

Tony Smith, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

Oakland Unified  
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OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Community Schools, Thriving Students*

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## **Oakland Unified School District Press Advisory** *For Immediate Release*

### **Oakland Board of Education to Announce Candidate for Acting Superintendent Role** *Board Member Gary Yee, Ed.D., under consideration as potential replacement for current OUSD Superintendent Tony Smith*

Event: Oakland Board of Education press conference to announce Acting Superintendent candidate

Date: Monday, April 22

Time: 8:30am

Location: 286 E. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Oakland, CA 94606

**Oakland – April 21, 2013** – The Oakland Board of Education will host a press conference on Monday April 22<sup>nd</sup> to announce Dr. Gary Yee as a candidate for the position of Acting Superintendent in the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD). The Board will formally consider the matter during its next Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, April 24 when a vote will be taken on the replacement for current Superintendent Tony Smith.

Smith, who is moving to Chicago for family reasons, announced his resignation on April 4, but will continue to serve as Superintendent until June 30, 2013. If appointed Acting Superintendent, Yee is expected to occupy the role from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Presently a Board Member for District 4, which includes the communities of Allendale, Brookdale, Crestmont, Dimond, Estates Drive, High Street, Laurel, Maxwell Park, Melrose, Montclair, Oakmore, Piedmont Pines, Redwood Heights, Shepherd Canyon and Thornhill, Yee has served on the School Board since 2003. Should Yee be appointed Acting Superintendent, the Board will have sixty calendar days to determine how to fill the vacant District 4 Trustee Seat.

An Oakland native who has been at various times, a student, parent, teacher, assistant principal and principal in OUSD, Yee boasts four decades of education experience and a lifetime of commitment to Oakland schools.

“During this time of transition from the leadership of Tony Smith, we felt it important to maintain a sense of stability and continuity, while identifying a candidate who has a deep relationship to this city and an understanding of both the challenges facing Oakland and its unique assets,” explained Oakland Board of Education President and District 2 Director David Kakishiba. “Dr. Yee possesses these attributes, as well as a commitment to Oakland schools which is practically unparalleled.”

Yee began his career in public education in 1973 when he accepted a position as a third grade teacher at OUSD's Cleveland Elementary School. He then served as a science prep teacher at three elementary schools, a Teacher on Special Assignment for the Gifted and Talented Education Program (1983-85) an Assistant Principal at Franklin Year-Round School (1985-87), Principal at Hillcrest School (1987-90) and Assistant to the Superintendent (1992-1995). From 1995 until 2005, he served in full time faculty and administrative roles at Boston College, St. Mary's College of California and Holy Names University, preparing superintendents, principals and teachers. During that period, he also directed the Safe Passages Public Health Initiative and the Oakland Education Cabinet.

In 2005, Yee was named Dean of Instruction for Merritt College in Oakland. He retired from the Peralta Community Colleges as Vice Chancellor for Educational Services in September 2008, after stints as Director of Research and Associate Vice Chancellor of Planning. Currently, he strives to improve access to high quality instructional programs that lead to college and career success in his work with the Career Ladders Project.

Yee graduated from Castlemont High School, the University of California at Berkeley (B.A.), California State University at Hayward (Teaching Credential and Masters in Public Administration), and Stanford University (Ed.D.). First elected to the Board of Education in 2002, Yee has been re-elected twice, serving as President of the Board in 2005 and 2010, Vice President in 2005 and 2009, and Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee in 2009. Yee has also served on the boards of Youth Alive!, Oakland Ready to Learn, California Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Faith Network of the East Bay and Fruitvale Presbyterian Church. Yee's wife, Oakland Principal Caroline Yee (deceased), elder daughter, and son all graduated from Oakland Public Schools. His younger daughter is currently enrolled in OUSD.