

OUSD Legislative Coalition

March 5, 2025

OUSD Panther Lab

Present: **Mariana Flores** (US Rep Lou Correa), **James Burandt-Nair** (US Rep Young Kim), **Cody Mendoza** (US Congressman Derek Tran), **Justin Massey** (State Senator Thomas Umberg), **Emily Rodriguez** (State Senator Thomas Umberg), **Lillian Grabowski** (State Senator Stephen Choi), **Ali Navid** (State Assemblyman Phillip Chen), **Michael Christensen** (OUSD), **Sierra Vane** (OUSD), **Andrea Yamasaki** (OUSD), **Ernie Gonzalez** (OUSD), **Lisa Green** (OUSD), **Eddie Angel** (OUSD), **Matthew Witmer** (OUSD), **Whitney Amsbury** (OUEA), **Joseph Wilhelm** (OURT/OSEA), **Nicol Jones** (OUPSF), **David Scott** (Fletcher ES), **Nadia Hall** (Jordan ES), **Ainsley Hunsen** (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), **Bianca Alcock** (Canyon HS), **Kim Van Der Hoek** (El Modena HS), **Jolin Lang** (At Large), **Eileen Harfelder** (At Large), **Crystal Miles** (public). Quorum was established.

Call to Order: Wendy Wolf, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:02am

Secretary: Lindsay Whiddon presented the February 2025 minutes for review and approval. Jolin Lang moved to approve the minutes as presented. Sonia Anderson seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer: Wendy Wolf gave the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Beth Brunett. Deposits of \$210 have been made and 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

- Government funding is set to run out March 14. In negotiations to pass another continuing resolution.
- Department of Education- Linda McMahon confirmed as secretary confirmed
- Congressional Art Contest deadline is April 17
- Joined Prospect Elementary to read for Read Across America week

James Burandt-Nair, US Representative Young Kim

- Provided flyer for Congressional Art Competition- winner flies to DC and has art displayed

Cody Mendoza, US Representative Derek Tran

- Opening district office this week in Cypress

Lillian Grabowski, State Senator Steven Choi

- Has introduced 16 bills, 2 regarding education
- SB267-tax credit for educators who purchase supplies with own money
- SB529-tax deduction for contributions to a higher education account

Justin Massey, State Senator Thomas Umberg

- joined by Emily Rodriguez today
- Young Senators applications are closing this Sunday. Richland HS is the only school in their boundaries

Ali Navid, State Assemblyman Phillip Chen

- their office is always available to help
- State budget/Prop 98 funding: potential volatility but waiting for the Governor's May revision
- K-12 spending update, budget is highly sensitive to stock market
- Fire impact- relief is at the forefront of his priorities currently
- Budget request letter can be submitted by Districts for one time funding

Michael Christensen, OUSD Superintendent of Schools

- **Matthew Witmer:** AB2999: Healthy Homework Act, effective 1/2025. Schools need to have a plan/policy in place for the 2027-28 school year. To encourage students mental and physical wellbeing, equitable homework practices, and to include admin and parents in the discussions
- **Lisa Green:** AB101: Ethnic Studies as a graduation requirement beginning as a requirement for class of 2030 (current 7th graders) and to begin next school year. Community input is being collected.
- **Heriberto Angel:** Change in penal code laws re: neglect (AB2085). OUSD procedures remain the same. Office is available, as always, to help school sites address any situations. OUSD aims to be responsive to our community to provide things including counseling services, food security, etc. Many of our community school sites offer additional services. Community Schools are also partnered with a sister school. This funding currently comes from a grant and then aims to be self-sustaining after the completion of the grant period.

Sierra Vane, OUSD Board Trustee

- Discussed OUSD's relationship with surrounding colleges. For example: OHS mentorship program with Chapman University. Chapman's "State of the University" address included OUSD being recognized as a top employer of Chapman grads. Possibility to expand our partnerships with CSUF and SCC.

Andrea Yamasaki, OUSD Board Trustee

- Lots of celebrations at the end of the year including Employees of the Year
- Track Meets upcoming: Elementary 5/17 at 9am, Middle School 5/22 at 2:30pm and Olympiad Games on 5/23 at 9am. All events are at Fred Kelly. Volunteers are welcome!
- Superintendent search is underway. Approx 2000 people have responded to stakeholder surveys, several community calls have happened as well.
- Timeline: Applications open through March 10, interviews in April, and hoping to announce by the end of the school year.
- Read Across America Week: lots of administrators, fire departments, elected officials, etc., participating at our elementary schools
- VPHS: held their annual French Wedding. A mock wedding all in French to experience French culture
- An El Rancho student won the OC Spelling Bee. They will participate in the 100th national spelling bee in DC
- Sacramento Safari last week. Andrea Yamasaki and Nadia Hall attended. Learned more about policies and bills (report to follow)
- Canyon Foundation has their gala on Saturday, 3/8. Silent Auction is available to all: online, and open now (including a tour of Jay Leno's garage!)

Old Business:

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

New Business:

- Sacramento Safari: Nadia Hall-discussion
 - Wildfires and current Exec Orders were on the forefront of the discussions
 - Safety at schools regardless of immigration status
 - Education and prop 98 and state financial info
 - Discussion of upcoming AB and SB that pertain to education

Discussion/Announcements

- Next meeting on April 9 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. Entries close March 20, 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. If schools have any questions, please email.
- Teacher grants were finalized and Prize Patrol went out last week to deliver. 91 applications, 55 approved plus a couple more in the works with community partners. Over \$45k awarded to our schools
- 2nd annual VAPA showcase in Memorial Hall at Chapman University on 3/25 (6pm: art gallery, Honor Orchestra and Band) and 3/26 (Art gallery and Dance)
- Process to recruit a representative from each school: principals are contacted! We would love more participation from schools missing a representative.

Meeting was adjourned by Wendy Wolf at 11:55am.

ATTACHMENTS: Young Kim's Congressional Art Competition flyer

Next meeting: April 9, 2025 (due to Spring Break) 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>