

March 29, 2024

Re: Trustee Action on Staff Authorization for Negotiations - Closed Session on March 27, 2024  
- Confidential & Privileged

Dear OUSD Board of Directors,

At the March 27, 2024 Board meeting, the Board granted staff authorization for negotiations during closed session. I appreciate the depth of the discussion between the Board and staff, in particular the thoughtful questions posed by the Board regarding the impact and financial implications of the authorization. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In [my communication to you regarding your action to rescind the 2022-23 school closures](#), I noted that the previous Board made a choice for fewer schools in order to allocate more resources to quality instruction and student supports and posed a key question to you: From where will you reallocate resources to fund more schools? Since then, the Board has taken action on multiple occasions to begin responding to this question but has not yet completed action to reallocate those resources. Board actions to date include:

- On March 9, 2023, the Board approved 2023-24 Recommended Budget Adjustments known as Attachment A, including the potential merger of district schools.
- On October 25, 2023, the Board adopted 2024-25 Budget Balancing Options, Increases, and Reductions, including the potential merger of district schools.
- On February 28, 2024, the Board approved 2024-25 Budget Balancing Options, Increases, Reductions - Attachment B and 2025-26 Restructure Recommendation, including the merger of district schools.

While the Board granted staff authorization for negotiations in closed session, the Board delayed action on the AB1912 metrics until June 5, 2024 in open session. In essence, the Board took action to increase the District's structural deficit and delayed action to address the structural deficit. This is irresponsible and inconsistent with your fiduciary duty to the Oakland Unified School District. In fact, in [ACOE's review of the recent OEA tentative agreement](#), the Board was reminded that "in order to afford this agreement, the Board must make significant adjustments and tradeoffs in the coming months." The Board has not yet completed those tradeoffs and adjustments and failing to move forward with the AB1912 process would delay the process

further.

Given my charge to monitor and review the operation of the school district and stay or rescind an action of the governing board that, in the judgment of the trustee, may affect the financial condition of the school district, I am staying the Board's action authorizing [REDACTED]

**until the Board takes action, at a minimum, on the nine required metrics.** I have conferred with the Board President and he plans to agendaize this item for the April 10, 2024 Board meeting.

For the sake of clarity, this action by the trustee does not apply to the Board's action [REDACTED]

Please know that my action is in full support of your path to long-term fiscal solvency and independence. As always, reach out with any questions or thoughts.

Best regards,  
Luz T. Cazares  
Trustee