

# OUSD Legislative Coalition

February 7, 2024

O.U.S.D. Board Room 3, 1401 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867

Present: **Mariana Flores** (U.S. Representative Lou Correa); **Sarah Mendoza** (U.S. Representative Young Kim); **Tina Arias Miller** (State Assemblyman Avelino Valencia); **Ana Page** (OUSD Board); **Andrea Yamasaki** (OUSD Board); **Ernie Gonzalez** (OUSD Superintendent); **Heriberto Angel** (OUSD); **Elena Rodriguez** (OUSD); **Joseph Wilhelm** (OUEA); **Shirin Badrtalei-Shah** (Anaheim Hills ES); **Nadia Hall** (Jordan ES); **Wendi Forrest** (McPherson K-8); **Arash Samadani** (Running Springs ES); **Wendy Wolf** (Villa Park ES); **Erin Flynn** (Cerro Villa MS); **Sonia Anderson** (Santiago Charter MS); **Eileen Hartfelder** (Canyon HS); **Kim Van Der Hoek** (El Modena HS); **Nicol Jones** (Villa Park HS); **Annette Cambiaso** (At Large); **Jolin Lang** (At Large); **Kathy Moffat** (At Large); **Kathryn White** (At Large); **Sandy Davidson** (Guest); **Neda Karem** (Guest). Quorum was established.

**Call to Order:** Kathryn White, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:03am.

**Secretary:** Nicol Jones presented the January 2024 minutes for review and approval. Erin Flynn made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and Eileen Hartfelder seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer:** Eileen gave the Treasurers Report. There have been no changes since last month, so the balance is still \$1,432.92. But she received five checks just now, so there will be changes on next month's report.

## **Mariana Flores, U.S. Representative Lou Correa**

- Their Congressional Art Competition is coming up, and the deadline is April 19. Any high school student who lives or goes to school in Representative Correa's district is eligible. If they win their art is displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year! There is no flyer yet, since they are still reviewing their rules.
- There are no big updates for legislation right now. They are pretty immigration-heavy right now on legislation.
  - HR6031, the Safe Schools Improvement Act, mentioned last month which would address bullying and harassment in elementary and secondary schools, has had no movement.
  - HR3713, the Mental Health Services for Students Act, HR6613, the Preparing Leaders to Assess Needs (PLAN) for School Safety Act, and HR4519, the IDEA Full Funding Act, were all just introduced.
- Kathryn White emphasized that if you have an individual concern, you can reach out to the legislators' offices directly.

## **Sarah Mendoza, U.S. Representative Young Kim**

- They have several bills in the queue, but immigration is the House priority right now.
- They do not yet have a deadline for their Congressional Art Competition since the rules have not been presented yet. More information will be forthcoming.
- Representative Kim has had some community college meetings recently.

## **Tina Arias Miller, State Assemblyman Avelino Valencia**

- They have no K-12 bills right now, but they do have some spot bills for community colleges.
- Everything needs to be in by February 16, or else it is waiting until next year.
- They are heavy on public safety bills.
- AB734, the bill to ban tackle football for kids twelve and younger is not moving forward because Governor Newsom said he would veto it. It will probably come back, but differently, probably putting the onus on organizations to make the sport safer for kids.

- They have updated their website and now have a dropdown for education.

### **Elena Rodriguez, O.U.S.D.**

- Elena stated that she came prepared to answer our questions from last month regarding math at the secondary level. So far they held focus groups at the beginning of the year, have had “learning walks” at school sites, and Parent Math Meetings. They are holding a Parent Math Meeting at Canyon tomorrow, and these are in a town hall format. They highlight our diverse math offerings, math pathways, math support and policies. They also discuss AP study sessions and bootcamps, grading, and clarify test retake policies. Beyond parent meetings, they are also looking internally at their own data, and having math department chair meetings to make sure everything is in alignment. In response to a question from Kathy Moffat, Elena stated that the data they collect can show strengths and weaknesses at each individual site. Neda Karem asked if these Parent Math Meetings were advertised to all parents, because she is the PTA President at Canyon and has not heard about the event tomorrow. Kathryn White added that if we are getting emails about sport teams’ CIF events, we should be getting emails on curriculum. Elena will check on this. Wendy Wolf asked about grading, and Elena responded that grading is still up to the teacher, but it is guided by the District. Eileen Hartfelder said that she has seen the efforts being made at Canyon High School. The teachers are having the kids do “autopsies” on missed problems, and they can Zoom in for tutoring.
- Are we doing the PSAT for 10th graders? Elena said that they will revisit that, but it is off the table for now.
- Elementary schools are also focused on math. They are doing “learning walks” and looking at success criteria. They are putting an emphasis on elementary so the kids can be successful in secondary.
- OUSD is starting to roll out their summer programming. We are collaborating with SCC on the College for Kids program again this year. There is no date yet, but there is a limit of two classes per child.
- Tonight is the El Modena High School Showcase.

### **Ernie Gonzalez, O.U.S.D. Superintendent**

- The El Modena Showcase is a K-12 event and a nice opportunity to learn about the schools and see all of our kids.
- He was just at Yorba Middle School for their STEAM event and CTE fair. This shows kids the pathways and what their options are.
- On March 19 there will be a VAPA event at Chapman University, courtesy of the Orange Unified Public Schools Foundation. Our OUSD Orchestra will perform at 6:00pm and our Honor Band will be performing at 7:30pm. Wendi Forrest added that this event is free to attend and will be an annual event held at Chapman during their Spring Break (flyer attached). While the event is free, there may be some sort of ticketing in order to track attendees. Please follow the Orange Unified Public Schools Foundation online. Wendy Wolf asked if this is for elementary, middle or high school students? We have left it up to the VAPA teachers. Sonia Anderson added that tryouts for the Honor Band started yesterday, and orchestra will start tomorrow. Superintendent Gonzalez stated that this is good experience for these sorts of tryouts later in life.
- The PTA Reflections gallery was last night and it was wonderful to see all the student artwork.
- Sandy Davidson added that she commends OUSD on their expansive CTE offerings. Superintendent Gonzalez said that we have the largest CTE program in the County. CTE Month is this month and there will be a presentation at the next Board meeting.
- Joseph Wilhelm commended the District on the various forms of communication that they use, including low-tech phone calls. Jolin Lang asked if we could not schedule phone calls during school hours, since parents panic when they see a phone call from the school.

### **Ana Page, OUSD Board of Education**

- This week Superintendent Gonzalez, Trustee Angie Rumsey and Trustee Page met with the OUSD Student Board members. Student Board members used to just come into Board meetings, listen, and leave. They are now getting more involved, staying longer and becoming more vocal.
- They are working on a Student Bill of Rights, and a survey has gone out District-wide. Our existing Student Bill of Rights has not been updated since 1988. Sonia Anderson said that she felt the questions had a lot of room for interpretation. Ana Page said that they were developed after discussion with the team, which

included students.

- Kathryn White asked when it went out. Superintendent Gonzalez said that it depends on the school. They made sure to talk to the students when creating the questions to make sure it is *their* product. This survey went out to secondary students only and was a Google link in their student email.
- Nicol Jones asked about the guidelines for Student Board members, since giving personal opinions from the dais instead of school reports is creating tension among students. Ana Page said that it is appropriate for students to go up to the podium during public comment for personal opinions.
- There is a School Board meeting tomorrow night.
- There is a Lunar New Year celebration on February 15 at 6:30pm in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Canyon High School, put on by Fletcher's Mandarin Immersion program. There will be singing, kung fu, etc.

### **Andrea Yamasaki, OUSD Board of Education**

- Happy Lunar New Year! Andrea gave her background and talked about why she has such a personal connection to this holiday. Appreciating other holidays makes us better and more understanding with one another. She is happy that we are doing this in OUSD.
- The PTA Candidates Forum for the Orange County Board of Education race has been cancelled. The PTA feels that if both candidates do not attend there could be perceived bias. Instead, Fullerton College is hosting a forum on February 13, virtually. This is an important race because it is a 'one and done' election. This is not a primary.
- Fourth District PTA Roundtable had representatives from different schools talking about advocacy. Irvine has a very active student advocacy group.
- Andrea expressed support for HR4519, the IDEA Full Funding Act. When bills are passed regarding schools, they need to be fully funded.
- Sacramento Safari is coming up and there are a lot of great speakers such as Tony Thurmond, the State Superintendent of Schools and Carol Kocivar with ED100. This is a place to get some great non-partisan information. Sandy Davidson added that some districts are sending students, principals, and school Superintendents. Kathy Moffat mentioned that Sandy Davidson is the chair of Sacramento Safari this year and it is a big job.
- There is a Board meeting tomorrow night, which will now be held in the Boardroom. There was a potential change to Villa Park High School, but that has been tabled for now. The meeting is at 7:00pm, lottery numbers will be passed out to the public starting at 4:30pm, and people will be allowed in the room starting at 5:00pm. On the agenda is the aquatics center at Villa Park High School for a 50 meter Myrtha pool, on a lease-leaseback plan.

### **Kathryn White, Chair**

- Old business
  - We have a few checks, but Kathryn gave another reminder for dues. Make checks out to OUSD Legislative Coalition for \$35.00.
  - Since we are not sending anyone to Sacramento Safari this year, we are looking to help Kim Van Der Hoek from El Modena High School with expenses since El Modena is not covering the cost of the whole trip. Wendy Wolf made a motion to approve funds for partial support for Kim Van Der Hoek to attend Sacramento Safari, not to exceed \$215.00. Jolin Lang seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
  - Andrea Yamasaki said that the deadline has passed to sign up for Sacramento Safari, but ask Sandy Davidson and she might be able to get you in.
- New business - None
- Wendi Forrest with the Orange Unified Public Schools Foundation (OUPSF) had a couple announcements:
  - A reminder about the VAPA event on March 19th
  - OUPSF is doing Teacher Grants again this year. We will be distributing funds before Spring Break, and there is a March 1st deadline to apply.
  - OUPSF will also be doing senior banner sales again this year. These are the banners on the interior fencing for Fred Kelly Stadium during graduation. They are now using our own OUSD Spyder Labs for the printing, so the cost has gone down considerably. Our presale is now \$30 per banner. They

will be announcing the sales at the end of March or first week in April.

- OUPSF will also be hosting Childrens Street at the Orange International Street Fair in September.
- Nicol Jones made an announcement that the Hilbert Museum on Atchison Street by the Orange Circle will be having a grand re-opening at the end of this month. They really want children to visit, so they have set up mini grants for transportation if your school would like to have a field trip to the museum. Please call the museum directly for information.

Meeting was adjourned by Kathryn White at 12:11pm.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

Report of Financial Activity, February 2024

OUPSF VAPA Flyer

**Next meeting date is Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 11:00am – O.U.S.D. Board Room 3, 1401 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867.**

For future meetings and locations, go to <https://www.orangeusd.org/departments/board-of-education/legislative-coalition>

OUSD LEGISLATIVE COALITION  
REPORT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY  
Wednesday, February 7, 2024

|                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Wells Fargo checking as of 1/01/24 | \$1432.92 |
| Deposit/Credits                    | 0.00      |
| Withdrawals/debits                 | 0.00      |
| Ending Balance on 1/31/24          | \$1432.92 |



Orange Unified Public Schools Foundation Presents

# VAPA★SHOWCASE

A CELEBRATION OF THE OUSD VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS  
FEATURING THE HONOR BAND & ORCHESTRA



**6 PM**  
Orchestra  
**7:30 PM**  
Band



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