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**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 September 13, 2023
Subject Recognition - District's 2023-2024 - Teachers of the Year - Talent/Human Resources Department

Ask of the Board Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2324-0094 - Collectively and Individually, for Oakland Unified School District’s 2023-2024 Teachers of the Year, as follows:

Niesha Johnson	3rd Grade Inclusion Teacher, Chabot Elementary
Sean Gleason	9th - 12th Grade English 4 Teacher, Rudsdale Continuation High School

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.

Discussion 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 N/A

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 2324-0094**

- Recognition of Niesha Johnson and Sean Gleason - Collectively and Individually,
as Oakland Unified School District's 2023-2024 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, Niesha Johnson, 3rd Grade Inclusion Teacher at Chabot Elementary, has served Oakland Unified for nine years, and her class is viewed as a model of community, joy, and inclusion. She ensures that each child becomes fully known to her, but perhaps more importantly, to themselves by helping to develop their confidence and capacity. Colleagues say she builds on students’ strengths and assists every child in meeting grade level expectations. Her data points consistently show significant growth across all subgroups of students. She is known not only for tangible statistical outcomes, but also for the subtleties that tie to each student’s more profound sense of self; and

WHEREAS – Ms. Johnson explicitly teaches her students the importance of academic risks, but she also facilitates them becoming each other’s biggest supporters. She strongly believes that learning cannot happen until students feel safe, seen, heard, and valued by not only their teachers but their peers; therefore, her students co-create their learning environment. She also shares data with her students to help them foster their metacognitive life skills. It is said that student choice is a hallmark of her classroom, and her third graders are supported to articulate *what* they are learning and *why* it is important; and

WHEREAS – Outside of the classroom, Ms. Niesha is considered an unquestionable leader on the Chabot campus. She has mentored new teachers, serves on the Instructional Leadership Team as well as the Equity and Leadership Team which exists to interrupt inequalities in school systems, culture, and curriculum. She coordinates Chabot’s Black History Month program where she has worked with her peers, parents, and large groups of students across grade levels to build a sense of community and pride that transcends color lines and focuses on the beauty and diversity of culture and pride within the school community. She contributes six Saturdays to lead a Math-based Saturday School for students and their caregivers, teaching math concepts and strategies. She also serves on her site’s Personnel Committee which has helped increase the diversity of staff;

WHEREAS, Sean Gleason, 9th - 12th Grade English 4 Teacher at Ruidsdale Continuation High School, has served Oakland Unified for nine years. Having previously done work that challenged the prison industrial

complex and supported prisoner advocacy, he has deliberately worked at the margins of the District, in the field of alternative education. He has delved into practices that aim to address the shortcomings of conventional schooling by re-envisioning institutionalized learning. His focus on social justice and the environment and culture educators can create in and out of classrooms has resulted in an outstanding commitment to his students and their growth; and

WHEREAS - Mr. Gleason consciously shows love, patience, and compassion, while also holding his students to high standards and expectations. He specializes in project-based learning units which center on skill building, scaffolding, and having students grapple with and understand text to support the understanding of concepts. Within an environment in which nearly every student has had unsuccessful, and oftentimes harmful, histories at their comprehensive schools, his commitment is to radically rethink traditional structures; and

WHEREAS - Aside from his credential subject area, he also teaches and manages the *Bike Hub* on the Ruidsdale campus. During electives-block on Wednesdays, he and a small group of students work on and restore bicycles. Almost all students leave the *Bike Hub* with their own personal, custom-built bike. In the 2015-2016 school year, Mr. Sean, as he is known, led a team in renovating Ralph J. Bunche Academy's programming to a more student-centered model. He brings this experience to Ruidsdale and currently sits on the School Site Council and the School Site Safety Team. He serves as LGBTQ+ Liaison and OEA union representative for his site, has spearheaded the Student of the Marking Period assembly awards, and has participated on the Instructional Leadership Team. He has been a volunteer Lead Instructor in San Quentin State Penitentiary to incarcerated men who are pursuing their associate degree. As a curriculum author, trainer, and coach with *Moving Forward Education*, he also influences curriculum for OUSD in a wider way;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District salute Niesha Johnson and Sean Gleason - Collectively and Individually, for exceptional service to the students and city of Oakland and honor them as the District's 2023-2024 "Teachers of the Year."

Given under our hand and the District's seal this 13th day of September, 2023, in Oakland, California.

Passed by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE: Student Director Anevay Cruz, Student Director Vida Mendoza

PREFERENTIAL NOE: None

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION: None

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE: None

AYES: Benjamin "Sam" Davis, Jennifer Brouhard, VanCedric Willilams, Valarie Bachelor, Vice President Clifford Thompson, President Mike Hutchinson

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

RECUSED: None


ABSENT: Vacancy - District 5

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 13, 2023.

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By:	

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

 9/14/2023

Mike Hutchinson
President, Board of Education

 9/14/2023

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education