

From: Jean Quan
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 5:48 AM
To: [emails redacted]
Cc: [emails redacted]; Ethnic Studies
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ethnic Studies

Dear Oakland School Board Directors,

We write to support the proposed resolution endorsing the Curriculum proposed for the Ethnic Studies program mandated by the State of California. After 50 years it is long past time for public schools to teach Ethnic Studies on a statewide basis.

We were the founders of Ethnic Studies at UCB in 1969. Our program included Oakland High School students and service learning projects at many OUSD sites. **Ethnic Studies was meant to serve the Oakland community and its diverse student population. It was not general multicultural education, it was based on serving the students of color whose history and communities were excluded from the university.** We hoped all students would learn a truer history of this nation that included the institutional role of racism, exploitation, exclusion and discrimination.

Floyd served as the first Asian American Studies coordinator. Jean organized and help to teach in the first Asian Womens Course in 1970.

As a an OUSD school board member I led APISBMA (Asian American School Board Members Association) and the first statewide K-12 school board conference on AsianAmerican Studies. Oakland has a proud history of pioneering many programs and developing Curriculum units representing the diversity of our students; we led battles for more inclusive textbooks. We worked with Stanford and other districts to develop missing materials on Islam, Southeast Asian, Japanese American internment and Pacific Island cultures for our OUSD students.

I spoke at the last State School Board discussing the Ethnic Studies curriculum at the request of UCB Ethnic Studies students. I spoke on how the groups that made up the first Ethnic Studies program were based on the underrepresented students of color at the University and the Community --Black, Chicano, Asian Pacific American and Native Americans. As immigration has brought immigrants to California, the program now includes new groups including many more Pacific Islanders and Muslim students, esp Yemenis. Oakland has the largest Yemeni community in California as well as Arabs/Muslims from many Middleast and African nations, we can play an important role in curriculum development for these students.

It was clearly the opinion of the majority the State Board that "Ethnic Studies" was the study of the history and contributions of these original minority groups and new immigrant majorities.

We are very concerned that there are attacks on including Arab, Central American or Pacific Island groups into Ethnic Studies. An honest and supportive program in this city must include them.

We fully support the proposed resolution and at the same time support the continuation of Jewish American studies as well. They cannot be pitted against each other, both can be supported.

Thank you for your consideration

Jean Quan,

former Mayor and former School Board President

Dr. Floyd Huen,

Founder UCB Ethnic Studies, former Asian American Studies Coordinator