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Introduction Date	11/8/2023
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Enactment Date	



**OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Community Schools, Thriving Students

## Board Cover Memorandum

**To:** Board of Education

**From:** Valarie Bachelor, Board Director

**Meeting Date:** November 8th, 2023

**Subject:** Resolution Calling for a Ceasefire and Release of Hostages in Israel and Palestine

### **ASK OF THE BOARD**

Approval by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2324-0159 - Calling for a Ceasefire and Release of Hostages in Israel and Palestine

### **BACKGROUND**

On October 7th, Israeli civilians were attacked by Hamas and thousands died or were held as hostages. Since then the Israeli government, with the support of the US government, has launched military attacks on Gaza that have claimed thousands of Palestinian civilian lives. The conflict has sparked international attention and outcry. OUSD is home to many Jewish, Arab-American, Palestinian and Middle-Eastern families and staff who have been impacted by these events and have called on our district to support a ceasefire, the release of hostages and safe passage of humanitarian aid. This resolution aims to speak to those calls.

**OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 2324-0159**

**Resolution Calling for a Ceasefire and Release of Hostages in Israel and Palestine**

**WHEREAS**, the Oakland Unified School District is committed to creating inclusive and just conditions for all students. OUSD is a district where we cherish our cultural richness and ensure all communities feel respected and heard, including our Jewish community and our growing Arab-American, Palestinian and Middle-Eastern immigrant communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Oakland has a long and proud history as a national beacon of anti-war activism and opposition to US military intervention in the neocolonial world; and

**WHEREAS**, we mourn the loss of all Israeli and Palestinian civilian lives lost from October 7th to the present, and also throughout the decades of displacement, occupation, oppression and blockade endured in Gaza and the West Bank;

**WHEREAS**, the Israeli military attack on Gaza responding to the Hamas terror attack in Israel on October 7th, has already led to thousands of civilian deaths and casualties, including thousands of children. It now threatens to broaden to other parts of the Middle East and deepen other ongoing humanitarian crises already impacting many families within our schools.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that OUSD calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, the release of all hostages, the withdrawal of Israeli troops currently invading Gaza, and the safe passage of substantial humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that OUSD encourages all staff to read and learn about the region in order to help students understand the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the historical context, and the impact on all communities and in the process to create an environment in their schools and classrooms that encourages open, respectful, and well-informed discussions on Israel and Palestine, enabling students and staff to build empathy and compassion, and engage in constructive dialogue, where no student or staff member feels singled out for their identity, ethnicity or religious affiliation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that OUSD vows to combat anti-semitism, islamophobia and ethno-nationalism in all its forms. We recognize that many communities within OUSD have had long and complex histories of trauma, displacement, and oppression and are committed to creating safe learning spaces for each and every student in OUSD:

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that OUSD advocates for the dignity and safety of residents in every community, regardless of what crimes any government may commit, and that peaceful diplomacy is the only way to achieve these goals.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, by the Governing Board of the Oakland Unified School District by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NOE:

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

RECUSED:

ABSENT:

**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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<p><b>OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>Mike Hutchinson President, Board of Education</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Kyla Johnson-Trammell Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education</p>
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