



January 28, 2019

via email to superintendent@ousd.org

Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent
Oakland Unified School District
1000 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607

Re: *Second Demand to Bargain School Closures*

Dear Dr. Johnson-Trammell:

As you know, Oakland Education Association (“OEA”) firmly believes that every child deserves a quality public education. So we are greatly dismayed to learn of Oakland Unified School District’s (“OUSD’s”) plan to close and consolidate schools disproportionately in Black and Brown neighborhoods, in part in response to OEA’s demand for fair wages for OUSD teachers.

Specifically, the Board of Education met on January 23, 2019 to discuss Resolution No. 1819-0143, a plan to close Roots International Academy, and intends to convene a special meeting on January 28 to approve of that plan. This plan would disrupt the lives of many students and their families, encourage their movement to charter or private schools, and further damage OUSD’s fiscal health, all for minimal cost savings.

Moreover, because OUSD has explicitly, inextricably, and repeatedly linked its plan to close schools to OEA’s salary demands at the bargaining table, OUSD has made the planned closure of Roots a negotiable subject of bargaining. For example, OUSD’s spokesperson John Sasaki told the press that Roots had to be closed because, in part, “[e]verything we give the teachers has to be taken out of somewhere else.”¹ At recent School Site Council meetings, OUSD has directed members to take a survey in which one question states, “In order to increase teacher pay, OUSD would need to decrease central administration costs and make other tradeoffs,” which might include “consolidat[ing] schools.” These are but two small examples of OUSD’s continuing (and false) narrative that fair salaries for teachers must come at the cost of school closures.

On December 18, 2018, OEA sent you a letter demanding to bargain OUSD’s decision to close and/or consolidate public schools. This letter was ignored.

OEA repeats this demand now and asks that the Board postpone its vote on Roots until after the parties have had adequate opportunity to bargain. OEA is prepared to seek expedited injunctive relief from the Public Employment Relations Board, and take all other necessary legal action, if OUSD will not meet this demand.

¹ See http://amp.ktvu.com/news/oakland-schools-budget-crisis-roots-academy-could-close-by-june/?_twitter_impression=true (last accessed January 25, 2019).

Sincerely,

Mandy Hu

Mandy Hu
CTA Staff Attorney

CC:

Keith Brown (*via email to president@oaklandea.org*)
OEA President

Jenine Lindsay (*via email to jenine.lindsey@ousd.org*)
OUSD Director of Labor Relations

Marion McWilliams (*via email to marion.mcwilliams@ousd.org*)
OUSD General Counsel

Aimee Eng (*via email to aimee.eng@ousd.org*)
OUSD School Board President

Jody London (*via email to jody.london@ousd.org*)
OUSD School Board Vice President

Jumoke Hinton Hodge (*via email to jumoke.hintonhodge@ousd.org*)
OUSD School Board Director

Gary Yee (*via email to gary.yee@ousd.org*)
OUSD School Board Director

Roseann Torres (*via email to roseann.torres@ousd.org*)
OUSD School Board Director

Shanthi Gonzales (*via email to shanthi.gonzales@ousd.org*)
OUSD School Board Director

James Harris (*via email to james.harris@ousd.org*)
OUSD School Board Director