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Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education

From Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent
Sondra Aguilera, Chief Academic Officer
Preston Thomas, Chief Systems and Services Officer
Jenine Lindsey, Interim General Counsel

Meeting Date June 26, 2024

Subject Resolution No. 2324-0075 - Ratifying the Location of Bunche Academy at the Former Lowell Campus

Ask of the Board Adoption of Resolution No. 2324-0075 – Ratifying the Location of Bunche Academy at the Former Lowell Campus

Background The former Lowell campus (“Lowell”), located at 991 14th Street, is the current home of Ralph J. Bunche Academy (“Bunche Academy”) and West Oakland Middle School (“WOMS”).

Up until February 2020, the permanent location for Ralph J. Bunche Academy (“Bunche Academy”), an OUSD continuation school, was 1240 18th Street. However, that month the possibility of contaminated groundwater at another location in the region forced the District to temporarily move Bunche Academy to Lowell in order to use the Bunche facility. Bunche Academy was still located at Lowell when COVID-19 forced it (and the rest of OUSD) to close to in-person instruction in March 2020. The Bunche facility has ongoing pest infestation, dry rot, access

compliance concerns, alarm deficiencies, lead paint, and trace amounts of lead in the soil.

Discussion

The Resolution would officially authorize Bunche Academy to remain at the Lowell campus. District staff is confident that WOMS and Bunche Academy can safely share the facilities at the Lowell campus, and the WOMS and Bunche Academy leaders, in partnership with OUSD leadership, have been working together to figure out the necessary details for a long-term co-location at the Lowell campus. The Resolution will support Bunche students with a safe and healthy facility. It will also bring long-term stability for WOMS, which has been co-located with many different schools and programs in recent years. District staff is confident that the two schools can safely share the facilities at Lowell. Each school will have its own areas to learn and socialize. The principals, in partnership with OUSD leadership, have been working together to figure out the necessary details (e.g., agreements about space usage, facility upgrades, safety, staffing, etc.). More information is available at <https://www.ousd.org/Page/20788>.

Fiscal Impact

The cost will be minimal given that Bunche Academy is already located at Lowell.

Attachment

- Resolution No. 2324-0075 - Ratifying the Location of Bunche Academy at the Former Lowell Campus

**RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Resolution No. 2324-0075

Extension of the Location of Bunche Academy at the West Oakland Middle School Campus

WHEREAS, the original location for Ralph J. Bunche Academy (“Bunche Academy”), an OUSD continuation school was 1240 18th Street;

WHEREAS, Bunche Academy moved to the Lowell campus in February 2020 as part of the District’s response to the possibility of contaminated groundwater at other school sites in the region;

WHEREAS, the District identified structural issues at 1240 18th Street including an ongoing pest infestation, dry rot, access compliance concerns, alarm deficiencies, lead paint, and trace amounts of lead in the soil;

WHEREAS, Bunche Academy was still located at the Lowell campus when COVID-19 forced Bunche Academy, and other District schools, to cease in-person instruction in March 2020;

WHEREAS, with the return to in-person instruction in 2021, District staff determined that the Bunche facility was not suitable for students to return as the facility has ongoing pest infestation, dry rot, access compliance concerns, alarm deficiencies, lead paint, and trace amounts of lead in soil, and many of the systems—including mechanical, plumbing, sewer, and electrical—are also at their end-of-life and need to be replaced;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education voted in April 2021 to ratify the continued location of Bunche Academy on the Lowell campus for three years, culminating with the end of school year 2023-24;

WHEREAS, the above-mentioned issues at 1240 18th Street have not been resolved since the passage of the 2021 resolution, and no alternate location in West Oakland has been identified to house Bunche Academy;

WHEREAS, having Bunche Academy stay at the Lowell campus will support Bunche students with a safe and healthy facility;

WHEREAS, the Lowell campus, located at 991 14th Street, is the current and permanent home to West Oakland Middle School (“WOMS”);

WHEREAS, District staff is confident that the two schools can safely share the facilities at the Lowell campus, and the WOMS and Bunche Academy leaders, in partnership with OUSD leadership, have been working together to figure out the necessary details for a long-term co-location at the Lowell campus; and

WHEREAS, WOMS needs long-term stability as it has been co-located with many different schools and programs in recent years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby extends the co-location of Bunche Academy at the Lowell campus and authorizes the Superintendent to keep Bunche Academy at the Lowell campus as long as the co-location is necessary.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District this 26th day of June, 2024, by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE: None

PREFERENTIAL NOE: None

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION: None

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE: None

AYES: Jennifer Brouhard, VanCedric Williams, Valerie Bachelor, Jorge Lerma, Clifford Thompson, Vice President Mike Hutchinson, President Benjamin Davis

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

RECUSE: None

ABSENT: Vida Mendoza (Student Director), Anevay Cruz (Student Director)

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 June 26, 2024.

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OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Benjamin "Sam" Davis
President, Board of Education



Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education