

**OAKLAND MUST BUILD ON AND STRENGTHEN  
OUR SANCTUARY STATUS**

In response to the imminent threat to our undocumented, immigrant, and Muslim students that became a looming reality after Trump's election, the OUSD board passed the Sanctuary School District resolution in December 2016. This policy has felt like a safety net to many teachers, staff, students and families in a harshened climate defined by Trump's already enacted and further promised policies. The resolution was crafted with community input to shape the policy's tone and language. Some additional suggestions were ultimately drafted into the final version, such as specific mentions protecting Muslim students from discrimination and also educators' academic freedom. Although we support the intent and adoption of this resolution, important priorities were left out.

**Classroom Struggle believes that the policy should be revised in order to include the following stronger points to protect our students:**

**Require charter schools to adopt these protections as a condition of obtaining or renewing a charter:** California Ed Code says that a district may reject a charter application that "does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of...procedures that the charter school will follow to ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff" and "the means by which the school will achieve a racial and ethnic balance among its pupils that is reflective of the general population residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the school district to which the charter petition is submitted." Standing by this sanctuary policy means the district should not permit charters that don't provide necessary protections for the security of immigrant and Muslim students. Charters that fail to include policies providing explicit protection for immigrant and Muslim students would fail to meet the district's health and safety standards. Charters that do not actively plan to protect immigrant and Muslim students are also unlikely to achieve or sustain a racial and ethnic balance that reflects Oakland.

**Full commitment from OUSD that our district will refuse to provide any information to ICE:** Compared to other sanctuary resolutions, the OUSD language is relatively weak. We should revise to include stronger protections against ICE in our schools (such as requiring a court order to obtain information or permission to enter). The current language leaves the decision about turning student information over to ICE up to the Superintendent and District legal counsel. This severely undermines the authenticity of this policy's "protection" of immigrant students. Given any latitude, a superintendent and legal counsel will tend to protect themselves and cooperate with federal authorities.

**Explicit protections against providing information or school access to Homeland Security and other law enforcement entities, not just ICE,** especially given the threat to create a Muslim registry.

Classroom Struggle believes that many people come to the United States as a result of the history of U.S. Imperialism that has destabilized countries in the Middle East, Latin America, and many other parts of the world. Classroom Struggle also understands the history of the U.S. war against Mexico to take the southwest as well as the fact that many Latinos have indigenous roots and therefore have every right to be here legally.

In addition, we believe that our schools need to collaborate at the site and neighborhood level in order to prepare our teachers, students, staff, and community in case we need to invoke this sanctuary status. Some administrators have started these conversations with staff and are working to update safety and emergency plans to reflect the current political climate. What will happen to individuals who work at school sites if they refuse the orders of an ICE or DHS official? Will the district protect them? Amendments to this policy, which were adopted by the board, included plans for training and outreach, but we have yet to see these actualized or even published fully on the OUSD website. We need support, answers, and plans in place before it is too late.

**About Classroom Struggle**

Classroom Struggle is a group of educators fighting to defend and transform Oakland public schools. We organize inside and outside our teacher's union and always strive to work with parents, students, and other OUSD staff. We stand against the austerity and privatization of our schools.

Come join us in this struggle.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Educationforthe99> | Email: [classroomstruggle@gmail.com](mailto:classroomstruggle@gmail.com)

## WHAT WE WANT IN A NEW SUPERINTENDENT: DREAMING OF A STABLE OAKLAND

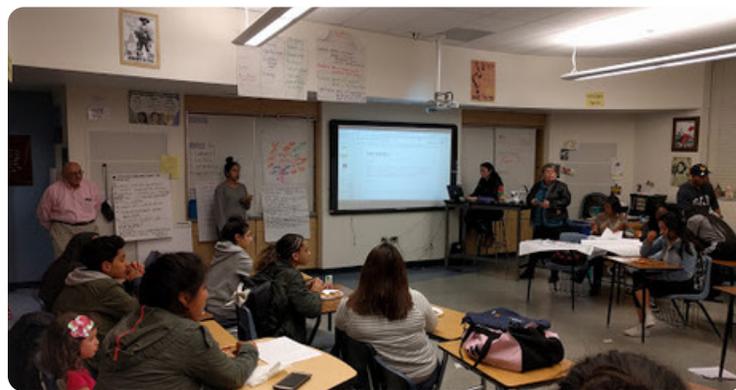
With the departure of Antwan Wilson, the OUSD has an opportunity to break with its failed policy of hiring non-credentialed, pro-charter Broad Academy graduates and hire someone who believes in public education in Oakland--someone who will stand up to the rising tide of privately-run charter schools and privatization money with a long-term vision for Oakland that focuses on the real needs of our students. We need a leader who will redirect district resources to bolster teaching and learning conditions in the district's public schools.

This superintendent should dedicate energy to the pre-school, TK, and Kindergarten classes so that all students arrive in first grade with the necessary skills for success. Increasing high school graduation rates requires increasing support for students and teachers starting in early elementary grades. We need a leader who will pledge true long-term support for stable, sustainable high school programs instead of corporate connections that plant seeds but do not help them to grow and thrive.

The new Superintendent should understand the school to prison pipeline and do all s/he can to disrupt it. The new Superintendent should break with segregationist charter school movement, promote long-term teacher retention and cut the top-heavy central office budget. S/he should engage with the Oakland community to promote principles of social justice, meaningful engagement of the community, and vibrant community schools.



## STUDENT VOICES: OEA CONTRACT FORUM



On January 30, 2017, the OEA and youth groups held a successful forum to get student input on the teacher contract, with over 50 students attending. The OEA organized the event in conjunction with youth groups such as Californians for Justice, Youth Together, and BAY-Peace. We're proud that CS members also played key roles in making this event happen! The students brought great ideas including desires for more electives, smaller classes to allow for closer relationships with teachers, and increasing the number of counselors at schools. Students also voiced some important non-contract demands: most of all, better lunches!

We hope to keep building youth alliances with the OEA to win a contract our students deserve--and the lunches they deserve!

## CONTRACT CAMPAIGN KICK OFF COME OUT AND SHOW SOLIDARITY: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 SCHOOL BOARD CITY HALL, 5-6 PM

Join fellow OEA and community members this Wednesday as our bargaining team launches OEA's new bargaining campaign to win significant gains in teaching and learning conditions. It will take many months of organizing and mobilizing by teachers, parents, and community allies to win significant progress toward the schools our students deserve. In the face of announced budget cuts to take us backward, we'll have to fight alongside parents, students, and other school workers to demand progress instead. The district overspends tens of millions on administration and private contractors. Starting this Wednesday, let's demand these resources be used to reduce class size and caseloads and to increase support for students and schools of greatest need.

### GET INVOLVED!

- **Join Classroom Struggle! Email us at [classroomstruggle@gmail.com](mailto:classroomstruggle@gmail.com) for more info.**
- **Like Classroom Struggle on Facebook to keep up with events and issues we are working on. We also have happy hours throughout the school year!**
- **Check out our blog at [classroomstruggle.org](http://classroomstruggle.org)**