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Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education
From Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent
Tara Gard, Deputy Chief Talent Officer, Talent Division

Meeting Date May 12, 2021

Subject Designation/Selection – Whitney Dwyer, Jessica Jung, and Chantel Parnell – Collectively and Individually, as Oakland Unified School District’s 2021-2022 Teachers of the Year - Talent/Human Resources Department

Ask of the Board Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2021-0114— Designation/Selection of Whitney Dwyer, Jessica Jung, and Chantel Parnell, collectively and individually, as Oakland Unified School District’s 2021-2022 Teachers of the Year.

Background Annually the District identifies and honors its own, including three outstanding teachers to recognize and pay special tribute due to their tireless efforts, outstanding instructional skills and/or the achievements of their students. These honorees are able to go on to compete in the Alameda County Teacher of the Year Competition, and, if further selected, compete at the state and national levels, respectively.

Discussion The Teacher of the Year Selection Committee has recommended to me, as Superintendent, that Whitney Dwyer, Jessica Jung, and Chantel Parnell, collectively and individually, be put forward to the Board of Education as District Teachers of the Year for 2021-2022. I have accepted the recommendations made by the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee and recommend and request that the Board of Education selects and designates Whitney Dwyer, Jessica Jung, and Chantel Parnell, collectively and individually, as the District's 2021-2022 "Teachers of the Year." They are now eligible to advance in the County, and, if further selected, the state and national level.

Fiscal Impact N/A

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 2021-0114**

- Designation/Selection – Whitney Dwyer, Jessica Jung, and Chantel Parnell – Collectively and Individually, as Oakland Unified School District’s 2021-2022 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, each year the District selects three instructors, collectively and individually, as “Teachers of the Year” and these teachers represent the District in the Alameda County Teacher of the Year competition, and:

WHEREAS, if selected in the County competition, one or more of these teachers will go on to compete at the state and national levels; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Teacher of the Year Selection Committee has received and considered applications from nominated candidates for District’s 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year, and;

WHEREAS, the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee has recommended to Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammel that Whitney Dwyer, Jessica Jung, and Chantel Parnell, collectively and individually, be recommended to the Board of Education for selection as Oakland Unified School District’s 2021-2022 “Teachers of the Year”; and

WHEREAS, Whitney Dwyer, 10th Grade Social Science/Humanities Teacher at MetWest High School, serves additionally on the school Leadership Team. During her time on staff, she has supported the High School Expansion Team, served as a Teacher Leader Mentor and support of first-year teachers, a Curriculum Developer for Ethnic Studies; she serves on the District’s Measure N commission and was a Founding Advisor for the Ericka Huggins Campus at MetWest. As an educator, she helps supply her students with the tools necessary to work toward liberation on internal, interpersonal, and institutional levels. Ms. Dwyer prepares her students to understand the historical context for contemporary problems that affect them, and to evaluate the root causes of the harms that affect them and the greater community. Her goal is for students to learn strategies for change and then how to facilitate the specific change for which they are striving. Her aspiration is that her students love and respect one another through active community building, sharing with one another, and learning about their shared struggles. Colleagues say Ms. Dwyer is a magnet for young people and that she embodies a unique combination of love and rigor for all of her students. Whether working intentionally providing meaningful learning opportunities for political and social engagement, producing *MetWest Live*, organizing teach-ins about climate justice, or speaking passionately in front of the entire school about the Black Lives Matter movement, it is said that her impact extends beyond her own cohorts of students, that it is felt deeply within the entire school community. Because of her influence, students have returned to speak to the student body, participate in events, and some have returned to MetWest as staff, crediting Ms. Dwyer for many of their successes during and after high school; and

WHEREAS, Jessica Jung, 3rd Grade Teacher at Bridges Academy, has served Oakland Unified in multiple roles beyond her classroom. She has been a participating member of the Literacy Leadership Team, Faculty Council, and School Site Council. She serves on the Equity and Culture Team, and has

been an English Language Development (ELD) Teacher Leader and Coach. She has consistently served the District in multiple ways; for example, she served on the Mathematics Common Core Curriculum Production Team, Oakland Learning Lab Network Design Team, and is a Guided Language Acquisition Design Trainer for the District. Ms. Jung has led professional development for teachers on specific high leverage ELD strategies to engage English Language Learners, so it's no surprise that she is also Commissioner on the Library Advisory Commission for the City of Oakland/Oakland Public Library. During this unprecedented school year, Ms. Jung has supported her students and their families physically and emotionally. She has utilized the virtual environment in ways that deepened students' social/emotional competencies, creating regular spaces for students to share how they were doing, including open discussions about death, grief, and loss, allowing students to bring their full selves into the classroom. Within weeks after the pandemic hit, with her support, Bridges created a GoFundMe page, equitably collecting and distributing funds and providing immediate financial relief for families who wouldn't qualify for government support. Ms. Jung engaged multiple stakeholders and wrote a school transformation three-year plan that earned her school a \$160,000 grant, providing a clear road map for how Bridges would best serve its students. Colleagues say that she is her students' biggest cheerleader; always praising and encouraging her young scholars and that she consistently views her teaching practice through a social justice lens, developing thought-provoking lessons to engage students in discussions around race, activism, and empowerment; and

WHEREAS, Chantel Parnell, 6th-8th Grade Computer Science Teacher at Bret Harte Middle School, serves her school community and the District in several roles; she is a member of Instructor Led Training (ILT) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Teams; she is also a Math Teacher Leader and a Computer Science Teacher Leader. During the pandemic, she produced slides and videos as a District-wide Teacher Leader to support other Computer Science Teachers across the District. Ms. Parnell is also a Mills Teacher Scholars-Computer Science Teacher Leader and Scholar as well as a Fellow in the Agency by Design Teacher Fellowship. Having created a classroom environment where the role of teacher and learner are interchangeable, she has cultivated a space where students are not only taking creative risks but are making their thinking more visible through the problem-solving process and multiple rounds of feedback and reflection. One of the things she is justifiably most proud of is when her students presented at the first-ever Future Trailblazer Challenge, hosted by Salesforce.org, where they faced off with students from other schools in a "Shark Tank" style competition. Her students prototyped a solution to a selected United Nations (UN) sustainable development goal and used coding curriculum and a 3-D printer to build a solution that addressed their specific topic, school shootings. She says watching her students in front of a large audience confidently sharing what they had been working on with so much passion was incredibly satisfying. Ms. Parnell has worked hard to address the overwhelmingly male the field of Computer Science by teaching the only all girls Computer Science class in the District. She is determined to make sure the girls in her classes and across OUSD feel like they belong in STEM classes and can succeed at high levels. Colleagues say Ms. Parnell's way of challenging and inspiring students at the same time is one of her great strengths;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with this brief interim introduction, and upon recommendation of Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell and the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District hereby selects and designates Whitney Dwyer, Jessica Jung, and Chantel Parnell, collectively and individually, for exceptional service to the students of the District, as Oakland Unified School District's 2021-2022 "Teachers of the Year," to be fully recognized at the first Regular Meeting of the Board in September, 2021.

Passed by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE: None

PREFERENTIAL NOE: None

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION: None

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE: None

AYES: Gary Yee, Aimee Eng, Mike Hutchinson, Clifford Thompson, VanCedric Williams, Vice President Benjamin "Sam" Davis, President Shanthi Gonzales

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

RECUSE: None

ABSENT: Student Directors: Jessica Ramos, Samantha Pal

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 May 12, 2021.

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OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Shanthi Gonzales
President, Board of Education



Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education