

OUSD Legislative Coalition

September 3, 2025

Orange Unified District Office

1401 Handy St (Panther Lab)

Orange, CA 92867

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: Lilian Grabowski (State Senator Stephen Choi), Justin Massey (State Senator Umberg), Jenna Poffenberger (State Assemblymen Phillip Chen), Sierra Vane (OUSD Board of Education), Andrea Yamasaki (OUSD Board of Education), Ana Page (OUSD Board of Education), Rachel Monarrez (OUSD Superintendent), Matthew Witmer (OUSD), Sulema Holguin (OUSD), Jose Luis Pedraza (California Elementary), Jennah Ross (Chapman Hills Elementary), Nadia Hall (Jordan Academy), Karen Barragan (Linda Vista Elementary), Melissa Engel (McPherson Magnet Academy), Sueann Parikh (Nohl Canyon Elementary), Heather Johnson (Prospect Elementary), Arash Samadani (Running Springs Elementary), Kelsey Jay (Running Springs Elementary), Lindsay Whiddon (Serrano Elementary), Beth Brunett (Villa Park HS), Jolin Lang, (Villa Park Elementary), Wendy Wolf (Cerro Villa MS), Bianca Alcock (Canyon HS), Kim VanderHoek (El Modena HS), Crystal Miles (Public), Quorum was established. ,

Call to Order: Wendy Wolf called the meeting to order at 11:04am

Secretary: Wendy Wolf presented the June 2025 minutes for review and approval. Nadia Hall moved to approve the minutes as presented. Jolin Lang seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer: Beth Brunett gave the Treasurer's Report. \$1,756.81 no change. Invoices for \$35 LegCo are available. 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. Receipts to be given upon receipt of dues. LegCo dues help subsidize Sacramento Safari - helps with airfare.

Introductions of all members.

Mariana Flores, US Representative Lou Correa

- Unable to attend

Abigail Fachtmann, U.S. Representative Kim

- Unable to attend

Lilian Grabowski, State Senator Steven Choi

- Summer internship: students from nearby high schools and colleges participated
- Planning on continuing in the future - accepting applications
- Capitol: hosted no on AB84 conference - importance of expanding educational options • SB414: advocating for less restrictive educational options
- Met with community to learn more needs of constituents (what are students looking for in district)

Justin Massey, State Senator Umberg

- 10 of 13 bills made it out of senator appropriations committee
 - SB249 was to change state code to consolidate county board of ed elections with general

elections. Looking to see what needs to be changed - disappointed but trying. It's held under submission - it's dead, needs to be reintroduced.

■ Question: What would be the fiscal impact on holding the consolidated election? Save money - staff capacity - ballots, some of it was speculative - there would be new costs - if new mandate - state would have to cover cost.

- Keeping close eye on charter school accountability
- Young Senator Programs - 20 students taken to capitol shared ideas (mental health and other students - would like to have at least 1 OUSD high school participant)
- Keeping close contact with schools - impact on immigration enforcement and how attendance is impacted.

Jenna Poffenberger, State Assemblyman Chen

- 2 weeks left on the floor 100s of bills to be voted on
- Preserve k-12 funding because of prop 98
- AB313 - extends deadline of FAFSA by 1 month
- AB3216 passed - if you need help with cell phone use restrictions, reach out to the office
 - Question: Jolin - Have we heard about how cell phone restrictions are going?
 - Jenna: not yet
 - Bianca: provided feedback. A teacher sought her out to let LegCo know: "Thank you students are more engaged, bringing kids back to the class room seeing positive change and the interactions are more enriched"

Tina Arias Miller, Assemblyman Valencia

- Unable to attend

Rachel Monarrez, OUSD Superintendent of Schools

- Happy to be here in Orange.
- Started July 1st - great start to school year
- Everyone loves the district and the students and the community.
- In her "listening and learning tour" what are the strengths and opportunities for improvement, and what are the priorities.
- Will be doing forums in the community - different parts of the district, i.e. location and times, interpretation will be available. One forum will be in Spanish - translation will be in English.
 - Thought exchange - web based: can see what other people are saying - intuitive format - can select different languages and translates based on selected language - will be taking it to the board for their input - gathers information for strategic plan for future - that's what we can expect from this school year.
- Looking at different perspectives - takes it to her team - communication around safety and how we communicate with parents. This item is very important to board member Sierra Vane. Updated websites - will send push notification for families to look at websites
- We have wonderful programs - need to update the way we share about our programs "shine them up". Wants to be the top district in Orange County in 3 years - culture of belonging, innovation and continuous improvement. Believes the work of a superintendent is culture. Keep the system growing.
- Grateful to be here, huge diversity and beauty, recognizing listening and engaging - it's why we exist; to serve our students

Wendy Wolf:

- requested an update in regard to Enrollment in the district, consolidation, early assessments (science of reading), and cell phone policy

Sulema Holguin, OUSD**Enrollment and Consolidation**

- June 18th board meeting: board asked for more options in consolidations
- The Consolidation committee will be reconvening with a 3rd party consultant - using current enrollment - we declined by 270 students but is up by 91 students from what was projected. Will be using that info for the 9/17 committee meeting. No decisions have been made.
 - Jolin: have the goals changed; Making larger schools, class sizes?
 - Sulema: Going to look at what the committee has already done. What do we want for our children? What do we know about learning? Once we have common agreement we can start looking at class sizes and school numbers. Changing the way in which we talk about it (reframing idea).
 - TK-12 school district: 149 new TK students
 - Wendy: Is there a pattern as to which grade there's a decline?
 - Sulema: Looking at warm body count, 149 students lost in 2nd. 12th grade more 116 students. 8th grade levels saw decline. 4 grade levels increased. Want to see how many of these TKers are going to continue

Dr. Witmore, OUSD**Early assessment:**

- AB114 difficulty reading screener - in effect beginning of school year
 - MClass/Dibels - comprehensive early identification was approved by board
 - K-2 teachers have all been trained. Literacy resource teachers will be assisting (on at every school).
 - Jolin - can we expand to 3rd? Whitmer to follow up
 - Wendy: Do students sit and read or are computer based?
 - Sulema: Students screen individually - required to revisit every year for k-2. Screener will be done 3 times a year.
 - Jennah Ross: When a student doesn't do well, who is responsible?
 - Sulema: It's a combination - teacher, literacy resource teacher, if needs additional support, can move to SST
 - Jolin: are parents notified of screener results? Should be shared but needs to check communication
 - Sierra Vane: believes they have to provide intervention for 6 or so weeks?
 - Jennah Ross: Is this adding to teachers' plates or is this replacing? Replacing

Cell Phone:

- Collecting feedback, looking at other districts to see what they're doing. Will work to create and have a policy to have in place and move forward with for next year. Happy to hear feedback today that it's working with students
 - Kim: concerned about cell phone policy but significant gap for emergency communication. Hears from child about shelter in place later sees email from principal

- Rachel Monarrez: 15 schools are piloting parent square: when will that be district wide? Can move faster. Checking in November. Will go back to the team and see what we can do in the meantime.
- Kim: Appreciates that there is no full ban of cell phones.
- Ms. Monarrez: after actions - look at how we want to handle things after the matter. Want to have tools in place
- Heather: Is there a school distance?
- Superintendent Monarrez: heard from the police department - shelter in place at ElMo. Schools around there make the decision. The principal can put the school on shelter at any time. Can move around school just no one in or out. Different than a lockdown. Principals are quick to take care of their students and staff.
- We need a reminder of what vocab means "shelter in place" lockdown" etc. (a generated text - there was a shelter in place everything is good pick up at regular time)
- How is parent square working and for multiple students: feedback seems positive.

Lisa Green:

- Unable to attend

Heriberto Angel:

- Unable to attend

Andrea Yamasaki, OUSD Board Trustee

- Shoutout to volunteers who are here
- Thank you to Dr. Monarrez for transparency and goals
- At meetings have been working on single point entry
- All or almost all schools have shade structures. Millions of dollars spent to upgrade schools
- Phase 1 and 2 of Measure S
- Crossing guards worked with the City of Orange - worked with consultant - city approved study, Chief of Police and project manager 17 locations - based on choice of need, traffic and how many kids are walking to school
 - Jolin: Are we looking at Villa Park, kids are running across the street and cars rushing through.
 - Send an email - get it documented that have called OUPD or Sheriffs departments
- Now serving as parliamentarian at Orange Unified Council PTA and Orange County School Board Association - working on networking.

Sierra Vane, OUSD Board Trustee

- Had gate presentation in June: go on for video
- Math curriculum is being looked at again
- District is looking at getting principals scripts; screens will be placed in classrooms that display info - full integration TBD
- Safety plans to be on the website - not all information can be on there for safety
- Great start to the school year.
- Yesterday Crescent and Knoll Canyon recognized yesterday as distinguished school

Old Business:

- No old business at this time

New Business:

- LegCo dues - \$35 reach out for questions
 - Members at large up to 6 more can be voted in - deadline 9/24 email if interested ●
- OUPSF: event at VP HS - tickets will be on sale 10/17

Meeting was adjourned by Wendy Wolf at 12:17 pm

ATTACHMENTS: none

Next meeting: October 1, 2025

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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>