

**Resolution to Establish
A Community Forum**

Submitted Sparks and Williams

Whereas, the Orange County Board of Education (OCBE) recognizes previous U.S. Supreme Court and California courts and legislative intent, regarding certain rulings recognizing parents possess a fundamental right to direct the upbringing and education of their children (*Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57, 65 (2000); *In re Marriage of Harris*, 34 Cal. 4th 210, 223 (2004); and

Whereas, the OCBE upholds that principle that students do not “*shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate.*” (*Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503, 506 (1969)). As a result, students or citizens cannot be compelled to engage in expression with which they disagree; and

Whereas, the OCBE desires to follow all state laws, and that all schools be free of racism and prejudice, and remain safe places for all students. Also, the OCBE desires that all students are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of ethnic background, gender, creed, race, religion, and sexual orientation; and

Whereas, community members, leaders, parents, and many people of the Orange County Community attended earlier OCBE publicly held meetings, and expressed deep concerns to the erosion of charter schools and parental choice; and

Whereas, the OCBE desires to: 1) Obtain additional opinions and input from current OCBE approved charters, 2) Further evaluate and obtain knowledge on how to strengthen charter schools, 3) Understand the legal ramifications as to the constitutional rights of parents and students in public education, 4) Demonstrate due diligence to obtain additional information and knowledge of how to make charter schools stronger; and

Whereas, in our rich American history filled with love of country, patriotism, and fairness to all, public forums and town hall meetings have been enshrined in our American history as one of the finest approaches for transparency, public dialogue and input on public policy and governance; and

Therefore, the OCBE will hold one (1) special evening community meeting in September 2022 to obtain additional evidence and facts from state officials and/or experts on strengthening public charter schools. The meeting will use a similar format of earlier community forums sponsored by the OCBE in regards to procedures, protocols, practices, respect and civility; and

Therefore, this special board meeting or public forum will be entitled, Strengthening California’s Charter Schools at a Local and State Level- A Public Community Forum. The public meeting will be held at the OCBE board room. A special committee assigned by the board President for the preparation of the event will request input from each board member for the experts recommended by the individual board member, to be seated on the expert panel. The expert shall provide testimony, give evidence, and offer critical information that will be of educational, legal and academic value to the board.

AYES: *Williams, Shew, Barke, Sparks*

NOES: *Gomez*

ABSENT: *0*

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE

I, Mari Barke, President of the Board of Education of Orange County, California, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the said Board at a special meeting thereof held on the 27th day of June 2022 and passed by a vote of 4-1.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 27th day of June 2022.

Mari Barke

Mari Barke,
Orange County Board of Education

