

Board Office Use: Legislative File Info.	
File ID Number	
Introduction Date	Jan 10th, 2024
Enactment Number	
Enactment Date	



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Cover Memorandum

To: Board of Education

From: Valarie Bachelor, Board Director
Jennifer Brouhard, Board Director

Meeting Date: January 10th, 2024

Subject: Resolution Standing Up for Palestinian and Israeli Children by Calling for a Permanent Ceasefire and Release of All Hostages (Revised)

ASK OF THE BOARD

Approval by the Board of Education of Resolution No. XXXX-XXXX - Calling for a Ceasefire and Release of Hostages in Palestine and Israel.

**OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. XXXX-XXXX**

Resolution Standing Up for Palestinian and Israeli Children by Calling for a Permanent Ceasefire and Release of All Hostages (Revised)

WHEREAS, the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) is committed to creating inclusive and just conditions for all students. OUSD is a district where we cherish our cultural richness and ensure all communities feel respected and heard, including our growing Arab-American, Palestinian, and Middle-Eastern immigrant communities, and our Jewish community; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland Unified School District condemns the recent rise of Islamophobic, Anti-Semitic, racist, homophobic, and xenophobic attacks in our city and across the nation, including the doxxing of elected officials, students, educators, journalists, and others speaking truth to power; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland Unified School District, as a sanctuary district, commits to the safety, dignity, freedom, and equality of *all* people, regardless of religion, race, or nationality; and

WHEREAS, over one thousand people in Israel and more than twenty three thousand Palestinians have been killed in a matter of months, of whom over six thousand are children; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland Unified School District recognizes that the current crisis takes place within a long history and affirms that for a pathway to lasting peace and justice to be developed, the root causes of the crisis need to be addressed;

WHEREAS, Gaza is in a dire humanitarian crisis that is getting worse with each passing day. There are no remaining hospitals and the lives of medical personnel providing health to Palestinians are in grave danger. Despite the recent influx of humanitarian aid, Gaza hospitals are running out of medical supplies, and over 2 million Palestinians are facing displacement, homelessness, and starvation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oakland Unified School District supports U.S. Congress Resolution H.R.786 and joins others in calling on our Congress Members to demand: an immediate ceasefire; the unrestricted entry of humanitarian assistance into Gaza; the restoration of food, water, electricity, and medical supplies to Gaza; the release of all hostages and the respect for international law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland Unified School District encourages all staff to read and learn about the region to help students understand the complexities of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the historical context, and the impact on all communities and in the process to create an environment in our schools and classrooms that encourages open, respectful, and well-informed discussions on Palestine and Israel, enabling students and staff to build empathy and compassion, and engage in constructive dialogue, where no student or staff member feels singled out for their identity, ethnicity or religious affiliation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our local education agencies support teachers to humanize and center children of indigenous, marginalized, oppressed, and persecuted communities to acknowledge their value in a world that has traditionally devalued and dehumanized them, so that we may leave them a better world where they will be the future leaders who raise the standard of humanity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland Unified School District vows to combat Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, and ethno-nationalism in all its forms. We recognize that many communities within the Oakland Unified School District have had long and complex histories of trauma, displacement, and oppression and are committed to creating safe learning spaces for each and every OUSD student. Oakland Unified School District leadership will work with the community to ensure that students who report Islamophobic, Anti-Semitic, xenophobic, racist, and xenophobic incidents are protected and shielded from backlash and the district leadership will meet regularly with the community to ensure that our students can come forward without fear of retaliation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland Unified School District vows to protect and uphold the First Amendment rights to free speech and to the right to assemble and protest for Oakland students and staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to school boards and city councils in the San Francisco Bay Area, the offices of Assemblymember Mia Bonta, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Governor of California Gavin Newsom, U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee, U.S. Senator Laphonsa Butler, U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, United States President Joe Biden, and United States Vice President Kamala Harris, urging them to take immediate action, co-sign this resolution and post their support of the resolution in their social media.