



Oakland Unified School District

OUSD Superintendent posted in Oakland Unified School District

Please Speak With Your Students About Resolving Conflict Peacefully



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Community Schools, Thriving Student

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Monday, August 28, 2023

Dear Oakland Unified Families,

Like many of you, I learned of the incident at the Bay Street shopping center in Emeryville yesterday and was upset and disappointed. It was a disturbance that involved 300-400 young people. We later learned that the incident involved a large number of our students. There is a report that a social media post encouraged kids to go to Bay Street as a “link up.” We informed school administrators of the incident and asked them to ensure that campus adults were more visible today. We also sent central office staff to secondary schools to serve as additional eyes and ears on campus.

Now, I am writing to you to ask that all parents and caregivers be vigilant and aware of their child’s activity on social media, and aware of the activities they are participating in when you are not present. The incident yesterday resulted in multiple fights and one person being stabbed.

Please talk with your students about resolving conflict peacefully, managing their emotions so that they don't let anger take control of their behavior, using social media responsibly, and not following the crowd when there could be trouble brewing. No student should be involved in an incident like the one at Bay Street, in school or anywhere else. As a community, we must make it clear to our young people that violence is never the answer, and it will only lead to problems for all involved - and oftentimes for innocent bystanders.

In an effort to keep our students and schools safe, I also ask that you please reach out to your school administrators to share any information you may receive regarding this weekend's incident or anything related. OUSD leaders are working with the city's Department of Violence Prevention to make sure we can get ahead of any possible safety threats from this incident. We can respond accordingly and support our students to address conflict if we have the information necessary to intervene.

Thank you for supporting education and safety among our students in OUSD and in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Kyla Johnson-Trammell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kyla" being particularly large and stylized.

Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent

SF Bay Ferry Upgrades - Additionally, it was my pleasure to dedicate the newest fleet of regional WETA passenger ferries which are now part of SF Bay Ferry's Gemini series. They utilize very low-emission engines, removing air pollution along the East Bay's coastline, improving regional air quality, transportation choices, and livability.

40th Street Corridor - The council voted to advance plans for a [multi-modal 40th Street corridor](#) to the next part of the design phase process in July. This new project will include upgraded pedestrian facilities, a new two-way protected bicycle track through the area, connecting to the Bay Bridge Trail and Emeryville Greenway, and bus-dedicated lanes with transit stop improvements. If final design is approved, construction could begin at the end of 2024 or early 2025. Having initiated this item at council in 2018, I am grateful to see this project advancing to the final design stages and welcome the opportunity to make our city safer, more accessible, and economically vibrant through this project.

Environmental Projects & Policies Update

Davenport Park & Playground - The city council opened its newest playground facility earlier this year out near the Emeryville Marina, the first playground equipment on our city's peninsula. Special thank you to Patty Weber who spearheaded the call for this infrastructure several years ago and worked with myself and city staff to advance this project to completion. Special congratulations to all the children who are enjoying play time along our coastline!

????? Park - Yeah, I don't know what to call it yet cause we need to hear from you first! [The new park at the former Sherwin-Williams site is verrrrrrrry close to opening](#). After 3.5 years of construction, we are literally days away from work being finished. The park will not open for another month to allow grass and other plants some time to become established before they are ready for all the wear-n-tear we know you'll give it! In the meantime, we are planning a community party for this new community asset and we want to know what you'd like to call it. [**You can submit your suggestions here but they must be received by the end of the day on September 5th.**](#)

US Fish & Wildlife in Emeryville - I was excited for us to [host the US Fish & Wildlife Service here in Emeryville](#) as they explore the potential for reintroducing the Southern Sea Otter to the SF Bay, which was once a zone of habitat for the species.

Trees, Wildflowers & Pesticides - In January 2022, I requested and received unanimous support from council to undertake a comprehensive, citywide tree study to examine all the existing and potential opportunities for significantly improving the city's aesthetic, value, and natural resources by expanding our urban tree canopy. As part of the city's budget this year, the council earmarked \$1M of funding for an urban tree planting program. In June, as part of National Pollinator Week, I received council support to consider policies that would result in banning pesticides that use neonicotinoids on all city properties and in city contracts. [Neonics are a group of five chemicals found in certain pesticides that are known to kill bees and butterflies while also adversely harming birds that eat insects, resulting in harm to the food web](#). There has been a dramatic decline in bird, bee, and butterfly populations over recent years, with some studies showing these pesticides are a key contributor. This item will come to the city council for discussion, alongside the final tree study report. I will be asking to create a voluntary wildflowering program in the city to encourage property owners to abandon harmful pesticides while also agreeing to forego a lawn and allow the city to [spread wildflower seeds as a means of helping the city encourage pollinator communities here in Emeryville](#). With additional tree canopy, we can be a community rich in natural resources and small, sensitive wildlife that historically lived along the mudflats here in Emeryville. If you'd like to learn more or would like to come out in support to the meeting, please email me at jbauters@emeryville.org.

Go Outside!

This is my periodic reminder about the value of spending time outdoors in nature. Human health and mental wellness is greatly improved with as little as 20 minutes of time each day in nature. As I think about how accessing and appreciating nature has guided my ability to respond to everything from community safety challenges to proposing environmental policies that protect our ecosystem, I wish to invite you to discover this for yourself. The below picture was taken on North Tea Lake during a weeklong canoe trip I made through Algonquin Provincial Park, Northern Ontario, Canada, earlier this summer. The Bay Area is rich in opportunities to explore and engage nature. It is yours to discover.

Thank you for your commitment to our community. Have a wonderful Labor Day weekend.

Cheers,

John

