

Board Office Use: Legislative File Info.	
File ID Number	24-0741
Introduction Date	04/10/2024
Enactment Number	
Enactment Date	



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Community Schools, Thriving Students

Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education

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

Meeting Date April 10, 2024

Subject Designation/Selection – Sarah Ben-Israel, Claudia Hung-Haas, and Jazmine Njissang – Collectively and Individually, as Oakland Unified School 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. 2324-0116— Designation/Selection of Sarah Ben-Israel, Claudia Hung-Haas, and Jazmine Njissang, collectively and individually, as Oakland Unified School District's 2024-2025 Teachers of the Year.

Background Annually the District identifies and honors its own, including three outstanding teachers to recognize and pay special tribute due to their tireless efforts, outstanding instructional skills and/or the achievements of their students. These honorees are able to go on to compete in the Alameda County Teacher of the Year Competition, and, if further selected, compete at the state and national levels, respectively.

Discussion The Teacher of the Year Selection Committee has recommended to me, as Superintendent, that Sarah Ben-Israel, Claudia Hung-Haas, and Jazmine Njissang, collectively and individually, be put forward to the Board of Education as District Teachers of the Year for 2024-2025. I have accepted the recommendations made by the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee and recommend and request that the Board of Education selects and designates Sarah Ben-Israel, Claudia Hung-Haas, and Jazmine Njissang, collectively and individually, as the District's 2024-2025 "Teachers of the Year." They are now eligible to advance in the County, and, if further selected, the state and national level.

Fiscal Impact N/A

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 2324-0116**

- Placeholder - Designation/Selection – Sarah Ben-Israel, Claudia Hung-Haas, and Jazmine Njissang – Collectively and Individually, as Oakland Unified School District’s 2024-2025 Teachers of the Year -

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, each year the District selects three instructors, collectively and individually, as “Teachers of the Year” and these teachers represent the District in the Alameda County Teacher of the Year competition, and:

WHEREAS, if selected in the County competition, one or more of these teachers will be invited to go on to compete at the state and national levels; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Teacher of the Year Selection Committee has received and considered applications from nominated candidates for District’s 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year, and;

WHEREAS, the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee has recommended to Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammel that Sarah Ben-Israel, Claudia Hung-Haas, and Jazmine Njissang, collectively and individually, be recommended to the Board of Education for selection as Oakland Unified School District’s 2024-2025 “Teachers of the Year”; 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. Beyond a strong academic foundation, she 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 of her years with OUSD. She is able to use 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.

Outside of the classroom, Ms. B serves as Sexual Health Referral Coordinator, New Teacher Support Coach, and Staff Wellness Coordinator for Edna Brewer; plus, she has served as a member of the school Site Council and Global Climate Change Curriculum Implementation Team has been a Teach Tomorrow in Oakland (TTO) Teacher Leader since 2013. As one of her 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, and one of the hallmarks of her classroom is that it is a joyful, enriching, challenging, and 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. 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 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 being filmed for the HBO Documentary, *We are the Dream*, shining their spirits out into the world, lifting the image of Oakland.

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 began with a small group of seventeen people this year will be bringing 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, and 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 as 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. 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, to apply the understanding of percentage, functions, and rate of change. Ms. Jazmine created a free thrift store on the WOMS campus for four years straight so students could 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.

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, with this brief interim introduction, and upon recommendation of Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell and the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District hereby selects and designates Sarah Ben-Israel, Claudia Hung-Haas, and Jazmine Njissang, collectively and individually, for exceptional service to the students of the District, as Oakland Unified School District's 2024-2025 "Teachers of the Year," to be fully recognized at the first Regular Meeting of the Board in September, 2024.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of Oakland Unified School District on this 10th day of April 2024.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT:

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 April 10, 2024.

Legislative File	
File ID Number:	24-0741
Introduction Date:	04/10/2024
Enactment Number:	
Enactment Date:	
By:	

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Benjamin Davis
President, Board of Education

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education