

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Orange County Board of Education and State Superintendent Reach a Resolution on Budget Review Dispute**

COSTA MESA, Calif. – The Orange County Board of Education has reached a resolution with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction resolving the Board's remaining claims and requests for relief in its litigation seeking affirmation of the Board's budgetary authority and the State Superintendent's obligation to review budgets approved and submitted by the Board. This resolution of a legal case originally brought by the Board in 2019 follows the settlement reached between the Board and County Superintendent Dr. Stefan Bean in the same case last month.

The resolution was consummated by the Board's acceptance at its regular meeting today of an "Offer to Compromise" that the State Superintendent conveyed to the Board on March 21, 2025. The State Superintendent made the offer under a civil procedure statute that provides for entry of judgment in litigation on the offered terms if accepted by the party to whom it is presented.

"With the Board's acceptance of the State Superintendent's offered terms of compromise and judgment, we are pleased to have reached full conclusion of our litigation over the Board's budgetary authority and the state's budget review obligations," said Dr. Ken Williams, president of the Orange County Board of Education. "We will have more to say about the details of the resolution once it is submitted to the court for entry of judgment, but we are pleased that the State Superintendent came forward with a compromise offer that extended as far as it did and that implicitly recognized the value of putting litigation to rest and getting to a reasonable resolution of our dispute."

"In combination with the settlement that the Board reached last month with County Superintendent Bean, we are very pleased with the outcome of this dispute and these legal proceedings," added Mari Barke, vice president of the Orange County Board of Education. "Within the clarified framework that these resolutions provide, we look forward to working collaboratively with the County and State Superintendents on future budgets in service of the students, schools, and communities of Orange County."

### **About the Orange County Department of Education**

Along with providing direct instruction to Orange County students through its own alternative and special education programs, OCDE supports 28 local school districts that serve approximately 440,000 students with an array of services necessary for their operations, including professional development, high-speed internet access and security, legal and fiscal guidance, payroll systems, Local Control and Accountability Plan assistance and approval, and student enrichment.

### **About the Orange County Board of Education**

The Orange County Board of Education is composed of five elected members who represent trustee areas. The board approves the annual budget of the Orange County

Department of Education, reviews its annual audit, oversees expulsion, interdistrict transfer, and charter school application appeals, and provides fiscal and policy oversight for school districts. Additionally, the board represents Orange County's education community at the local, state and national levels while working to promote student achievement and educational opportunities.