Subject: For the Board's Consideration from Ohlone PTA Executive Board

Dear Members of the Board and Dr. Austin,

On behalf of the Ohlone PTA Executive Board we are writing to you to offer our comments and recommendations for our unique Ohlone program. As plans move forward to implement the hybrid learning option for a portion of Ohlone families, we believe there are some circumstances that warrant special consideration for the portion of Ohlone families that are opting to remain in a full distance learning program.

We have recently conducted an Ohlone PTA survey in an effort to solicit feedback from our community. We captured 62% of our students and their parents' decisions around re-opening. We have found that 56% of our community responses indicated a strong preference towards distance learning. Given that the outcome may possibly consist of a relatively large population of students going into distance learning, we strongly advocate that the board consider distance learning options.

The executive board met on Monday, September 28th to review the results of the recent Ohlone PTA survey, and the hybrid opening plan as presented by PAUSD on September 22, 2020. We discussed the educational outcomes and social impacts on Ohlone students who potentially will be moved into a distance learning program. Our current understanding of the current action plan is that a significant percentage of Ohlone students will be moved into a distance learning program that is different from the Ohlone education model and separate from the Ohlone community. We discussed the pros & cons of this distance learning model and we considered options to recommend to the board for a modified distance learning program. An integral part of our decision to write to the Board of Education is to express the Ohlone community values and the school mission of inclusion in all areas of the Ohlone school experience including, but not limited to, distance learning.

There are many unique features of the Ohlone education model; including mixed-age classrooms, project-based learning, social-emotional learning, and farm science lessons. Even our classified instruction team, such as our P.E. coaches, librarian and our music instructor, deliver instructional experiences that align to the Ohlone learning model.
Our recommendations are as follows:

- We recommend that the Board strongly consider the option to have the Ohlone DL program to function as an extension of the Ohlone community.
- We recommend that to the maximum extent possible, that Ohlone Distance Learning students be matched with Ohlone Distance Learning teachers.
- We advocate that the Board have Ohlone DL remain under the leadership of Ohlone’s Principal, Dawn Yoshinaga.

We believe that preserving the continuity and integrity of the Ohlone education model to the maximum extent possible including both access to Ohlone teachers, curriculum, and specials would have significant benefits to Ohlone students and families.

The Ohlone PTA Executive Board would like to thank the PAUSD School Board and Superintendent for considering our recommendations for keeping the Ohlone community together and allowing Ohlone distance learning families to participate in as many components as possible of the Ohlone choice program.

Sincerely,

Elbra Beitsayad
Ohlone PTA President

Nora Melendez
Ohlone PTA Executive Vice President

On behalf of the Ohlone PTA Executive Board