

OUSD Legislative Coalition

January 15, 2025

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

Present: Mariana Flores (US Rep Lou Correa), James Burandt-Nair (US Rep Young Kim), Justin Massey (State Senator Thomas Umberg), Michael Christensen (OUSD), Ken Miller (OUSD), Ana Page (OUSD), Sierra Vane (OUSD), Andrea Yamasaki (OUSD), Whitney Amsbury (OUEA), Joseph Wilhelm (OOURT/OSEA), Nicol Jones (OUPSF), Jennah Ross (Chapman Hills ES), Nadia Hall (Jordan ES), Angelique Batsel (La Veta ES), Beth Brunett (Nohl Canyon ES), Arash Samadani (Running Springs ES), Lindsay Whiddon (Serrano ES), Eryn Flynn (Villa Park Elementary), Bianca Alcock (Canyon HS), Kim Van Der Hoek (El Modena HS), Kathryn White (VPHS), Annette Cambiaso (At Large), Jolin Lang (At Large), Eileen Harfelder (At Large), Kathy Moffat (pubic), Crystal Miles (public). Quorum was established.

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

Secretary: Lindsay Whiddon presented the November 2024 minutes for review and approval. Joseph Willhem moved to approve the minutes as presented. Jolin Lang seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer: Beth Brunett gave the Treasurer's Report. Deposits of \$125 have been made and our balance is \$1604.12. 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 are available.

Chair: Kathryn gave a welcome and reminder of LegCo's purpose and responsibilities.

Mariana Flores, US Representative Lou Correa

- FAESA update: notified that prototypes were done with 95% good outcomes. 85% more people available for phone calls/help.
- Internship program began this week. Art competition is coming up. Winners receive 2 tickets to DC and artwork displayed
- Federal job fair for senior citizens upcoming: second week of February
- HR28: Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025 passed the house yesterday, will be going to the senate

James Burandt-Nair, US Representative Young Kim

- Art competition also upcoming
- Winners from congressional app challenge have been recognized
- Valentines for Veterans-Contact stephanie.edmonds@mail.house.gov for more details

Justin Massey, State Senator Thomas Umberg

- Here for the first time with colleague Emily Rodriguez
- Wildfire devastation will take up a lot of time and funding in the legislature this year
- K-12 funding is still proposed to be fully funded in governor's budget
- New bill into effect, SB939: Educational equity-schoolsite and community resources for neurodivergent students
- Senator Umberg is Chair of the senate judiciary committee. Priorities will include AI frameworks, accountability for companies like meta, and kids' access to social media
- Anxieties around immigration changes with new administration
- Young Senators Program: 9-11th graders March-Aug, one Sat/month. Applications forthcoming

- Question regarding bills upcoming re: wildfires and particularly utility company accountability

Michael Christensen, OUSD Superintendent of Schools

- Coming back from retirement as interim until permanent superintendent is hired
- Power outages: number of schools lost power very briefly. Elmo, Esplanade and Panorama are in the zone of possibly longer planned outages. Generators have been rented, placed at school sites in case power goes down. This would not power the entire school, but would power the offices for phones/internet.
- Busses are also stationed at nearby parks/locations to be prepared for any need of evacuation
- Parent communication: discussion about the best way to communicate—text message capabilities, what is the standardized best option
- Suggestion regarding students that have lost power at home for an extended time. Could there be a designated place for students to do homework, etc?
- Question regarding adding battery capacity to schools? Not a priority at this time.
- March 2025: Comprehensive School Safety Plan, how are we working toward complying with upcoming policy

Ana Page, OUSD Board Trustee

- Recently re-elected to the Board, alumni from OUSD and have kids in OUSD
- Professionally, a family engagement and child development advocate for a local agency
- County-wide report called Conditions of Children including health, housing, education
- LCAP closes this Friday. Important data and feedback so please participate.
- High School Showcases upcoming: feeder schools can see CTE programs at all schools
- TK available at every elementary except 1. Open enrollment. Adjustments at many sites to accommodate TK and early learning requirements
- Question regarding space/priority given to families enrolling at home schools

Sierra Vane, OUSD Board Trustee

- New to the board, children in the district, teaches political science at Mt. San Antonio College
- special interest in disability access

Andrea Yamasaki, OUSD Board Trustee

- Looking forward to successful 2025
- Newly elected Trustees sworn in and organizational meeting happened in December. Kris Erickson-Pres, Andrea Yamasaki-VP, and Ana Page-clerk
- Superintendent search: search firm hired (Leadership Associates)
- Upcoming topics: Study session on status of pools in the district, Governance handbook, facilities master plan
- PTA: Advocacy Forum on 1/24 at 9:30am at Fountain Valley School District, Reflections Ceremony on 1/28 at 6:30 at OUSD
- Jan 31 is registration deadline for Sacramento Safari

Ken Miller, OUSD

- HS Showcases begin next week. Approx 300 new families have inquired about enrollment.

Old Business:

- Suggested dues are \$35 for each school membership, checks payable to OUSD Legislative Coalition

New Business:

- Nadia Hall will attend 2025 Sacramento Safari and LegCo is helping to offset her conference cost.
 - Kim Van Der Hoek moves to approve funds to partially support Nadia Hall to attend Sacramento Safari not to exceed \$200, Nicol Jones seconds. Motion passed unanimously.
- Discussion re: power outage by Edison at OUSD schools and in the local community which impact students, staff and learning. Possibility of extended hours at Orange or VP libraries.

Discussion/Announcements

- Thanks to Crystal Miles, VP City Council for attending
- Note about the importance of OUPSF. Car raffle and teacher grant programs are upcoming. Jan 31 is deadline to apply
- Appreciation for Justin Massey's experience with school districts in Orange County

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Report of Financial Activity, January 15, 2025

Valentines for Veterans from Young Kim's office

Next meeting: February 5, 2025 at 11am-OUSD Board Room 3, 1401 N. Handy Street, Orange, CA 92867

Questions or comments: OUSDLegCo@gmail.com

For future meetings information and past minutes, go to:

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