ONE ORINDA FUNDRAISING UPDATE

In recent months I have shared regular updates on the work of the ONE Orinda Steering Committee, a group of volunteers developing recommendations for bringing more resources to support Orinda schools by enhancing our approach to fundraising. I am pleased to report that this group is making great progress!

In December, the ONE Orinda Steering Committee presented recommendations for transitioning EFO to a community-wide umbrella foundation governed by school Parents' Clubs and community leaders. Each Parents' Club will have an account under the umbrella ONE Orinda foundation, and donations from each school will go into their account and be controlled by the Parents' Club for that school. These funds can be invested to earn a return to benefit our schools. Current Parents' Club reserves collectively earn only about $15,000 annually in interest. By pooling these reserves, early conservative estimates indicate we can earn a return on this money of over $100,000 per year. Over time, ONE Orinda seeks to grow a self-sustaining endowment. Successful school foundations like Piedmont have built an endowment fund of over $6 million, while Orinda's is just over $1 million. The Steering Committee also recommends streamlining and professionalizing fundraising to ease the reliance on parent volunteer hours, reducing duplicate activities across Parents' Clubs, and creating the capacity to seek new sources of funding such as large donors, grants, corporations, foundations, and alumni.

In addition to general recommendations, the Steering Committee has also developed recommended bylaws for ONE Orinda and an Operating Agreement to govern the relationship between ONE Orinda and the Parents' Clubs. Since these documents were released in December, important improvements have been made thanks to constructive input from each school. You can read the Steering Committee's recommendations as well as the current versions of the bylaws and operating agreement by visiting www.ONEOrinda.org.

Just this week, the Glorietta Parents' Club and the EFO Board each voted to authorize their organizations to join ONE Orinda. The Parents' Clubs at Del Rey, Miramonte, OIS, Sleepy Hollow, and Wagner Ranch will consider similar actions at their meetings over the next month. If approved by all organizations, the ONE Orinda Board of Directors will be seated in February or March, and the transition to ONE Orinda for the 2020-21 school year will begin. This would mean that, at registration for the next school year, parents would be asked to make a donation to benefit their school via ONE Orinda instead of making separate donations to the Parents' Club and EFO as we have done in the past.

During many recent discussions about ONE Orinda, people have asked me why fundraising is so critical in a high-performing school district located in an affluent area. It is important to remember that OUSD is one of the lowest funded school districts in the State (998th out of approximately 1,000 school districts). Thus, Orinda schools rely heavily on supplemental parent and community funding to keep our schools among the very best in California. In fact, about 30% of the funding for our schools comes from parent and community contributions. This local funding is the difference

between our schools being good and our schools being outstanding. I am excited to see that we are on the verge of enhancing our fundraising efforts so that we can maintain the outstanding quality of our local schools despite the inadequate funding we receive from state and federal sources.