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Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education

From Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Dexter Moore, Jr., Chief of Staff
Jenine Lindsey, General Counsel

Meeting Date December 18, 2024

Subject Board Orientation Cover Memo

Ask of the Board Review intended learning outcomes and be prepared to discuss content of the agenda and presentation materials.

Background The Board Orientation is a critical component of preparing new and returning board members for effective governance. The 2024-25 Orientation has been designed to emphasize the board's role in driving student outcomes through strategic vision-setting, policy development, and oversight. This year's sessions are designed to address the following:

- Role clarity for board members, senior staff, student board directors, general counsel, parliamentarian, and the superintendent.
- Alignment with the "Above the Line/Below the Line" framework to reinforce effective governance and operational management distinctions.
- Preparation for critical fiscal and personnel decisions, including the 2nd Interim Budget, Fiscal Audit, and annual employee notices.
- Establishing shared commitments to enhance collaboration and trust among governance team members.

The December 18 session will introduce foundational governance concepts, emphasize high-functioning team dynamics, and establish shared commitments to align the board's work with district priorities.

Discussion The December 18, 2024 Board Orientation will focus on achieving the following learning outcomes:

1. **Deepen the Board's Shared Understanding of Governance** recognizing the critical role governance plays in driving student outcomes and ensuring the effectiveness of OUSD operations.

2. Ensure clarity on policies and procedures to **prepare for critical decision-making** related to the Fiscal Audit, 2nd Interim Budget, and Personnel/Layoff Notices, aligning these decisions with district priorities and student outcomes.
3. **Achieve Role Clarity** clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of board members, senior staff, and committees to enable more effective collaboration and accountability.
4. **Strengthen Team Dynamics** to foster high-functioning team dynamics grounded in shared governance norms, trust, and collective responsibility.
5. **Enhance Governance Competencies** including expanding the knowledge and application of foundational governance concepts, including ethical compliance, decision-making, and operational protocols.
6. **Improve Function of Board Committees**, developing strategies to maximize the effectiveness of committee structures, ensuring they advance district priorities and streamline board operations.

Fiscal Impact None at this time.

- Attachment(s)**
- [Board Orientation Agenda](#)
 - [Board Orientation Slideshow](#)
 - [OUSD Board Committee Report Template \(Draft\)](#)