

OUSD Legislative Coalition

April 9, 2025

Orange Unified District Office

1401 Handy St (Panther Lab)

Orange, CA 92867

Present: **Mariana Flores** (US Rep Lou Correa), **James Burandt-Nair** (US Rep Young Kim), **Lillian Grabowski** (State Senator Stephen Choi), **Jenna Poffenberger** (State Assemblyman Phillip Chen), **Paula Guerra** (State Assemblyman Avelino Valencia), **Michael Christensen** (OUSD), **Sulema Holguin** (OUSD), **Sierra Vane** (OUSD), **Ana Page** (OUSD), **Andrea Yamasaki** (OUSD), **Whitney Amsbary** (OUEA), **Joseph Wilhelm** (OURT/OSEA), **Nicol Jones** (OUPSF), **Nadia Hall** (Jordan ES), **Ainsley Hansen** (La Veta ES), **Arash Samadani** (Running Springs ES), **Lindsay Whiddon** (Serrano ES), **Eryn Flynn** (Villa Park Elementary), **Wendy Wolf** (Cerro Villa MS), **Sonia Anderson** (Santiago MS), **Kim Van Der Hoek** (El Modena HS), Kathryn White (Villa Park HS), Annette Cambiaso (At Large), **Jolin Lang** (At Large), **Eileen Harfelder** (At Large), **Kathy Moffatt** (public), **Crystal Miles** (public). Quorum was established.

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

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

Treasurer: Beth Brunett gave the Treasurer's Report. No activity, our balance is \$1,651.81. 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

- Continuing resolution was signed into law, will sustain funding levels
- no updates currently on Department of Ed, but will keep tracking
- HR433- introduced: Department of Education Protection Act. Will update with any amendments or approvals
- House passed GOP budget resolution, Correa voted against due to cuts to education and other agencies
- Service academy nominations: Martin O., from VPHS, appointment to US Naval Academy
- Congressional Art Competition deadline is approaching

James Burandt-Nair, US Representative Young Kim

- Service academy nominations: 3 nominated (2 from Canyon HS and 1 from Orange HS)
- Art Competition deadline approaching
- Summer internship application deadline is this Friday

Lillian Grabowski, State Senator Steven Choi

- 2 bills, SB267 and SB529 are set for hearing on May 14.
- The Women of Distinction event was held in March. Women from every city in our district were honored. 2 educators were included.
- April 1 moved to a new office location. Hosting a Grand Opening on May 16, all are invited..

Jenna Poffenberger, State Assemblyman Phillip Chen

- signed a letter rejecting cuts to universities
- AB 296 relating to emergency services
- Co-authored ACR 22: Recognizing February 3-7, 2026 as National School Counseling Week

Paula Guerra, Assemblyman Avelino Valencia

- AB1224: Allow substitute teacher permit to up to 60 days, hopeful to establish as a permanent law

Michael Christensen, OUSD Superintendent of Schools

- **Sulima Holguin:** School consolidation process is ongoing. Currently forming a consolidation committee. Enrollment is declining, (also in CA and the US generally). Committee to include parents, teachers, classified staff including all of the feeder patterns. Looking at data of enrollment and school capacities. School facilities need improvement, especially at the elementary level. These changes would take effect 26-27 school year. Looking for members on the committee. Evenings beginning at the end of April.
 - Separately, filling a 711 committee (appointed by the board) to make recommendations about surplus district properties, currently regarding the LaVeta property.
- Update on Superintendent search: Board met and vetted applications, interviews are scheduled for this upcoming Friday, offsite.
- Question regarding mascot issue at CHS: in process but not resolved yet

Ana Page, OUSD Board Trustee

- 12 mandarin immersion students travelled to China last week. Visited and studied in a local elementary school
- HS graduation schedule has changed

Sierra Vane, OUSD Board Trustee

- April: School Librarian Appreciation Month
- Visited school sites: California and Taft Elementary + VAPA showcases
- Attended a graduation at Richland High School for several students
- The purpose of the consultant in superintendent search is to guide through the process
- Will attend Villa Park Pancake breakfast, encourage other schools to invite Trustees to their events

Andrea Yamasaki, OUSD Board Trustee

- Superintendent search: Thank you to Dr. Christianson for his leadership and professionalism
- Special Olympiad games on 5/23 at 9:30am. Great event to come and support
- Praise for the JROTC program at Orange HS. They were able to visit DC to meet with representatives. Fortunate to have a benefactor to support this program
- OUCPTA elected new board, Arash Samadani is the new advocacy person

Old Business:

- none

New Business:

- Election of Officers for 2025-26. The following slate has been proposed by the Nominating Committee: CHAIR: Wendy Wolf, VICE CHAIR: Lindsay Whiddon, SECRETARY: Nadia Hall, TREASURER: Beth Brunett.

- Erin Flynn moves to approve slate, Joseph Wilhelm seconds. All in favor, none opposed. The motion to approve the slate is unanimously approved.
 - Meeting scheduled for June: do we need one? Yes because of how much is currently in flux. We will plan to meet on **5/7 and 6/4**
 - Banking: Article VII, Section 6 of the Bylaws provides that the Treasurer and Chair shall be check signers on the bank account(s) (only one check signer is required to sign a check).
The following motion is made by Lindsay Whiddon to clarify the current signers on the Coalition's bank account(s):
 - Wendy Wolf and Beth Brunett are each deemed the key executives with control of the entity with respect to the OUSD Legislative Coalition's Wells Fargo account effective June 5, 2025.
 - Kathryn White shall be removed as signer to the OUSD Legislative Coalition's Wells Fargo account and is no longer key executives with control of the entity effective June 5, 2025.
- Seconded by Sonia Anderson. All in favor, none opposed. The motion to clarify the current signers on the Coalition's bank account is unanimously approved.

Discussion/Announcements

- Kathy Moffat: 4/25 at FVSD PTA Advocacy Meeting
- Potential for a social time at the end of the year. Information TBD
- OUPSF : Car Sweepstakes, Glory Johnson
 - Teacher grants are still being finalized and checks written. Grants unfunded are listed on the website and are still looking for community partners
 - VAPA showcase, 2 days this year. Big success! Hoping to expand next year to include choral music. Next year dates: March 24 and March 25
 - OUPSF: continuing to donate to high schools for underserved sports programs. Funded a handball program at Richland last year (the first sports program there!) Expanded this year to soccer. VPHS, Orange and Elmo have also received money
 - Selling graduation banners again for Fred Kelly
 - Hosting a graduation store (flowers, leis, etc). Profits go back to schools
 - Submitted application for fireworks booth in city of Orange
- Reminder about notifying LegCo if your school has a new rep for next year.

Meeting was adjourned by Kathryn White at 11:52am.

ATTACHMENTS: none

Next meeting: May 7, 2025 at 11am at
Orange Unified District Office
 1401 Handy St (Panther Lab)
 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>