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Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education

From Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent
Tara Gard, Chief Talent Officer, Talent Division

Meeting Date September 11, 2024

Subject Recognition - Sarah Ben-Israel, Claudia Hung-Haas, and Jazmine Njissang - District's 2024-2025 - Teachers of the Year - Talent/Human Resources Department

Ask of the Board Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2425-0055- Recognition of Sarah Ben-Israel [6th Grade Science Teacher, Edna Brewer Middle School], Claudia Hung-Has [3rd Grade Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School] and Jazmine Njissang [8th Grade Math Teacher, West Oakland Middle School] - Collectively and Individually - Oakland Unified School District's 2024-2025 Teachers of the Year.

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. 2425-0055**

- Recognition - Sarah Ben-Israel, Claudia Hung-Haas, and Jazmine Njissang - District's 2024-2025 - Teachers of the Year - Talent/Human Resources Department -

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, Sarah Ben-Israel (or Ms. B as she is best known), 6th Grade Science Teacher at Edna Brewer Middle School, has served Oakland Unified for nearly fourteen years, and her classroom is viewed as a safe space for students to receive an equitable science and math education, which she supports for all learners, including those beyond Room 25 at Edna Brewer. Ms. B starts every class with a community circle, built into the classroom routine, which allows her to check in about how students are doing emotionally and to provide an opportunity for them to bring up issues going on in the larger community. Whether she is leading spirit week or being the Director, Organizer and MC for the school talent show, she brings joy and happiness into the school community in a multitude of ways; and

WHEREAS – Beyond a strong academic foundation, Ms. B offers constant opportunities for building community and lifting student voices. She is considered a staple in the Brewer community having taught in the same classroom for all her years with OUSD. She utilizes multiple strong relationships she has built to address harm in the community. She is renowned for being able step in to help students deal with conflict—with each other—or conflict with other teachers in a restorative and positive way. Ms. B’s instruction provides a foundational platform for students at a very important age of their lives; and

WHEREAS – Outside of the classroom, Ms. B serves as Sexual Health Referral Coordinator, New Teacher Support Coach, and Staff Wellness Coordinator for Edna Brewer; she has also served as a member of the school Site Council and Global Climate Change Curriculum Implementation Team. She has been a Teach Tomorrow in Oakland (TTO) Teacher Leader since 2013. As one of her former students writes about her, “Science may not have been my favorite subject, but she was definitely one of my favorite teachers”; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Hung-Haas, 3rd Grade Teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, has served Oakland Unified for nearly twenty-four years, one of the hallmarks of her classroom is that it is a joyful, enriching, challenging, and a safe place to be. Colleagues say she has achieved the perfect pairing of low stress and high expectations and that her mastery of direct instruction leads students to their own mastery. Ms. Hung-Haas effortlessly incorporates project-based learning, hands-on learning experiences, realia, field trips, art and

music into her unit plans, providing a relevant, enriching and well-rounded education for her students, most of whom are English Language Learners.

WHEREAS - What may be uncommon for third graders but is highly effective is that Ms. Hung-Haas's students are responsible for tracking their own growth and progress, which has resulted in a marked difference in students' attitudes and collective work ethic. Claudia is perhaps most famous for her students' success in OUSD's MLK, Jr. Oratorical Festival, where they have placed 1st yearly at the district level as well as having been filmed for the HBO Documentary, *We are the Dream*, shining their spirits out into the world and lifting the image of Oakland.

WHEREAS - Ms. Hung-Haas's influence extends past the school's walls—she ensures Lincoln's school community is involved in culturally relevant community events, such as participation in the 1st and 2nd annual Oakland Lunar New Year Parades. Since 2017, she has collaborated with the Office of Equity to bring students and families on a weekend family field trip to for its annual Bok Eye festival to learn about Chinese American history. What had begun with a small group of seventeen people, this year brought approximately 125 Lincoln students, parents and their new, 9-person dragon to be in the parade there. Ms. Claudia serves on the Instructional Leadership Team, Faculty Council, Hiring Committee, and the Garden and Nutrition Committee; and

WHEREAS, Jazmine Njissang, 8th Grade Math Teacher at West Oakland Middle School, has served Oakland Unified for nearly nine years, at the core of her teaching commitment is for her students to know their teacher LOVES and values them in and outside of the classroom. This, then, is followed by rigor, collaboration and strong relationships among her students, which is the trademark of her instruction. Colleagues say a cornerstone of Jazmine's teaching is her focus on classroom collaboration, asking students to problem solve with each other while Ms. Njissang strategically removes certain scaffolds and help students lean into what is termed, "productive struggle" with mathematics.

WHEREAS - Students in Jazmine's classes are pushed to do the "heavy lifting" of problem solving and critical thinking using relevant curriculum in real-life situations—such as student loans and tuition for college—applied to the understanding of percentage, functions, and rate of change. Ms. Jazmine has created a free thrift store on the WOMS campus for four years straight so students can shop for themselves and family members. The campus thrift store has grown and gained recognition allowing it to become a year-round community closet where students can access needed items.

WHEREAS - Ms. Njissang is an educator deeply involved in the community, extending her reach beyond the classroom. Whether as an after-school instructor at Tech Bridge Girls, leading girls of color through program STEM activities, or as a mentor and cooperating teacher with Berkeley Teacher Education Program, or with project facilitation where teams of students were challenged to develop an app with Square/Cash App that would improve a need within their community, she is a powerful agent for change. With her support, the student teams worked ongoingly with Square advisors, and teams presented projects to a panel of professionals in the STEM field at Square, building their presentation acumen; she is dedicated to student achievement, and works to make sure that the student learning experience is joyful;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District salute Sarah Ben-Israel, Claudia Hung-Haas, and Jazmine Njissang - Collectively and Individually, for exceptional service to the students and city of Oakland and honor them as the District's 2024-2025 "Teachers of the Year."

Given under our hand and the District's seal this 11th day of September 2024, in Oakland, California.

Passed by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE: Maximus Simmon - Student Director, Michele Vasquez - Student Director

PREFERENTIAL NOE: None

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION: None

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE: None

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

RECUSE: None

ABSENT: None

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 11, 2024.

Legislative File	
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By:	

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



9/12/2024

Benjamin Davis
President, Board of Education



9/12/2024

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education