

March 2, 2020

Dear Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell and OUSD School Board Directors,

It has come to our attention that a local organization is calling for the abolition of the OUSD police department. We hear that the group will advocate for this move at the board meeting this Wednesday, March 4th. While the intentions of the organization are noble, we, the undersigned leaders of schools, would like to express some counter points. We empathize with the varied needs of our District, yet in good conscience we must prioritize *safety*. Have we forgotten the many incidents of shootings and unsafe situations on campuses? Who will handle the varied services provided by our officers and SSOs? We would strongly recommend maintaining the OUSD Police Services Department for the following reasons:

- OUSD police respond quickly, unlike the City of Oakland Police (OPD), when called for various reasons:
 - Crime around schools
 - Lockdowns
 - Unstable adults on campus
 - Student abuse issues
 - Weapons or drugs on campus
 - Student mental health emergencies (5150 calls)
 - Child Protective Service Issues
 - Violation of Stay-Away and/or Restraining Orders
 - Assaults by students on staff and other students
 - Assaults by adults on staff, students and other adults
 - Restorative Justice Practices
 - Campus break-in and theft
 - Custody disagreements
 - Domestic violence and child kidnapping issues

- Unlike OPD officers, who come with guns, OUSD police officers come trained with de-escalation and restorative practices. They know our schools, leaders and families and treat our students with the respect and empathy that they deserve.

Principal Signatures:

1. Anita Iverson-Comelo, Bridges
2. Eleanor Alderman, ICS
3. Diane Lang, Manzanita SEED
4. Ada Carter, Sequoia Elementary School
5. Cristina Segura, Esperanza
6. Karen Schreiner, Think College Now

7. Maureen Hartney, Franklin Elementary
8. Enomwoyi Booker - Prescott ES
9. Anita Summerlin--Markham Elementary
10. Roma Groves - Waters, Principal of Martin Luther King, Jr.
11. Lucinda Taylor, Ph.D. Principal, Madison Park Academy
12. Juan Vaca, Principal at Global Family
13. Linda Flynn, Principal at Bella Vista Elementary
14. Caroline Jones
15. Faris Jabbar, Principal at La Escuelita TK-8
16. Deitra Atkins, Retired Principal/Support Principal
17. Dennis Guikema, Principal, Kaiser Elementary
18. Nikki Williams, Principal, Howard Elementary
19. Lissette Averhoff, Principal, Hoover Elementary
20. Giselle F. Hendrie, Principal, Peralta Elementary
21. Maria McCormick, Principal, Hillcrest K-8
22. Eyana Spencer
23. Willie Thompson, Principal, Sojourner Truth and Rudsdale (Original and Newcomer)
24. Denise Gail Saddler Ed.D, Interim Principal Sankofa
25. Peter Van Tassel, Principal, Cleveland
26. Jessica Cannon, Principal, Chabot
27. Nicole Pierce, Co-Director, Skyline High School
28. Bianca D'Allesandro, Co-Director, Skyline High School