

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. _____

C.M.S.

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

DRAFT

2005 APR 21 PM 1:20

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRUNNER

A RESOLUTION TO SAVE PUBLIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS, on May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court of the United States issued their historic opinion in the case of Brown v. Board of Education that called for an immediate end to segregated education; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2004, Mayor of Oakland Jerry Brown issued a proclamation declaring May 17th "Equal Education Day" in the City of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland Unified School District has been under the complete fiscal and legislative authority of State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell and his appointed Administrator Dr. Randolph Ward since June 3, 2003; and

WHEREAS, vested with the authority of the State of California, Dr. Ward in 2004 closed five Oakland public schools and has, in his recently issued "Multi-Year Fiscal Recovery Plan" and in public statements, announced plans to close up to 9 more Oakland public schools mainly in the flatlands, while simultaneously opening up to 25 new, undefined learning communities within the next two years; and

WHEREAS, Oakland schools have experienced an alarming rate of student attrition with more than 6,900 students leaving the District since the state takeover began and thousands more expected to leave in coming years; and

WHEREAS, according to a March 24, 2005 *Oakland Tribune* article, less than 50% of Oakland Unified School District students graduate high school on time, with closer to 30% of Latino and African-American students likely to earn a high school diploma within four years; and

WHEREAS, the closure of neighborhood schools and such low graduation rates point to the prevalence of unequal educational conditions for many Oakland students and constitute an alarming crisis in the Oakland public schools that demands immediate attention; now

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Oakland encourages school administrators, educators, community organizations, and concerned citizens to participate in educational programs located on school sites during the school day or elsewhere after school, on May 17th, 2005, including

1. Study and discussion on the historic importance of Brown v. Board of Education and its relevance to public education today.
2. Development and presentation of workshops to students, parents, and community members on May 17, 2005 on a variety of issues related to equal access to public education.

3. Ongoing public dialogue among all sectors of the community on the state of the Oakland Unified School District and next steps to improve the quality of education provided to the children and youth of Oakland.
4. Study of the Oakland Unified School District's proposed Multi-Year Fiscal Recovery Plan, including the financial plan, a timeline for the State of California to return Oakland's schools to local control, and how we can support Proposition 98 and increasing resources for our schools

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, MAY 3, 2005

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BRUNNER, CHANG, BROOKS, NADEL, REID, QUAN, AND
PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST:

LA TONDA SIMMONS
Interim City Clerk Of The Council
Of The City Of Oakland, California