, is the current and permanent home to West Oakland Middle School (“WOMS”);

WHEREAS, Envision Academy (“Envision”), a charter middle school that has been located at Lowell since 2019 is planning to move to a new location for next school year (2021-22);

WHEREAS, the permanent location for Ralph J. Bunche Academy (“Bunche Academy”), an OUSD continuation school, is 1240 18th Street;

WHEREAS, the possibility of contaminated groundwater underneath McClymonds High School (“McClymonds”) discovered in February 2020 forced the District to temporarily move Bunche Academy to Lowell in order to use the Bunche facility as a space for McClymonds students;

WHEREAS, Bunche Academy was still located at Lowell when COVID-19 forced it (and the rest of OUSD) to close to in-person instruction in March 2020 and Bunche Academy has remained closed to in-person instruction since then;

WHEREAS, with the likely return to in-person instruction, District staff has determined that the Bunche facility is not suitable for students to return as the facility has ongoing pest infestation, dry rot, access compliance concerns, alarm deficiencies, lead paint, and trace amounts of lead in soil and many of the systems—including mechanical, plumbing, sewer, and electrical—are also at their end-of-life and need to be replaced;

WHEREAS, the Superintendent had the authority to move Bunche Academy to Lowell due to the emergency situation as McClymonds, but the decision to continue to locate Bunche Academy at Lowell, even if still temporary, must be ratified by the Board of Education given that the initial emergency has receded;

WHEREAS, having Bunche Academy stay at Lowell will support Bunche students with a safe and healthy facility;

WHEREAS, District staff is confident that the two schools can safely share the facilities at Lowell, and the WOMS and Bunche Academy principals, in partnership with OUSD leadership, have been working together to figure out the necessary details for a long-term co-location at Lowell; and

WHEREAS, WOMS needs long-term stability as it has been co-located with many different schools and programs in recent years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby ratifies the decision to temporarily locate Bunche Academy at Lowell and authorizes the Superintendent to keep Bunche Academy at Lowell through the end of the 2023-24 school year so long as the Superintendent deems it to be in the best interest of students.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District this ____ day of _____, 2021, by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NOE:

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

RECUSED:

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 _____, 2021.

Legislative File	
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By:	

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Shanthi Gonzales
President, Board of Education

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education