

OUSD Legislative Coalition

May 7, 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), Justin Massey (State Senator Umberg), Jenna Poffenberger (State Assemblyman Phillip Chen), Tina Arias Miller (State Assemblyman Avelino Valencia), Michael Christensen (OUSD), Matt Witmer (OUSD), Craig Abercrombie (OUSD), Lisa Green (OUSD), Ana Page (OUSD), Sierra Vane (OUSD), Andrea Yamasaki (OUSD), Joseph Wilhelm (OURT/OSEA), Nicol Jones (OUPSF), Nadia Hall (Jordan ES), David Scott (Fletcher ES), Jennah Ross (Running Springs ES), Arash Samadani (Running Springs ES), Lindsay Whiddon (Serrano ES), Eryn Flynn (Villa Park Elementary), Wendy Wolf (Cerro Villa MS), Bianca Alcock (CanyonHS), Kim Van Der Hoek (El Modena HS), Kathryn White (Villa Park HS), Annette Cambiaso (At Large), Kathy Moffatt (public). Quorum was established.

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

Secretary: Lindsay Whiddon presented the April 2025 minutes for review and approval. Eryn Flynn moved to approve the minutes as presented. Arash Samadani seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer: Beth Brunett gave the Treasurer's Report. \$70 deposit, our balance is \$1,721.81. 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

- The current budget proposal includes cuts for K-12 schools—including programs like Gear Up, Trio, and other programs designed to help students from low income and first generation backgrounds succeed in higher ed. Also cuts to programs that help immigrant students become proficient English speakers. Other proposed cuts in higher ed—work study program. Proposal included 8% increase for charter school support..
- Working on appropriations for the fiscal year 2025-26. Internally requesting to be allowed to allocate funds to K-12.
- Preparing congressional certificates for HS students who request them.
- Art competition wrapped up. OUSD did participate, and there will be a reception in June.

James Burandt-Nair, US Representative Young Kim

- Introduced bill HR2911 to recognize accounting as a STEM field and to allocate funding towards accounting awareness and education.
- Another bill recently put forth: understanding the true cost of college act (no number yet)
- Part of a bi-partisan resolution. designating April as mathematics and statistics month
- HR2201 led by Rep Kim: Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act
- Art competition reception is this Friday

Lillian Grabowski, State Senator Steven Choi

- 2 bills pertaining to education: SB267: proposes a tax credit for teachers who personally purchase school supplies. SB529: tuition program for college savings fund—tax credits. Both will be heard in the senate on 5/14.

- Senator toured Santiago this month and submitted a funding request for 2 24-seater vans for transporting students with disabilities. Question regarding if the school or the district would own and maintain these vehicles.
- 5/16 from 5-7pm new office grand opening. Open House—all are invited, contact office for RSVP link
- 5/30 Non Profit of Distinction Awards. OUPSF is one being recognized! At PYL School District. In conjunction with REACH Foundation (the Non-profit of the Year).

Justin Massey, State Senator Umberg

- sb249 requires county boards of education statewide that hold elections during the primary, to require them to consolidate with the general election. The bill is receiving broad statewide support.

Jenna Poffenberger, State Assemblyman Phillip Chen

- AB296: supported by Chen, requires school districts to host an apprenticeship fair once/year. The bill is moving along in the legislative process.
- Authored AB304: regarding sick leave. The bill is currently pending in committee on health
- Will be accepting interns again in the fall.

Tina Arias Miller, Assemblyman Avelino Valencia

- AB1224 regarding substitute teacher credentialing and their days of service.. Passed on Monday. Now in senate committees for consideration
- HS graduation certificates are available upon request (OHS is the only one in their district)

Michael Christensen, OUSD Superintendent of Schools

- **Craig Abercrombie:** AB3074: mascots involving Native American terms- Canyon's "Comanche" mascot falls under this law. Bill goes into effect 7/1/2026. Schools can continue to use items with old mascots until a time it would be renovated or redone 'naturally'. Uniforms will likely not be an issue since they are replaced often. Facilities is a little more of a grey area. A lot of transition work has already happened to just list a "C" logo instead of native american imagery. This helps with not needing to repaint/replace. Plan has been shared with stakeholders. Nominations for new mascots just opened last week (already received 1000 participants!) 5/23 nominations close, early June will be a primary vote and will continue into the fall.
- **Lisa Green:** SB114: California reading difficulties act. K-2 must be screened annually unless opted out. The screenings will be used to inform instruction. This will not qualify students for special ed. Just to identify what students may be at risk and need additional services/support. Some students could be exempt if they are already being supported with an IEP, etc. Three screeners were being considered. Screener will be available in students' primary language if possible. Two screeners were piloted and "MClass" was selected as the best option for our district. This will be shared with the board on 5/21 and plan to be rolled out in August. \$104k was received for professional development from the state and resource teachers are in place at each site. Extra cost is \$7-9/student. 1300-1700 students in each grade level. This may end up being approx 10k more per year but includes additional resource materials.
 - Cradle to Career Program: looking to expose students at a younger age to career options. 2 elementaries are currently designated as "Career Connected" schools. This info goes into our CTE pathways. Hope that students are able to try out different careers earlier on and expose them to different choices.

- **Matt Witmer:** Identified 13 sites to pilot the “Parent Square” program for communication. Bringing this info to the board on 5/21 meeting. Will get feedback after next year and then move forward.
 - Question re: cell phone policy. Surveying students and teachers to see best, practical solutions.

Andrea Yamasaki, OUSD Board Trustee

- Happy to support school sites at end of the year events and activities
- Olympiad Games: 5/23 at 9:30am at Fred Kelly
- Superintendent search update: Rigorous search over the past several months to find the best candidates with consulting firm’s support. 24 candidates applied
- Dr. Rachel Monarrez has been selected as OUSD’s new Superintendent. She has a breadth of prior experience including superintendent, teacher and principal background. A 3 year contract is expected to be approved tonight at the Board meeting.
- Sharing a commentary from the Sentry written by Kris Erickson on the direction of our district.

Ana Page, OUSD Board Trustee

- 5/17 Early Learning Roundup: School Readiness Fair at Fred Kelly. Offering preschool and TK registration on-site. Plus community resource info, diaper distribution, screenings and more
- Summer programs are available through the district including a CTE program

Sierra Vane, OUSD Board Trustee

- Has been on several site visits and has more on the calendar!
- College for Kids program opened on Monday—every OUSD student is able to attend one week of camp for free
- Employee of the Year celebrations coming up on 5/13! Teachers: Elena Dull, Lynne Palucki, Kristin Safa. Classified Employees: Guillermo Gutierrez, Linda McCausland, Rosa Retiguin. Administrators: Diana Gaeta, Lisa Green, Dennis McCuiston. And Heriberto Angel being recognized by the Association of California School Administrators

Old Business:

- June 4 is our last meeting— food and celebration planned

New Business:

- Google Form: Please complete to provide information for 2025-26 LegCo representatives!
- <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtMagPXZyTRcetEdyaO2uC6kxnsdzMQzFnDT0MQn55j1GWtw/viewform?usp=sharing>

Discussion/Announcements

- OUPSF: graduation banners still on sale, deadline is Friday.
 - Graduation store: flowers, leis, etc will open after Friday
- 7th graders participated in a math competition for SBAC testing prep. CV won (among others) and would love to have an administrator or trustee come to the recognition. VPHS athletes (baseball and golf) were recognized for their high GPAs.

Meeting was adjourned by Kathryn White at 12:14pm

ATTACHMENTS: none

Next meeting: June 4, 2025 at 11am at

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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>