

OUSD Legislative Coalition

October 1, 2025

Orange Unified District Office

1401 Handy St (Panther Lab)

Orange, CA 92867

Approved

Present: Mariana Flores (U.S. Rep Lou Correa), Abigail Fachtmann (U.S. Rep Young Kim), Lilian Grabowski (State Senator Stephen Choi), Justin Massey (State Senator Umberg), Jenna Poffenberger (State Assemblymen Phillip Chen), Paula Gurra (Assemblyman Avelino Valencia), Sierra Vane (OUSD Board of Education), Andrea Yamasaki (OUSD Board of Education), Rachel Monarrez (OUSD Superintendent), Matthew Witmer (OUSD), Elena Rodriguez (OUSD), Sulema Holguin (OUSD) Arash Samadani (OUCPTA), Nadia Hall (Jordan Academy), Karen Barragan (Linda Vista Elementary), Sueann Parikh (Nohl Canyon Elementary), Heather Johnson (Prospect Elementary), Kelsey Jay (Running Springs Elementary), Lindsay Whiddon (Serrano Elementary), Roxanne Castillo (West Orange Elementary), Wendy Wolf (Cerro Villa MS), Crystal Miles (Public), Marten Lopez (Public - Prospect Elementary) Esmeralda Garcia (Public - Prospect Elementary)

Quorum was established.

Call to Order: Wendy Wolf called the meeting to order at 11:06am

Secretary: Wendy Wolf presented the September 2025 minutes for review and approval. Nadia Hall moved to approve the minutes as presented. Arash seconded. The minutes passed by voice vote.

Treasurer: Lindsay Whiddon gave the Treasurer's Report- \$1,756.81 balance. 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 expenses.

Rachel Monarrez, OUSD Superintendent of Schools

Introduced Assistant Superintendent Olga McCullough and OUEA President Karin Baron

Wendy Wolf:

Introduced request for Member at Large Crystal Miles
Member at Large requirements read off from By Laws
Wendy Wolf motioned and Arash Samadani seconded
Motion passed by voice vote

Question: how are we getting the word out for Member at Large?
It's posted on our district website - only one name was submitted

Mariana Flores, US Representative Lou Correa

- Officially on government shut down
- Dept of Ed 80% of employees will be furloughed
- No changes in collections or loans
- Congressman working on securing funding for Title 1

- Federal casework social security still accepting applications but unsure of when they'll receive response
- Some offices are still functioning as normal
- OUSD HS that App Challenge is not affected - Oct 20 deadline - we have some OUSD student participation
- Young Congressional Leaders program 260 enrolled, many from Canyon HS - open to any HS student open to outside OUSD. 9-12 grade. Once completed they can receive letters of recommendation. Flyers are available.
- Oct 24 Job Fair. It was planned to be a federal job fair - unsure of how it will be affected as a result of the shut down. Those interested can be registered with Mariana. About 400 people from local cities.

Abigail Fachtmann, U.S. Representative Kim

- The government is currently shut down
- Rep. Kim voted to continue funding. Offices are open and operating in Anaheim and MV
- Congressional App Challenge is open
- Service Academy nominations 2029 or 2030 deadline November 7th for HS seniors

Lilian Grabowski, State Senator Steven Choi

- 9/19 Lilian spoke at a nutritional meeting: over 200 attendees.
- AB1264: Ban on ultraprocessed foods - Senator Choi is in support: passed through assembly and senate - currently on governor's desk to be signed
- SB411: Stop Child Hunger Act of 2025: enrolled in programs during school year but struggles in summer for meals - established summer EBT \$120. Also on the governor's desk.
 - Question was asked: is this bill also addressing the cost?
 - Lilian: EBT would be state funding but not sure about ultraprocessed food during school year but not during summer - will need to follow up.
- Senate Fellows Program deadline: 12/8 at midnight. It's an 11 month program for college students and recent graduates - can reach out for email.

Justin Massey, State Senator Umberg

- AB 1348: currently before the governor. Addresses average daily attendance affected by presence of immigration enforcement - if signed adds up to 10 days credit.
 - Question: If there is an emergency - do we share student info or as a school overall? What average would it compare to(last year)?
 - Justin will follow up
- Partnering with OUSD for Red Ribbon Week: working with Fletcher and West Orange - waiting to hear from the other schools within the Senator's boundaries.
- Looking for events at school - can share certificates for taking pledge to remain drug free
 - Question: do we email to participate? Elena Rodriguez will reach out

Jenna Poffenberger, State Assemblyman Chen

- Session is over and the Assemblyman is back in office and out in the community. It's a great time to reach out.
- Working on Red Ribbon Week certificates
- Still accepting fall internship applications.

Paula Gurra, Assemblyman Avelino Valencia

- Several bills are on the governor's floor
- AB1224: Extend Substitute Teacher Emergency 30 days to 60 days. On the Governor's desk.
- Red Ribbon Week - coordinating with schools - certificates and bookmarks.

Wendy Wolf:

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

Rachel Monarrez:

- Supreme Court's ruling regarding parental rights. Parents can ask to opt out based on religious objections to curriculum
 - Currently working with teachers about opt outs - need to make sure that we're not discriminating against groups of people.
 - Heather Johnson: When do these topics start coming about?
 - Elena Rodriguez: Parents have rights to review curriculum- do not feel there is anything that stands out in our curriculum
 - Teachers can provide syllabus. With digital access - parents can see all the district has adopted.
 - Arash Samadani: What happens if there are multiple opt outs from different groups? Where are those resources coming from?
 - Superintendent: It will not be easy to implement but will continue to work together.

Sulema Holguin, OUSD**Enrollment and Consolidation Information**

- After action review: Presented information to the board. Presented enrollment information (declining enrollment). Committee meeting dates have not been set but they are meeting in November. They're in the awareness and study phase.

Matt Whitmer and Elena Rodriguez, OUSD:

- Reading assessment - Extended reading screener deadline for some schools.
- BOY: M class - reading difficulty screener benchmark, MOY - low/may be at risk - will need further support/possible assessment
 - K-1st grade 2 assessments (are one on one) phonemic awareness & phonics
 - 2nd grade: 4 assessments same as k-1(comprehension on computer) + fluency and comp

Assessment scores:

- Overall k-2:
 - 30.14% above benchmark
 - 23.89% at benchmark
 - 16.58% below benchmark
 - 29.39% well below benchmark
- Kinder: wider gap in skills
 - 30.29% above benchmark
 - 18.17% at benchmark
 - 18.56% below benchmark
 - 32.98% well below benchmark

- 1st grade
 - 26.77% above benchmark
 - 26.26% at benchmark
 - 17.58% below benchmark
 - 29.39% well below benchmark
- 2nd grade
 - 33.43% above
 - 27.01% at benchmark
 - 13.66% below- can get to benchmark
 - 25.9% well below benchmark - need tier 2 intervention
- Question: What is the notification system that a screen is being completed? Parents were informed during data confirmation via a letter. Parent teacher conferences will share results and share how students will be supported. A letter will be sent to parents about the 2nd benchmark.
- Discussion: how are we sharing information to parents? Suggestions to send a text that an important email is being sent. Parent square sends text messages.
- The reading screeners are not used for high stakes things like retention or identification for special education. It's showing kids that might be at high risk and try to get them to to grade level
- Superintendent- Every elementary school has a literacy resource teacher. This is the 2nd year and they are seeing a difference for children.
- Students "at risk" will participate in a 6 weeks cycle curriculum - want all kids at grade level by 3rd grade.
 - Elena Rodriguez: They are working on gathering and analyzing data identifying if there are certain groups or cohorts that tend to remain at risk
 - Wendy Wolf: thankful for funding Literacy teachers - are there staff that are willing to work with students before school at elementary?
 - Superintendent - Can possibly use resource funding if there are teachers who are willing. Needs to be personalized - know your school best - believes needs to get systemic. If we see pockets in our community that students are entering school "at risk" there may be a need to funnel resources to early ed 0-2nd grade.
- Matt Whitmer: TK is a multiyear project
- Elena Rodriguez: AB130: 21/22 plan to ramp up universal pre-k to 4 years old =TK was expanded. Need to be 4 by 9/1. Adult to student ratio 10:1 with max 24 average at a site. Decided to cap at 20.
 - With toileting: Need to find an employee that is willing - working with labor partners - working on resolving this year - impacts cares partners etc and needs that support.
 - If a student needs toileting support, a meeting is held with parents to discuss needs.

Andrea Yamasaki, OUSD Board Trustee

- Walk to school day is today and next week.
- Canyon HS will be announcing new mascot
- It's an honor to be on the Orange County School Boards Association - k-12 member organization:
 - Look at cuts that are made - 17 programs that are impacted by budget (i.e.: IDEA, medi-caid, SNAP etc)

- Title 1 doesn't look as though it's at risk
- Population in California is flat - drop in birth rates
- Losing ½ million kids in the next decade
- Workshops open to everyone - FCMAT

Sierra Vane, OUSD Board Trustee

- September welcomed student representatives
- Presentation on arts spending grant - excited to learn about materials, speakers, instruments etc.
- Absenteeism - letting parents know importance of attendance
- New service with school psychologist- 20 min appts phone or in office. Quick question open to all OUSD families
- Parent workshops - understanding neurodiversity, navigating teen years and other supports.
- Tries to tour schools. She attended the Running Springs jogathon.

Old Business:

- No old business at this time

New Business:

- **Need Parliamentarian**
- LegCo dues - \$35 reach out for questions
- OUPSF: October 15 at VPHS 4:45pm Celebrations of Schools

Meeting was adjourned by Wendy Wolf at 12:17pm

ATTACHMENTS: none

Next meeting: November 5, 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>