

Orange County Board of Education



Thursday, April 7, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

In an exercise of County Board authority according to the State of California Constitution, the Orange County Board of Education modified the Orange County Superintendent of Schools' salary to properly align with similar administrative leadership positions across the state. Previously, the Superintendent's total compensation package was just over \$467,000 per year. A Board Resolution set the 2022-2026 Superintendent's base pay at \$300,000 per year in addition to approval of a new annual car allowance and benefit package, establishing an approximate total compensation package over \$425,000 per year.

Board President Mari Barke articulates, "The California Constitution gives all county boards the authority to set their County Superintendent's salary. However, when talking with fellow county board members, very few understood they had the constitutional responsibility." She adds, "We understand that this may be a sensitive issue, but as a board, we have resolved to face difficult issues head-on. We expect other county boards will follow our lead," President Barke continued.

"As elected trustees, we have an obligation not only to the voters of Orange County, but also the students, to direct resources to the classroom where they belong. We promised voters we would exercise fiscal responsibility where appropriate while retaining our board rights to properly be able to represent our constituents, and this Resolution does just that," confirmed Trustee Dr. Lisa Sparks.

The Board engaged in a labor-intensive and publicly transparent process over three public meetings. The Board analyzed the Superintendent's salary using several different analytical measures, including, but not limited to, population, other County Superintendent total compensation, employees managed, school districts monitored, and other administrative responsibilities. "The base pay for the next 2022-2026 term of the County Superintendent of Education accurately reflects a superintendent's responsibilities for Orange County relative to our other 57 counties in California, even in the more costly counties including Los Angeles County," says Trustee Sparks.

The Orange County Superintendent of Schools will be on the June 7, 2022, ballot.