

OUSD Legislative Coalition

September 4, 2024

OUSD Board Room 3, 1401 N. Handy Street, Orange, CA 92867

Present: **Mariana Flores** (US Rep Lou Correa), **Matt Kern** (State Senator Dave Min), **Andrea Yamasaki** (OUSD), **Ernie Gonzalez** (OUSD), **Ken Miller** (OUSD), **Heriberto Angel** (OUSD), **Whitney Amsbury** (OUEA), **Joseph Wilhelm** (OURT/OSEA), **Jennah Ross** (Chapman Hills), **David Scott** (Fletcher ES), **Nadia Hall** (Jordan ES), **Melissa Chelius** (Linda Vista), **Wendi Forrest** (McPherson Magnet), **Beth Brunett** (Nohl Canyon ES), **Arash Samadani** (Running Springs ES), **Lindsay Whiddon** (Serrano ES), **Eryn Flynn** (Villa Park ES), **Wendy Wolf** (Cerro Villa MS), **Sonia Anderson** (Santiago Charter MS), **Bianca Alcock** (Canyon HS), **Kim Van Der Hoek** (El Modena HS), **Annette Cambiaso** (At Large), **Jolin Lang** (At Large). Quorum was established.

Call to Order: Wendy Wolf, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:09am

Secretary: Lindsay Whiddon presented the May 29, 2024 minutes for review and approval. Eryn Flynn moved to approve the minutes as presented. Joseph Wilhelm seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer: Beth Brunett gave the Treasurer's Report. There have been no changes, our balance is \$1429.12. All members asked to pay \$35 dues from their organization/school. Members at large are responsible for their dues individually. Tax exempt forms are available. Invoices will be sent out via email.

Mariana Flores, US Representative Lou Correa

- Funding for school programs was maintained in the state budget including programs like Title One, and Cal Nutrition
- The 2025-26 FAFSA form will be available October 1 for testing (limited availability) and then available to all December 1. This is to troubleshoot issues before it is rolled out.
- Youth programs are beginning for this academic year:
 - Young Congressional Leaders Program for 9-12th grades is still open. Partner with local institutions to network and learn.
 - Congressional Art Competition is open to Middle and High School students. Winner will have art showcased at the capitol and travel to DC.
 - US Service Academy: applications are open for nominations
 - Congressional App Challenge is also open
- All programs and internship info is available at <https://correa.house.gov/services/students>

Matt Kern, State Senator Dave Min

- A bill was passed to expand the OC Board of Education (OCBOE) to 7 members instead of 5, as well as to align its elections with the November general election.
- AB-3216 regarding student's use of smartphones. This bill would require the school district to develop a policy to limit or prohibit the use of smartphones.
- SB-1283 regarding student's use of social media. It would allow school districts to limit or prohibit the use of social media while at school.
- Budget question: is the budget expected to be similar to last years? This year, yes. However there are concerns about next year with Prop 98 suspended. There is a good write up in the Advocacy Communicator.

Ernie Gonzalez, OUSD Superintendent

- Enrollment: OUSD enrollment was projected to decline (22,748). As of day 9 we are at 22,664 students. This is good, we typically continue to grow throughout the month and we hope to at least break even or go above the projection. This number does not include our 2 charter schools (2500 students). We are in decline, naturally, in part due to declining birth rates but we don't want to be off our projections because that is what our budget and staffing is based on.
 - Question regarding when the projections are done since there are new housing developments on the horizon.
 - We work with Davis Demographics, a large company. We also use Power School for enrollment projections to be as precise as possible.
- Crossing guards: The City of Orange made a decision in June to discontinue crossing guard services. At their height they employed 40+, but at the time of decision there were 12-14 at critical intersections. Reports of trouble with staffing and/moving crossing guards because they would quit if they weren't at their preferred location. Orange is looking to discuss the topic again at the upcoming council meeting. OUSD has been working with them on safety workshops: crossing safety and E-bike safety. Crossing enhancements are being discussed including more signage or flashing lights. Police presence has also been increased.
 - Question raised about Mayor Dan Slater requesting sign ups from parents/teachers to participate.
 - OUSD's position is that staff/teachers/parents are not to be in city streets. This is a public safety issue and the responsibility of the city. The district assumes liability for volunteers on school premises. Concerns were raised about being cleared/background checked. The city programs and OUSD are separate entities and background info is not shared.
- Bus safety: Busses have a stop sign that comes out and is meant for both sides of traffic. Bus drivers have an additional stop sign to assist with crossing.
- Election season: OUSD has 5 board seats that are open. Trustee Area 2: Sierra Vane is running unopposed. Trustee Area 3: Ana Page (incumbent) with opponent Dan Nguyen. Trustee Area 4: Sara Pelly (appointed incumbent) with opponent Armando Perez-Serrato. Trustee Area 6: Matthew Thomas, running unopposed. Trustee Area 7: Dr. Stephen Glass (appointed incumbent) with opponent Steve Rocco. Dr. Glass and Sara Pelly election's will be for the last 2 years of the term. The other areas will be for the full 4-year term.
- Heat Advisory: OUSD takes measures to avoid rigorous activity, give water breaks, and modify schedules/locations for PE, athletics and recess/lunch. Every school is unique and principals will make choices about individual campuses. Guidance was sent to principals. HVAC age and efficiency vary from site to site. Rooms will be cooled but maybe not to ideal temps. Some units are out, OUSD has portable/temporary units available.
- Question about how charter schools are affecting our OUSD enrollment
 - OUSD has requested info on how many students we have lost to Explore and OCCA. Anecdotally, the loss seems to be minimal at surrounding campus sites but OUSD is working with the county to receive information.
- Question regarding what our marketing strategy is for elementary schools. It seems that the most emphasis is on secondary/High Schools. Where is info found about primary schools?
 - Early Learning Team has been going out working on Preschool, TK and Kinder enrollment, manning booths, etc.
 - Attract and retain program: interest form on website is very active. Celebration of Schools event is on October 9 at Canyon HS. Outreach has been happening at events like

the Street Fair. An upcoming event in Tustin on 9/14, Learn and Grow. Digital outreach is also happening, including individual school websites and social media. Suggestion about making marketing materials more readily available. Feedback was also given about feeling that information is currently easy to find. Comments made on creating a more cohesive “marketing package” for our district, highlighting reasons people would want to move here and be part of OUSD.

Heriberto Angel, OUSD

- AB 3216 just passed which requires Districts to adopt a policy to limit use of phones on campus. County office will develop a task force to give us some guidance on how to implement.
- SB 10 Melanie’s Law: prevent and respond to youth fentanyl overdoses with mandated school safety plans to require prevention, response, training and education. We have a board policy where we can administer Narcan to students. School nurses /others need to be trained to administer. County office is currently developing a task force to help give us guidance on how to implement.
- AB 291 regarding recess: Starting this school year we must provide K-8 with recess. It cannot be taken away as punishment. Modifications to recess can be made, but they must have access to outside activity, social interaction, access to play. It can only be taken away when they are a danger to themselves or others. There must also be a plan to transition them back to normal activities.

Ken Miller, OUSD

- Heat: OUSD is guided by AB 1653 and takes into consideration heat, humidity, air temp, surface temp, etc. High Schools have been making arrangements to modify games at different locations. Middle schools are under the same guidelines for their athletics.
- Fred Kelly has feeder school activities coming up. Community events celebrating each High School (Elmo 9/12, Orange 9/20, Canyon 10/4 and Villa Park 10/24.) Feeder schools are given tickets to the games, school activities and student sections will be highlighted.
- OUSD was approached to possibly host the girls flag football CIF championship next year at Fred Kelly.

Andrea Yamasaki, OUSD Board Trustee

- Appreciates volunteer support
- Student safety is paramount and is looking forward to a resolution soon regarding crossing guards
- PTA: Sacramento Safari is coming up 2/24-25. Talk to your home school’s PTA
- Advocacy Training workshops are coming up
- Candidates Forum in October, details to follow
- Sign up for The Advocacy Communicator: a newsletter providing information about local and state issues

Wendy Wolf, Vice Chair

- A reminder that LegCo is a non partisan group but encourages being informed
- Erin Flynn is the parliamentarian for 2024-25 year. If you’d like to be a member at large, you need to resubmit your request. According to our bylaws there are no more than 6 spots available. Please email by 9/18. ousdlegco@gmail.com

- Whitney Amsbury gave an update that OUPSF ran children's street at this year's Street Fair. Over 250 volunteers and many student groups.

Meeting was adjourned by Wendy Wolf at 12:18pm.

ATTACHMENTS:

Report of Financial Activity, September 4, 2024

OUPSF Celebration of School flyer

Next meeting: October 2, 2024 at 11am- OUSD Board Room 3, 1401 N. Handy Street, Orange, CA 92867

For future meetings information and past minutes, go to:

<https://www.orangeusd.org/departments/board-of-education/legislative-coalition>