

**OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
5801 E. CONIFER STREET
OAK PARK, CALIFORNIA 91377
(818) 735-3206**

NOTICE OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING - AGENDA #861

Written notice is hereby given in accordance with Education Code Section 54957 that a special Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Oak Park Unified School District will be held:

DATE: Thursday, June 28, 2012
TIME: 6:00 p.m. Open Session
PLACE: **Oak Park Unified School District – Conference Room**
5801 E. Conifer Street, Oak Park, CA 91377

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Public Comments

OPEN SESSION

Review/Revise Oak Park Unified School District Moral Imperatives & Goals for 2012-13

Date: June 25, 2012

Anthony W. Knight, Ed.D.
Superintendent and Secretary to the Board of Education

**OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
2011-2012 TEACHING AND LEARNING
MORAL IMPERATIVES**

We believe:

- Every student can learn, and every student will learn, when presented with the right opportunity including intervention strategies for students not progressing towards or meeting standards.
- The learning experience will include time for thoughtful reflection so that students learn to value and take pride in their work and understand the processes by which they learn most effectively.
- Learning opportunities should be as authentic as possible and personally meaningful. Students need to explore, create and discover.
- Every student should be encouraged to become independent learners, thinkers and producers.
- Each student's natural joy of learning needs to be developed in a safe, stable, balanced and nurturing psychological and social environment so that they will become lifelong learners.
- Every student will meet or exceed state standards, which are a floor not a ceiling, and will not in any way restrict creative, imaginative and/or enriching teaching and learning experiences.
- All students should receive instruction that is differentiated. Learning experiences should emphasize depth, complexity, and novelty.
- All students should participate in programs that cultivate an environment that fosters character development, ethical behavior, social responsibility, leadership skills and community service.
- We recognize and celebrate diversity and understand it is our obligation to prepare our students with the appropriate tools and skills to live in a global society.
- Technology is one of the tools to enhance the learning experience.
- All aspects of student wellness are of paramount importance. This includes child nutrition, physical fitness, and mental health and well-being.

GOALS	ACTION PLANS/MEASURABLE OUTCOMES
1a. Our emphasis on differentiated instruction shall continue so that all of our students experience a challenging learning environment through depth, complexity, and novelty.	• Provide more specialized professional development for teachers and staff. • Embed this emphasis into the teacher goal setting and evaluation process. All instructional staff should have goals related to this. • Provide more opportunities for staff who attain expertise in certain areas to train other staff. • Release teachers to observe each other to hone expertise in this area.
1b. Improved articulation in math between MCMS and OPHS.	• New math articulation committee (K-12) will focus this year on transitions from grades 5 to 6 and 8 to 9.
1c. Provide opportunities for students that will guide their future	• Maintain the college/career counseling position at OPHS as a priority

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education/career choices, including college and career counseling at OPHS, vocational, technical arts and ROP classes.	- despite budget issues if possible. - Implement new independent project program at OPHS. - Encourage more students to opt for 4-year colleges upon graduation from high school and ensure proper guidance throughout a student's high school career. - Explore a post-graduation tracking program to determine post-secondary school success.
1d. Science instruction will emphasize experiential learning at all grade levels.	- Expand I2I, QuikScience and other programs to involve more students and teachers. - Train 16 math and science teachers on the use of new advanced SmartBoards. - Install new science labs at OPHS, which should encourage more hands-on learning. - Continue marine science focus at all levels.
1e. Define, communicate and more fully implement GATE program.	- Update the GATE brochure. - Encourage more professional development for staff and offerings for parents. - Articulate and expand the enrichment opportunities available to students at all of the schools. - Ensure that the three pillars of a quality GATE program are in place at all levels: Differentiation, Acceleration, and Enrichment.
1f. Intervention programs will be available to students in reading, writing and mathematics at all levels to ensure that all students are meeting standards in literacy and numeracy. Assist Friends of Oak Park Schools in developing an elementary summer school program.	- Math intervention program currently in place at grade 6 will be expanded to grade 7 at MCMS. - Explore a software program to better identify students who require intervention and help prescribe the types of intervention needed. - OPHS will reduce the number of lower level math classes and instead provide intervention in the regular math classes. - Design elementary summer school program that includes intervention and enrichment and approve a program by February.
1g. A district-wide plan for environmental awareness will continue to be developed including combined efforts of actions at home, school and in the community.	- Expand the EEAC to include students and teachers. - EEAC will plan events and areas of focus throughout the school year including community field trips. - Recycling programs will be expanded at all levels. - Science enrichment programs will emphasize environmental science.

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	• Energy conservation will be monitored and quantified. • Restructure the elementary art and music programs. • Add AP art classes at OPHS. Increase course offerings in the arts. • Restructure computer applications program/class at OPHS. • MCMS will add art crossover to the Core classes. • Child nutrition program will continue to improve food quality and serve more natural food and vegetarian options. • MCMS staff will continue to discuss and review homework options. • Add a new District nurse. • Oak Park High School staff will monitor student stress levels and overall balance. • Maintain programs already in place — add girls lacrosse at OPHS • Improved field at OPHS may improve participation. • National Federation of State High School Associations, Fundamentals of Coaching course required for new coaches. • More administrative oversight of team sports • More flexibility will be available in terms of P.E. credit for in school and our of school athletics. • Continue specialized staff development for special education teachers, including increasing the number of teachers who have earned the Autism Authorization. • Offer staff development opportunities for general education teachers in specialized instructional strategies for learners with disabilities. • Expand targeted professional development for instructional aides, to include district-level and county-level trainings. • Increase articulation between sites for transitioning students. • Implement a parent education component that addresses the supports available as students transition from one site to another. • Safe School Ambassadors program at MCMS is to be reviewed and either modified or replaced. • Elementary Counselor will implement new assemblies - <i>The Bully Game</i>. This supports an integrated program to address bullying at the elementary level. • Courses will be offered for elementary and pre-school parents in
1h. Continue to offer arts programs that will emphasize creativity, skill development, and universal participation in all areas of the visual and performing arts.	
1i. All programs should emphasize wellness and balance.	
1j. Our athletic programs will develop leadership, teamwork, and individual athletic potential.	
1k. Our special education programs will provide the best possible outcomes in terms of meeting the specific needs of each child.	
1l. Counseling programs at all levels will be supported in order to meet the social and emotional needs, academic and career counseling of all students, as well as parent education. Anti-bullying strategies will be embedded in the program at each school. Stronger anti-bullying programs at elementary schools and middle school.	

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	child development and other topics and explore options for parents of secondary students. • Elementary counselor will continue 'recess groups.' • Maintain counseling positions at all levels despite budget cuts if possible.
1m. We will continue to offer more opportunities for our students to attain proficiency in other languages and continue to evaluate the structure of our modern language programs.	• Develop a plan for the continuance of the Chinese (Mandarin) language program as the FLAP grant expires. • Add Spanish V AP at OPHS. • Provide more authentic learning experiences in language classes.
1n. Implement digital citizenship curriculum at all grade levels.	• Countywide curriculum will be developed and adopted.
1o. Develop standardized elementary technology curriculum.	• Articulate programs at the three elementary schools that center on a single group of outcomes. Exit skills and outcomes will be identified.
1p. Review and revise technology standards exam to reflect what is actually being taught.	• Look at ways to meet these requirements through more authentic experiences such as iPhone App development, web design, etc. • Revise plan for graduation requirements. • Remove computer applications prerequisite.
1q. Update Technology Plan annually to specify how mission statement will be actualized in the educational process.	• Update Tech Plan by Technology Committee and synthesize it into a more user-friendly document emphasizing how technology will meet learning goals. • Develop and create a technology Visionary Outlook for the future.

OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2011-2012 ORGANIZATION AND SHARED LEADERSHIP

MORAL IMPERATIVES

We Believe:

- That teachers and school administrators must be empowered, and will be provided with the support needed to meet our strategic objectives.
- That the district will work to attract and retain a diverse, talented workforce and continue to provide opportunities for professional development.
- That we must engage students, parents and the community as key participants and full partners in our mission.
- That everyone in the organization should feel personally responsible for the process of learning and will be held accountable for student success.
- That we will learn from our mistakes and implement continuous improvement.
- That working together with our teachers and classified associations is essential to ensure positive morale, solve problems jointly, and to model a professional collaborative working relationship.

GOALS	ACTIONS PLANS/MEASURABLE OUTCOMES
2a. Teachers should be empowered as leaders at the school and district levels and we will continue to find ways to enhance teacher leadership throughout the District.	• Engage teachers in committees such as math articulation, writing, EEAC, GATE DAC, Curriculum Council, and more.
2b. Teachers, parents, administrators, and students need to be fully invested in the decision making process.	• Continue to honor the School Site Council model. • Support the PTO Council and use it as a working group to assist with decision-making, ideas, innovations, etc.
2c. Principals shall work together, support each other, and share innovations.	• Principals will work as a part of the Leadership Team on problem solving and ways to further our moral imperatives, goals, and action plans.
2d. Professional development will be matched to organizational goals and will emphasize choice, relevancy, and district vision. Participants shall be encouraged to share their new learning.	• Develop new ways for teachers to share expertise that they have acquired. • Find ways to continue quality professional development even though federal funds for this purpose have been cut.
2e. Continue moving toward a collective bargaining approach that focuses on a joint problem solving with employee associations.	• Use the negotiations process to focus on solving issues and finding innovations to better the quality of education, enhance employee morale, and make Oak Park a great place to work.
2f. Administrators at the school and district level should be engaged with the students in the learning process.	• Encourage administrators to find ways to work with students on a regular basis. Some ideas are through school gardens, enrichment activities, club sponsorships, etc.
2g. Develop a communication and advocacy plan for all relevant stakeholder groups.	• Begin a newsletter that is mailed out on a regular basis to the community at large.

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	• Support Our Children Our Future advocacy group. • Form a community outreach committee and develop a program that finds ways to engage our community in the schools and ways for our schools to serve the community in areas beyond our core mission of providing a world-class education. • Embed these moral imperatives, goals, and action plans into the core work that we do each day.
2h. Develop a community outreach program.	
2i. Ensure that the moral imperatives, goals and associated action plan are presented to and understood by all levels of the organization and foster a decision making process whereby all decisions are weighed against the current goals.	

**OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
2011-12 FINANCE, BUDGET AND FACILITIES
MORAL IMPERATIVES**

We Believe:

- The district will maintain a balance budget that reflects our priorities.
- The district will operate with efficiency, effectiveness, integrity and transparency.
- The budget and the facilities should support our moral imperatives and collaborative approach, and reflect our mission.

GOALS	ACTION PLAN/MEASURABLE OUTCOMES
3a. To provide safe, clean, and high quality facilities that support the instructional program.	• Focus on this goal when the Measure R projects are re-examined (see 3f). • Enhance the landscape at the schools and ensure that weeds are eradicated, turf and plants are watered and maintained, and the general appearance of the schools is pleasing to the community.
3b. Continue to evaluate and explore options to create greater efficiency and maximize resources.	• Continue to look for ways to save energy, water, and gas, especially when looking at Measure R upgrades.
3c. Continue to educate and involve our community in becoming partners in providing financial stability and support for our district.	• Work with Friends of Oak Park Schools and the sub-committee Our Children Our Future to build positive affiliations among parents, the community, and the schools.
3d. Ensure employee total compensation is always a priority in the budgeting process, as part of the effort to provide the highest quality education to all students.	• Work with employee associations on common goals such as to preserve the length of the school year, maintain reasonable class sizes, and provide quality health benefits to employees as much as possible in the face of extraordinary cuts to public school funding by the state and federal governments.
3e. Maintain fiscal responsibility and transparency throughout the district and to the community at large.	• Use our resources fully toward our core mission: To educate our students and maintain our employees without placing the District in financial jeopardy in what has become a catastrophic fiscal environment due to state and federal cuts. • Continue meetings with parents and staff regarding the budget and our financial situation.
3f. Provide an annual updated spending plan and a long-term strategic vision for Measure R and C6.	• Consult with the schools and then revise the Master Plan and provide costing and prioritization of projects based on the available funds. • Begin an aggressive schedule of construction for the next several years to use bond funds issued in spring of 2011. • Articulate C6 spending plan that is aligned with the Visionary Outlook.

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