

Board Office Use: Legislative File Info.	
File ID Number	23-0897
Introduction Date	04/26/2023
Enactment Number	23-0683
Enactment Date	4/26/2023 os



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

Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education
From Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent
Tara Gard, Chief Talent Officer, Talent Division
Meeting Date April 26, 2023
Subject Recognition – Oakland Unified School District - 2022-2023 Classified School Employees of the Year - Talent/Human Resources Department

Ask of the Board Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2223-0180 - Recognition - District's 2022-2023 - Classified School Employees of the Year, collectively and individually in the categories named below:

Employee	Category
Mladie Thomas-Alexander	Paraprofessional Services
Sandra Burton	Clerical & Administrative Services
Cecilia Franco	Food & Nutrition Services
Jason Dixon	Custodial & Maintenance Services
Martha Flores	Security Services
Venus Doctorello-Mesui	Health and Student Services
Belinda Campbell	Technical Services

Background Annually the District identifies and honors its own, and OUSD’s Classified School Employees of the Year program aligns with the criteria used by the State of California Classified School Employees of the Year program.

Discussion The purpose is to recognize and pay special tribute to the tireless efforts and outstanding performance of one experienced classified line employee in each of the following categories: Paraprofessional Services; Clerical and Administrative Services; Food and Nutrition Services; Custodial and Maintenance Services; Security Services; Health and Student Services; and Technical Services. The District's honorees are in turn submitted to the Alameda County Office of Education in consideration of state Classified School Employees of the Year.

Fiscal Impact N/A

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 2223-0180**

- Recognition – Oakland Unified School District - 2022-2023 Classified School Employees
of the Year - Talent/Human Resources Department -

WHEREAS, the goal of the District’s Classified School Employees of the Year program is to identify and honor outstanding classified line employees in each of the following categories: Paraprofessional Services, Clerical & Administrative Services, Food & Nutrition Services, Custodial & Maintenance Services, Security Services, Health & Student Services, and Technical Services, and

WHEREAS, Mladie Thomas-Alexander, Sandra Burton, Cecilia Franco, Jason Dixon, Martha Flores, Venus Doctorello-Mesui, and Belinda Campbell, each, were selected as Oakland Unified School District’s 2022-2023 “Classified School Employees of the Year” and these employees may represent the District in the State of California Classified School Employees of the Year competition, and:

WHEREAS – Mrs. Mladie Thomas-Alexander, Lead Paraeducator at Piedmont Avenue Elementary School, is commended and recognized not only for being exceptional in the care of her own class of students but also for assisting the school Nurse in caring for students and for supporting new staff in their training. She is viewed as being a guiding force that has led to exceptional performance in all the Paraeducators at her school, holding everyone to a high standard both through modeling the behavior and by her leadership. Colleagues observe that Mrs. Thomas genuinely loves all her students and that students all know and love her not just because of her empathy, understanding, and respect for everyone, but because she brings so much concrete joy and generosity to everyone, and

WHEREAS – Mladie has been with the District for over 25 years, and the care, compassion, and dedication she exudes for her students and her duties are considered wholly remarkable by those who work alongside her. She is known as that special someone who would take the shirt off their back for anyone, at any time, despite whatever may be happening in her own life. Both attentive and generous, she enjoys being with her students and acting as a positive, joyful influence in their lives, and

WHEREAS – As one of her student’s most influential community representatives, Mrs. Thomas-Alexander has established especially close relationships with students and families and provides social stability for students. It is said that her caring, joyful, and strong energy can be felt in her classroom and throughout the school, inspiring students to believe in themselves and is a treasured icon at her school as a result;

WHEREAS – Ms. Sandra Burton, Attendance Specialist, at Emerson Elementary School is commended and recognized for not only keeping attendance in impeccable order, but also for keeping a keen eye out for the more telling data on which students are frequently absent. It is said that once those students are on the "Ms. Sandra Radar," she goes into care-action, calling

the students' families to verify absences but also to extend a listening ear or caring questions so parents can support their children in attending school. Students' physical and emotional needs are also of paramount importance to her. It is this aspect of her work that enables families and Emerson Elementary's staff to feel consistently held and cared for, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Burton has been with the District for over seven years; in those seven years she has been known as the “epitome of sustenance.” Fellow staff members say that without her, many critical things would not get accomplished. Whether students or staff come into the office looking for emotional support, supply support, phone numbers, a Band-Aid, or an ice pack, they're going to be met with a smile and they're going to get their answer. She is considered her school's one stop shop, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Burton is considered a huge part of the heart of Emerson Elementary. She is well known for working tirelessly year after year to support the entire school community in being a stellar learning environment that is inclusive and joyful for all students. Also known as a solid team player, she lifts the teachers up when she knows they need it with food, hugs, or a good laugh;

WHEREAS – Ms. Cecilia Franco, Food Service Assistant III, at REACH Academy is commended and recognized not only for all the skills and talents her position requires to provide nutritious, healthy meals, she also creates conditions that support a healthy culture and school climate. She is known as a “systems thinker,” particularly knowledgeable about best practices related to kitchen safety and cleanliness. Beyond her commendable work performance, it is said there is a much deeper and richer aspect to how she demonstrates excellence. She continually advocates for equitable academic and social-emotional outcomes for students who have been historically underserved by modeling a strong commitment to achieving “educational equity.” She exhibits a strong commitment, exceptional leadership, and a vision to address food insecurity (as well as “food deserts”) head-on in deep East Oakland, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Franco has been with the District for over seven years; in that time, she consistently looks out for the needs of the whole child and is always looking for ways to get better. She is viewed as truly irreplaceable and a definite leader at REACH Academy. Ms. Cecilia exudes professionalism, dedication, empathy, and tenderness for the school community. She has proven that she has deep social obligation and is committed to building healthy schools, students, families, and communities. She unswervingly demonstrates professional integrity, consistently communicating her values about social justice, teaching, and learning, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Franco maintains high expectations and integrity by engaging all stakeholders around a shared vision of high-quality food service, cultivating trusting relationships, including strong community-based partnerships. Her deep awareness of how food insecurity is linked to negative health outcomes in students has her continuously reaching toward increasing excellence;

WHEREAS – Mr. Jason Dixon, Custodian, at Oakland Technical High School is commended and recognized for being a most reliable and consistent colleague, maintaining the cleanliness on his campus, single-handedly. He is highly respected for his commitment to take on whatever responsibilities would benefit the Oakland Tech campus environment; that is, whatever the students and staff need, he does his best to support it, including taking on the added responsibility of setting up breakfast and lunch for the students. It is said that despite the wide

range of duties he fulfills daily, he is able to respond to new issues or safety concerns quickly, prioritizing duties in a way that keeps the campus safe and welcoming. He investigates issues and potential hazards before they need to be reported to him, and

WHEREAS – Mr. Dixon has been with the District for over 14 years; in addition to his primary custodial duties, it is said that Mr. Jason skillfully fills multiple additional emotional roles on campus, such as a stand-in Culture Keeper, Counselor, Student Support Specialist, *and* Campus Security. Considered indispensable, he maintains supportive relationships with multiple students and regularly checks in on their academic performance and homelives. Teachers frequently seek his advice regarding their students and consider him an important social-emotional support for the students and the teachers alike, and

WHEREAS – It is also said that Mr. Dixon’s presence contributes to the positive climate and culture on campus. He has excellent rapport with staff, scholars, and community partners. He displays a positive attitude and willingness to go that extra mile without hesitation, that his smile and joy are contagious and that he sheds light on the campus on cloudy days;

WHEREAS – Ms. Martha Flores, Noon Supervisor, at Lockwood STEAM Academy is commended and recognized for performing a variety of routines to ensure student safety and well-being. Not only does she assist in supervising students in the cafeteria and on playgrounds during breakfast, lunch and recess periods, but, beyond this part of her duties, she is viewed by her colleagues as an essential part of positive school culture and consistent family engagement. She creates meaningful relationships and reliably communicates the wider needs of the community to the leadership team, which helps meet the needs of families more consistently. While these are concrete aspects of her job description, they don’t begin to show her influence within the school community. Whether at lunch or in the classroom, she communicates meaningfully with families and has the power to influence students' follow up behavior. Staff know families trust her and the information she provides. Families seek her out, as do students; evidenced by the fact that often they *only* want to talk to Ms. Martha, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Flores has been with the District for over 17 years and has grown in her role across school activities. Ms. Martha has helped train parents and lead preparation sessions. She has been able to help parents understand what curriculum looks like in the classroom and has provided Spanish translation services, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Flores is said to be a great organizer and listener. Not just someone who’s being paid to watch students, she’s helping students develop as children and teenagers to become adults. She is a Noon Supervisor who helps with attendance, conflict resolution, will prep in the office, *and* oversee reading intervention;

WHEREAS – Ms. Venus Doctorello-Mesui, Case Manager, at LIFE Academy is commended and recognized for supporting all students through their most difficult circumstances and working to ensure they are held and cared for. She believes that justice is community work, and that all people deserve dignity and care. Although in her current position for ten years, she also supported the school's founding in 2001, and has played a central role in the development of every system, tradition, and aspect of the school's operations and culture, and

WHEREAS – As a founding parent, Ms. Mesui has worked alongside her own children, teachers, principals, and community stakeholders to develop LIFE Academy as one of the first

small schools in OUSD. She connects on a daily basis with students, parents, and staff members, and continues to stay connected to students and their families long after they leave the school. She is considered the holder of all knowledge and cultural stories of the people who have come through LIFE and brings her own culture into the space so other students can learn from her experience. Leaders say she would likely not identify herself as a leader, but that she is *The Matriarch* and that very school community needs someone like her to truly allow people to fully be themselves, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Doctorello-Mesui helps senior leaders gauge the emotional awareness of how situations are going on the ground. “Mama Venus” as she is affectionately known, is seen as highly impactful to the people around her; colleagues affirm that they learn from her wisdom and intuition and from watching her work. Viewed as calming and centered on the whole community, she actively works to raise every child;

WHEREAS – Ms. Belinda Campbell, Senior Computer Operator, for Technical Services is commended and recognized for going beyond her scope of responsibilities, providing exceptional support with *Frontline* human capital management system through the Tech Services helpdesk. She processes Aeries security request forms, and supports users across the District. Ms. Belinda is known for covering all the bases and is very confident in her expertise. She is also a great team player and helps other employees throughout OUSD, not just Technology Services staff. She oversees Employee Online which is pivotal for all OUSD employees. Exceptionally organized and process-oriented, she can take just about anything she is asked to do, run with it, accomplish it on time and with excellence, and

WHEREAS – A competent leader, Ms. Campbell has been with the District for over 13 years; she is considered to be flexible where it matters and to work independently with a high level of quality. She is known for doing a consistently exceptional job of collaborating with colleagues to resolve problems that arise, and she is always available to answer questions and troubleshoot problems. Highly perceptive, her attention to detail, critical thinking and analysis cause others to seek her out for advice and feedback. She has contributed to numerous areas related to service and support, and

WHEREAS – Ms. Campbell is known for jumping into projects with a high level of enthusiasm, figuring things out, ensuring they work well, and then having a solid process behind them. Technologically, a much larger effort has been needed since the pandemic with consistently more demand on her, but she dependably rises to meet it;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District, Mladie Thomas-Alexander, Sandra Burton, Cecilia Franco, Jason Dixon, Martha Flores, Venus Doctorello-Mesui, and Belinda Campbell, each, collectively and individually, for exceptional service to the students and city of Oakland and honor them as the District’s 2022-2023 “Classified School Employees of the Year.”

Given under our hand and the District's seal this 26th day of April, 2023, in Oakland, California.

Mike Hutchinson

President, Board of Education
Oakland Unified School District
Passed by the following vote:

Kyla Johnson-Trammell

Superintendent
Oakland Unified School District

PREFERENTIAL AYE: None

PREFERENTIAL NOE: None

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION: None

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE: None

AYES: VanCedric Williams, Valerie Bachelor, Clifford Thompson, Benjamin "Sam" Davis, Vice President Clifford Thompson, President Mike Hutchinson

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

RECUSE: None

ABSENT: Student Director Gallegos Chavez, Student Director Linh Le

I 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 April 26, 2023.

Legislative File	
File ID Number:	23-0897
Introduction Date:	04/26/2023
Enactment Number:	23-0683
Enactment Date:	4/26/2023
By:	os

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Mike Hutchinson
President, Board of Education



Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education