

OUSD Legislative Coalition

November 5, 2025

Orange Unified District Office

1401 Handy St (Panther Lab)

Orange, CA 92867

Approved

Present: **Mariana Flores** (U.S. Rep Lou Correa), **Andrew Garcia** (U.S. Rep Young Kim), **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), **Rachel Monarrez** (OUSD Superintendent), **Matthew Witmer** (OUSD), **Elena Rodriguez** (OUSD), **Sulema Holguin** (OUSD), **Ernie Gonzalez** (OUSD), **Christina Lin** (OUSD), **Sandy Schaffer** (OUSD), **Jose Luis Pedraza** (California Inspire Academy) **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** (Member at Large), **Marten Lopez** (Public - Prospect Elementary), **Esmeralda Garcia** (Public - Prospect Elementary), **Melissa Engel** (McPherson Magnet), **Nicol Jones** (OUPSF), **Kim Vandertbeck** (El Modena HS), **Whitney Amsbary** (OUEA), **Jolin Lang** (VPE), **Bianca Alcock** (Canyon HS), **Joseph Wilhelm** (OUEA), **Roxanne Castllo** (West Orange El), **Kathy Moffat** (Public), **Jenna Ross** (Chapman Hills El), **Beth Brunett** (VPHS),

Quorum was established.

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

Secretary: Nadia Hall presented minutes and moved to approve the September 2025 minutes as presented. Joseph Wilhelm seconded. The minutes approved passed by voice vote.

Treasurer: Beth Brunett shared the LegCo account has a \$1,756.81 balance. Invoices are available upon request. All members asked to pay \$35 dues from their school organization. Members at Large are responsible for their dues individually.

Mariana Flores, US Representative Lou Correa

- Government Shut down - Representative Correa's office is still open to constituents.
 - 140 headstart programs have been closed - left without access to health and childcare services.
- HR5655 - No Shame at School Act - introduced to the House.
- Service academy due today
- The Young Congressional Leaders program is still open to applicants.

Andrew Garcia, U.S. Representative Young Kim

- The government has been shut down. Representative Kim's office is fully staffed but wait times are longer.
- Congressional App Challenge is closed

Lilian Grabowski, State Senator Steven Choi

- Senator Choi's office is using this time to meet with members of the community. The office is gathering legislative proposals.

Justin Massey, State Senator Tom Umberg

- It's a great time to review the last legislative review.
 - Good time for reflection
 - Encourages people to talk to legislative representatives
- SB414 - Vetoed - expects disagreements about charter accountability.
- Competing bill - AB84 - the chair pulled back and will continue to work on the bill.
- AB1348 - Vetoed
- AB49- Prohibits Immigration Officers from being on campus without warrant
- SB98 - signed
- AB495 - signed

Jenna Poffenberger, State Assemblyman Chen

- In recess
- Interns: college and high school students - research projects and bringing the students to events out in the field
- Assemblyman Chen's office is still accepting interns.
- Bill proposals - it's a great time to reach out to office.

Wendy Wolf:

- Special education award congratulations to OUSD.
- School Administration Week: Oct. 12-18th

Rachel Monarrez, OUSD:

- Listening and Learning forums have launched
- Interpretation and childcare available. Information can be found on OUSD website and social media.
- Data from the LCAP survey and Listening and Learning will be gathered to take to the board.

Sulema Holguin, OUSD:

OUSD Resource Optimization Coalition (formerly the Consolidation Committee)

- Discussed ideas will be shared with the board
- Will be discussing the "WHY"
- November 13 meeting - encouraged people to watch the meeting as will be recorded

Matt Whitmer, OUSD:

- Discussed importance of LCAP Survey
- 22,000 responses last year

Christina Lin, OUSD:

- Great opportunity to express thoughts about OUSD and would like to hear from everyone.
- Will analyze and do a presentation to the board.
- Wants to improve communication results and information from the LCAP- podcast available on district website (in english only).

- Wants to increase responses and is currently 5% ahead of last year in responses.

Sandy Schaffer, OUSD:

- LCAP is another tool with a control accountability plan.
- What are the interests and what are the concerns?
- LCAP closes January 16, 2026 and then will look at what is needed/what's not needed.
 - Arash Samadani: emails sent out - how are we reaching out to our families that are not on technology platforms?
 - Best way to tap in through school events, Fred Kelly QR code while they wait, focus groups, work with community leads, hard copies are available
 - Multiple students at different grade levels - need to complete one per student.

Ernie Gonzalez, OUSD::

- Parent workshops started in September 2025 and will address topics such as Suicide, Bullying, Social Awareness, Anxiety, High Achievers, Peer Support and many others.
 - Attendance varies: There was a suggestion for childcare to be made available, so that may become available.
- Workshops can be found on the OUSD website.
- Parent consultation with school psychologists are available.
- Teams are working together, yesterday there was a training on mental health crisis.
- Food scarcity and food insecurity - food programs have been impacted. The district wants to make sure families have resources so students are ready to learn. School sites have been provided with resources to share with families. Looking to increase our current resources. Dry pantries at some schools.
 - People can help by donating dry foods and volunteering at food banks.
 - If there are specific items needed, reach out to the Student Support and Community Engagement office.
 - Reach out to Christine Nelson regarding foster youth services.
 - Nadia Hall: Discussed concern regarding the push for perfect attendance for high achieving students and anxiety when they're sick.
 - Ernie Gonzalez: they are trying to promote wellness and not necessarily perfect attendance.

Sierra Vane, OUSD Board Trustee

- Special Education Award
- Update M Class literacy progress - k-2 - above National Averages - updated on March
- Ethnic Studies pilot presentation at next board meeting
- Participated in attending Portola MS award ceremony, Chapman College president inauguration, Friendly Center presentation, Celebration of Schools, Trunk or Treats, Dia de los Muertos, water safety, and other activities.

Andrea Yamasaki, OUSD Board Trustee

- US Presidential Award given to Canyon HS
- Participated in Trunk or treats and Dia de los Muertos celebrations
- Orange County teachers of the year - 3 nominees from OUSD
- Board Meeting discussing facilities master plan
- Ethnic Studies received assistance from UCI to develop curriculum

- Congrats to the Dodgers! Freddie Freeman is an El Modena alumni.

Old Business:

- No old business at this time

New Business:

- Bylaws read in accordance with Parliamentary position - Arash Samadani was appointed and accepted.
- LegCo dues - \$35 reach out for questions
- Nicol Jones: OUCPTA
 - The celebration of schools was a success.
 - Teacher Grant applications due by November 15, 2025
- Kathy Moffat - appreciated specialist presenting to OUSD trustees regarding contracts at board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned by Wendy Wolf at 12:18pm

ATTACHMENTS: none

Next meeting: January 14th, 2026

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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>