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**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2025

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To: Facilities Committee

From: Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent
Preston Thomas, Chief Systems & Services Officer
Curtiss Sarikey, Chief of Partnerships Officer
Dr. Dexter Moore, Jr., Chief of Staff
Pranita Ranbhise, Director, Facilities Planning & Management

Meeting Date: May 15, 2025

Subject: Naming of selected spaces within the New Administrative Building at 1011 Union Street, the former Cole Elementary Site, in Honor of Paul Robeson and Ida Louise Jackson.

ASK OF THE BOARD:

Approval by the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Facilities Committee of Resolution No. 2425-0134 Naming of selected spaces within the New Administrative Building at 1011 Union Street, the former Cole Elementary Site, in Honor of Paul Robeson and Ida Louise Jackson.

BACKGROUND:

The Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) has a longstanding commitment to honoring individuals and institutions that have played a significant role in shaping Oakland's educational landscape and the broader community in the naming of our schools and our buildings. This commitment is reflected in Board Policy 7310, which establishes the framework by which district facilities, or parts of facilities, may be named in memory of individuals who have made significant contributions to the District or community. The policy emphasizes the importance of community engagement in this process, ensuring that naming decisions reflect the values, history, and aspirations of the district's students, families, and stakeholders.

This February, the new administrative building was completed and has begun to serve as an administrative center for student and family support, key administrative functions, leadership development, and providing essential services that enhance student achievement and community engagement. Not only will the building serve as the administrative center for OUSD, the new administrative building also represents a significant economic investment in the West Oakland neighborhood, providing opportunities for small local businesses to benefit from increased activity and district operations in the area.

In June 2015, the OUSD Board unanimously adopted Resolution No. 1415-1166, which authorized the naming of the auditorium in the future district headquarters building in honor of Paul Robeson, following the closure of the former Paul Robeson Building at 1025 2nd Avenue. The current recommendation affirms and builds upon that legacy by naming the main second floor foyer at the new administrative center the Paul Robeson Gallery. This space will serve as a rotating exhibition area for student artwork and creative expression, reflecting Robeson's life as a scholar, artist, and activist.

The resolution also recommends naming the primary staff training space on the second floor the Ida Louise Jackson Training Room, in honor of the first African American woman to teach in Oakland public schools and the first to teach high school in California. Ms. Jackson was a trailblazer in education and a civic leader whose work in mentorship, public service, and educational equity continues to influence generations.

DISCUSSION:

Pursuant to Board Policy 7310, the District convened an Ad Hoc Community Advisory Committee to consider naming options for the new administrative building. The committee, composed of community members, staff, and stakeholders, has met four times over two months, with one additional meeting scheduled. The committee was charged with evaluating potential names based on historical context, community input, and alignment with the district's mission and values.

This resolution complements the primary resolution to name the new administrative building the Dr. Marcus A. Foster Leadership Center and the Superintendent's conference room in his honor. In tandem, these actions reflect the district's commitment to memorializing leaders whose lives and legacies have profoundly shaped Oakland and its schools.

Designating interior spaces within the building provides a meaningful opportunity to honor multiple legacies while enhancing the educational and inspirational character of the facility. Both individuals proposed for recognition—Paul Robeson and Ida Louise Jackson—embody the spirit of advocacy, equity, and excellence that the District seeks to uphold.

The Paul Robeson Gallery will act as a dynamic community art space, promoting creativity and expression across OUSD schools. The Ida Louise Jackson Training Room will serve as a central space for professional development and training of district educators and staff, linking her legacy to the ongoing growth of the OUSD workforce.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Signage and commemorative displays will be incorporated as part of the broader administrative building dedication. Costs are included within the \$30,000 allocation from Measure B or Measure J, as referenced in the companion resolution.

ATTACHMENT:

Draft Resolution No. 2425-0134 Naming of selected spaces within the New Administrative Building at 1011 Union Street, the former Cole Elementary Site.

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

Resolution No. 2425-0134

Naming of selected spaces within the New Administrative Building at 1011 Union Street, the former Cole Elementary Site, in Honor of Paul Robeson and Ida Louise Jackson.

WHEREAS, Paul Robeson (1898-1976) was a distinguished scholar, athlete, actor, singer, and civil rights activist whose legacy continues to inspire generations across the globe; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robeson's lifelong commitment to justice, equality, and the empowerment of diverse communities exemplifies the values we strive to uphold within OUSD; and

WHEREAS, per Board Policy 7310, the Board shall consider dedicating buildings, parts of buildings, or other district facilities, in memory of deceased students, staff members, and community members, and benefactors of the district (memorials); and

WHEREAS, the former OUSD central administrative building was named in his honor, and subsequently Board Resolution No. 1415-1166 unanimously adopted on June 10, 2015, approved to continue honoring his legacy by naming the auditorium in the proposed new district headquarters building the Paul Robeson Auditorium; and

WHEREAS, naming the main second floor foyer in his honor will serve as a lasting tribute to his contributions to the arts, education, and human rights, and will inspire all who enter the main offices floor;

WHEREAS, Ida Louise Jackson (1902-1996) was a trailblazing educator, civic leader, and philanthropist who made history as the first African American woman to teach high school in the state of California and as the first African American teacher in Oakland; and

WHEREAS, her groundbreaking appointment in the Oakland Public Schools not only broke racial and gender barriers but also opened the doors for future generations of educators of color in Oakland and throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Miss Jackson dedicated her life to advancing educational equity, mentoring youth, and serving the public good, both through her classroom work and through civic leadership in Oakland, including voter education, public health outreach, and her life long service in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, per Board Policy 7310, the Board shall consider dedicating buildings, parts of buildings, or other district facilities, in memory of deceased students, staff members, and community members, and benefactors of the district (memorials); and

WHEREAS, naming a part of the new district administrative center in her honor is a fitting tribute to her profound legacy in Oakland and California and her unwavering commitment to justice, education, and community empowerment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the OUSD school board hereby designates the main second floor foyer, in honor of Paul Robeson, the Paul Robeson Gallery, a living art installation to be designed as a dynamic exhibition space that rotates student artwork and creative exhibits from schools across the district, in recognition of his enduring legacy in OUSD and around the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the OUSD School Board hereby designates the second floor main staff training room, in honor of Ida Louise Jackson, as the Ida Louise Jackson Training Room, ensuring that her pioneering spirit and enduring impact continue to inspire future generations of OUSD educators.

Passed by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NOE:

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

RECUSE:

ABSENT:

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 May 28th 2025.

Legislative File	
File ID Number:	25-1325
Introduction Date:	5/15/2025
Enactment Number:	
Enactment Date:	
By:	

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jennifer Brouhard
President, Board of Education

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education