

Dear Board Directors of Oakland Unified,

As a credentialed **History and Social Studies teacher for the past 20 years**, I understand the necessary process & responsibility to **hear multiple voices, examine the nuances, and consider the relationship between multiple truths and a singular Truth. Humans are dynamic and it's no surprise** that human history is also dynamic.

A beautiful part of the human experience + pivotal moments in history are when people take a stand for what is right, **even when** it is in the face of intimidation, job threats, fear tactics, and strategies to convolute and confuse the public. **Both can exist at the same time: moments can be complex AND one can take a stand on what is right.** *The two are not mutually exclusive.* Isn't **taking a public stand** exactly what made our national heroes be heroes, our community mentors be mentors, our leaders to be leaders? **They---despite the risks---followed a moral compass and spoke truth to power.** **Such actions inspire others and can shift the course of history.**

**One common tactic to** intimidate people to shy away from taking a stand is to say: **this is age-old conflict and it's complicated.** What's enlightening is that **historical fact** shows that it is not. Palestine historically had Christians, Jews, and Muslims living as neighbors. When did things start to shift? It was **1917** when the new colonizer the British signed the Balfour Agreement with a newly formed Zionist organization to "hand over" Palestinian land. But more significantly, it was **1948---just 75 years ago---**when almost a million indigenous Palestinians were expelled from their homes or killed by the Zionists. 1948 is when the appeal to global humanity began. To this date, the occupation, daily violence, and apartheid laws continue to affect indigenous Palestinians.

**I'm writing to ask you to kindly approve the Resolution for a Ceasefire proposed by Director Bachelor.**

I am a registered voter in the Bay Area. I live here because it is where I feel the safest in this country. I am imploring you to listen to the people you serve and what it is we are asking for. Thousands of people have been marching in the streets for the freedom of Palestinians to live in peace. The people have spoken. Please be wise and open enough to listen and represent us accordingly.

I believe that in order for our students to live in a world that is just and peaceful, we must first address injustice where it exists. We must be courageous. While countries from around the world recognize the inhumanity of Israel's collective punishment and genocide of the Palestinian people, institutions in the US are disappointingly silent.

If those in power wanted to, they could end this massacre tomorrow. We call on any and all institutions, including OUSD, to immediately use their influence and power to stop the Israeli bombardments, and to end military aid funding that is enabling this mass violence against Palestinians.

As a progressive district, we must have the courage to stand on the right side of history

call for an end to the genocide in Gaza.

We must show our community that our school board can recognize crimes against humanity overseas so that they are confident in the board's ability to guide the district with a strong moral compass.

I urge you to support the resolution drafted by Director Bachelor. Thank you for taking the time to consider my request.

Thank you,

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*Teacher A*  
Oakland Unified School District

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