



JORGE VALDES, ESQ.
TRUSTEE, DISTRICT 1

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
200 KALMUS DRIVE, PO BOX 9050, COSTA MESA, CA 92628-9050
PHONE 714.966.4012 FAX 714.432.1916
WEBSITE: www.ocbe.us E-MAIL: contact@ocbe.us

April 6, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in strong support of Sailee Charlu, a high school student at The Orange County School of the Arts. I write to you as Trustee of the Orange County Board of Education, and I do so with full confidence that Sailee represents exactly the kind of young civic leader that will aspire to create the change that is needed today.

I had the privilege of working directly with Sailee during the drafting and development of Resolution "Supporting Bilingual Education in Orange County 03-26," (passed on February 2, 2026), brought before the Orange County Board of Education. Sailee drafted the original resolution, coming from her experience working with bilingual and dual language learning students, and presented it to me to seek support. Her engagement was thoughtful, her research was thorough, and her commitment to the cause of bilingual education reflects a depth of civic awareness that is rare in students her age.

What stood out to me most about Sailee was not just her intelligence, but her purpose. She approached this work with a genuine understanding of what is at stake for bilingual students and families across Orange County, many of whom face systemic barriers to educational equity. She brought both passion and rigor to the table, and her contributions meaningfully shaped the language and direction of the resolution.

Engaging with a county-level board of education requires maturity, professionalism, and the ability to navigate complex institutional processes. Sailee demonstrated all of these qualities. She is articulate, driven, and deeply committed to civic engagement as a vehicle for real, lasting change in her community.

I recommend Sailee without reservation and with great enthusiasm. She is the kind of young leader who works to create change. I have no doubt she will make the most of every opportunity afforded to her.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions or would like to discuss Sailee's contributions further.

Sincerely,

Jorge Valdes, Esq., Trustee, District 1
Orange County Board of Education