

OUSD Legislative Coalition

February 5, 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), **Zechariah Jauregui** (State Senator Stephen Choi), **Tina Arias Miller** (State Assemblyman Valencia), **Michael Christensen** (OUSD), **Shannon Brown** (OUSD), **Lisa Green** (OUSD), **Eddie Angel** (OUSD), **Ernie Gonzalez** (OUSD), **Matthew Witmer** (OUSD), **Ken Miller** (OUSD), **Ana Page** (OUSD), **Sierra Vane** (OUSD), **Andrea Yamasaki** (OUSD), **Whitney Amsbury** (OUEA), **Joseph Wilhelm** (OURT/OSEA), **Nicol Jones** (OUPSF), **David Scott** (Fletcher ES), **Nadia Hall** (Jordan ES), **Beth Brunett** (Nohl Canyon ES), **Lindsay Whiddon** (Serrano ES), **Eryn Flynn** (Villa Park Elementary), **Wendy Wolf** (Cerro Villa MS), **Bianca Alcock** (Canyon HS), **Kim Van Der Hoek** (El Modena HS), **Kathryn White** (VPHS), **Annette Cambiaso** (At Large), **Eileen Harfelder** (At Large), **Kathy Moffat** (public), **Crystal Miles** (public). Quorum was established.

Call to Order: Kathryn White, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:02am

Secretary: Lindsay Whiddon presented the January 2025 minutes for review and approval. Joseph Wilhelm moved to approve the minutes as presented. David Scott seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer: Beth Brunett gave the Treasurer's Report. Deposits of \$70 have been made and \$232.31 withdraws. \$1441.81 ending balance. 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.

Mariana Flores, US Representative Lou Correa

- There is a nominee for Secretary of Ed announced, but have not scheduled a hearing yet.
- Executive Orders that have been announced—monitoring those that pertain to education
- Senior Citizen job fair date rescheduled, new date TBD

James Burandt-Nair, US Representative Young Kim

- Discussion regarding the future of Department of Education
- Questions to their office re: Elon Musk and other recent happenings, but no official statement from their office as of now.
- Cards for Veterans: VPHS and others participating!

Zechariah Jauregui, State Senator Steven Choi

- In the process of drafting SB267, pertaining to education and tax cuts for teachers to purchase school supplies

Justin Massey, State Senator Thomas Umberg

- 2 new representative from Umberg's office were in attendance
- Young Senators applications coming soon, beginning March 29. Saturdays once/month through August
- Richland is the only school in Umbergs' district. Will coordinate getting that info out to students

Tina Arias Miller, State Assemblyman Valencia

- This year he is Chair of Budget subcommittee of Accountability and Oversight

- Still part of committees of Rules, Arts/Entertainment, Gov't Organization, Revenue/taxation, Insurance and Military/Veteran Affairs
- not currently authoring any legislation that pertains to K-12
- top priority is funding for K-12

Michael Christensen, OUSD Superintendent of Schools

- Received email with questions about legislative actions and how this will impact our district
- Introduced some new/additional reps from OUSD: Shannon Brown, Lisa Green, Eddie Angel, Ernie Gonzalez, Matthew Witmer
- Parent/teacher communication platform: The Board approved to move ahead with a study on what that will be. Declining enrollment: OUSD down 4500 in the last 10 years. Approx 10 elementary schools have under 450 students. The Board approved staff to do a consolidation study. For example, schools that are nearby that have many combo classes, it could be beneficial to consolidate and have less combos.

Heriberto Angel, OUSD

- AB1858: Comprehensive School Safety Plans (active shooters or armed assailants). Requires certain requirements to be in compliance. OUSD already trains and has lockdown drills. This bill requires plans to prepare for active shooters. OUSD is seeking input to make sure drills are age appropriate and handled appropriately (school counselors aware and available, notifying family and staff beforehand, debriefing afterwards). CDE is required to provide guidance by June 2025. OCBE will support and make recommendations as well. Not trying to create overly realistic/aggressive training that some districts have implemented, but still plan to be prepared.
- AB 3216: by July 2026 will require districts to have policies to limit or prohibit use of smartphones. This will help us have consistency across the board. There are exceptions: emergency, educational or medical purposes. Details will be provided for families. District has a timeline that includes research, seeking input from stakeholders, Feb/March-forum for families both in person and virtual, educating administrators. Then the district will draft a policy based on recommendations that will meet the needs of our students. Towards the end of the school year the goal is to have it to the Board to approve. Aiming to have it in place by the start of next school year.

Lisa Green, OUSD

- AB101 ethnic studies: mandates by 2025-26 school year all HS must offer a course in ethnic studies. Beginning with the class of 2030, this will be a graduation requirement (1 semester). We have 1 Board approved 1 semester course. It is currently offered through EDGE, but will be expanded next year. Ethnic Studies steering committee is in place to plan how to further implement and build our own in-person ethnic studies course. Working to pilot in spring 2026. Also hoping for community and family input to make sure the course reflects our community. Info to come on how to be involved on the committee. There is no state mandated curriculum but guidance/framework from the state.

Ana Page, OUSD Board Trustee

- Visited Fletcher Elementary: they have a new partnership with an elementary school in Taiwan. Students are visiting this week. Special Ed has a new initiative to integrate inclusion teaching. OUSD just won a Golden Bell Award for Special Ed.

Sierra Vane, OUSD Board Trustee

- Has been making site visits including McPherson, Sycamore and Orange HS. And some VAPA showcases. More visits to come.

Andrea Yamasaki, OUSD Board Trustee

- Also at Fletcher this morning, will be holding a Lunar New year celebration at Valencia HS
- Search for a permanent Superintendent is underway. Leadership Associates firm has been hired to recruit. Meeting last night to discuss attributes that are important for the position. A survey will go out to stakeholders in the next 10 days to community partners and other electeds for input
- After that, then Interviews with the hope to hire before the end of the school year
- Last month there was a meeting to discuss governance norms and protocols.
- Questions about the Department of Ed and how that will affect us. 10% of funding comes from the Federal level. Encourage everyone to monitor and contact legislators with concerns.
- Congressman Tran has been invited to LegCo since one of our schools is in his area.

Shannon Brown, OUSD

- TK has been growing over the last several years. Available to all students who turn 4 by Sept 1. We have 800 students in TK this year. 744 applications are already in for next year. The ratios in the classroom are 1:12/ 2:24. Next year the state has said they would continue funding to make it a 1:10 / 2:20.
- Next year looking to have 2 at each school site. Teacher applications: next year will require new teachers to have 24 ECE or child development units. Working with facilities to identify spaces that are appropriate at school sites. McPherson is the only site that does not have TK currently, but there is no space.
- March 28 is when families are notified which school site they are placed in. Then it is first come first serve based on availability. Priorities on placement: Home school site //continuing students//OUSD employees//siblings at school//OUSD students but first child attending school//open enrollement//interdistrict transfers. Placement has been 100%, but may not be at their first choice site.
- Question on space/money: TK counts as any other grade level for funding. TK and K are not mandatory.
- Note that both of our local community colleges offer certification/early ed programs.

Ken Miller, OUSD

- Tonight is the El Modena showcase. Orange and VPHS have already happened. 2/19 is Canyon HS. Great attendance so far. Partnering with businesses locally to put flyers. OUSD has contacted over 350 new interested families.
- College Signing Days are happening at high schools
- Marketing: opportunities with Angels, parenting jamborees (March at the District in Tustin) and Fall 2025.
- CIF championships: soccer 2/28 and 3/1. Lacrosse championships for boys and girls in May.
- Possible flag football all star game at Fred Kelly next year
- May: middle school track meet (5/22), Elementary Carnival of Champions, Olympiad Games, all of these also help with early learning recruiting

Old Business:

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

New Business:

- Nominating Committee: Erin Flynn- if you are interested in serving on the LegCo board, reach out. Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are open. Consider a position!
- Volunteers for Nominating Committee (3-5): David Scott, Eileen Hartfelder, Eryn Flynn, Bianca Alcock, Kathryn White. Motion to approve the Nominating Committee for 2025. Motion made by Erin Flynn, second by Beth Brunett. Motion passes unanimously.
- Acknowledgement of Nicol Jones, new Mayor of VP. And Crystal Miles, VP City Counsel in attendance as well.

Discussion/Announcements

- June 4, 2025 meeting will be held in the Panther Lab (on site at District Office, NE corner by outdoor tables)
- OUPSF: Sweepstakes for a car lease or cash prize. March 25 is the drawing. If you purchase tickets, your organization gets a percentage of sales. Go to oupsf.org to purchase. Cost per entry goes down the more you purchase.
- Teacher grant program- 92 applicants being evaluated now.

Meeting was adjourned by Kathryn White at 12:06pm.

ATTACHMENTS: none

Next meeting: March 5, 2025 at 11am (Panther Lab, NE corner by outdoor tables)

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>