

# Presidential Nominees

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## **Eric Montijo, Presidential Nominee**

Hello,

Let me begin by saying that it is a privilege serving as your Union President. I am a lifelong believer in the strength and stability unions afford hard working people. I have served in the union, first, as a Rep. for eight years and then as your Certificated Vice President for three years. Now, as your President for 2 and a half years.

I chose to work in this district because I felt it was important to give back to a community that took part in molding me as an individual. I have been working in the district for close to twenty-one years, and I have seen administrators, superintendents, board members, support staff, and colleagues come and go. However, the fundamental need for having a safe working environment, earning a competitive wage, and being afforded meaningful health insurance is a constant.

Accomplishments:

- Over 22% raise to all members
- Ended furlough days
- Maintained current Medical Plans
- Introduced CDHP Medical plans (HSA)
- Brought back custodial positions lost to cuts
- Increased positions to school Psychologists, Counselors, and payroll staff
- Helped to elect four of our five board members
- Saw for a need to diversify our E-board. Helped to convince and elect a Classified member as Executive Vice President
- Saw a need for family and member interaction so I created Dodger Day

Goals:

- Bring back Calendar committee
- Continue to look at avenues for post 2004 hires for a gap to Medicare
- Maintain pre 2004 lifetime benefits
- Continue to work for employee wage increases
- Maintain full service and low-cost health insurance
- Create a bi-monthly newsletter
- Establish direct hours at each site so as to address your needs

I am constantly working for you either straightforward at Board meetings, CSEBO Meetings, Trust Meetings, Budget Meetings and Medical Meetings to name a few. I also work behind the scenes when confidentiality to our members is paramount. I'm there to answer your call Monday through Friday, as well as weekends, and even holidays, to the chagrin of my wife (805-368-6331). However, there is more to do.

My vision for the future is simple. I want to ensure that we, the Union, continue to prosper. It is paramount that we negotiate meaningful contracts that continue to stabilize growth and health. It is my wish to have cooperation between the Union and the District. Having an open line of communication promotes stability. In life, the simplest tasks always seem the most daunting. With your partnership, strength, and fidelity I believe our Union will continue to grow and prosper.

In Unity,  
Eric Montijo

## **Robert Kadin, Presidential Nominee**

Hi, I'm Robert Kadin, and I am running for President of your OFTSE.

My chief aim is to bring power back to the Union with fair and equal representation for all members.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Reduce your Union Dues by eliminating waste and costs not directly related to improving working conditions, protecting members' rights, or improving salaries and benefits.
- Secure realistic pay raises -- with at minimum -- cost of living increases (4.8% over the last two years).
- Implement a viable medical gap insurance plan for post-2004 retirees.
- Be transparent
  - Report the OFTSE yearly budget so you can see how your OFTSE union dues are spent
  - Publish a bi-monthly newsletter of union activity
  - Email updates seeking your input on contractual issues
- Be available to you 24/7:
  - By phone or email – if I don't answer at the time you call or email, I will get back to you within 24 hours.
  - Be on every site a minimum of two times per month, more if needed

### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Site Representative – HHS for over 20 years
- During my tenure, I have represented certificated, and at times para-educators and classified employees.
- I have successfully resolved employee issues while dealing with 7 different principals and their varied management styles and personalities
- Member of Medical Committee
- For the past 18 years, I have been Chair/Co-Chair of Mathematics and Business/CTE departments
- Degree in Business and Mathematics with related work experience in Accounting and finance

If you have any questions about my goals for your Union, my qualifications, or my experience -- please email me at [rbrt.kadin59@gmail.com](mailto:rbrt.kadin59@gmail.com) or phone at 805.890.9317. Thank you for your support!

# Executive Vice President Nominees

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## **James “Jim” Szatkowski, Executive VP Nominee**

In the last two years, I have faithfully and respectfully represented the union and all its members in every capacity that I have been able. My job is never done and with the help of the rest of the board we have accomplished quite a bit in making our district run smoothly and effectively.

### Accomplishments:

- Ensured that an OFTSE rep is on most classified interviews
- Maintain that the Contract is being followed
- Protects members during possible discipline processes

### Goals:

- Continue to grow wages
- Continue to maintain excellent health insurance
- Continue to give our members a voice

I welcome all members along with their help, concerns and participation to make my job run as efficient as possible. My dedication, experience and knowledge have made lives easier for our unit members. I seek to have your confidence in voting for me as your EVP along with Eric, Kassi and Josh to continue the hard work in gaining a positive Union and always moving forward in the belief that what we do is a positive environment for all.

Thank You.

## **Julie Cole, Executive VP Nominee**

I am Julie Cole and since 2005, I have taught Business at Hueneme High School. I am asking for your vote for Vice President of the OFTSE Union Board. I am running for this position because I believe in what our union can do for us. As your Vice President I will be inclusive of all members, transparent to all members and fiscally conservative for all members.

I have been active in unions for 24 years where I served on negotiating teams prior to joining OUHSD. I served as Vice President for OFTSE for 6 years (2011-2017), and currently sit as a voting member of the CSEBO Health Care Board where I am working to preserve our quality health care. I have held this position for the past two years. I care deeply about our health care benefits and I am extremely passionate about maintaining the best possible care for all members.

For the past two years, I have also served on the District Health Care Committee (a committee comprised of District representatives, OFTSE Board representatives, and other member volunteers). I will continue to be involved in this committee, on your behalf, regardless of this election's results.

I also volunteer on my school site Health Care Committee to promote wellness among staff and students! (The healthier we are the more money in our paychecks)!

As your Vice President, I will continue to volunteer my time and effort on your behalf. I would be honored to serve as your Vice President and I will be available for you.

I have a degree in Business Human Resources, Masters in Educational Technology, CTE Credentials in Business and Finance, Marketing, Sales & Service and have served as Co-Department Chair of Business.

If you have any questions please email me at: [Julie.cole@oxnardunion.org](mailto:Julie.cole@oxnardunion.org)

Thank you for your support!

Respectfully,  
Julie Cole

# Certificated Vice President Nominees

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## **Josh Chancer, Certificated VP Nominee**

We need an OFTSE that is involved, visible, active, and engaged with the issues that affect our union, students, staff, and professional wellbeing.

I am running to support our local union as **Certificated Vice President**. Our union can be a force to be reckoned with in the debates over budget cuts, medical fee hikes, and the apportionment of resources on our campuses. Our union should fight to keep class sizes down, wages competitive, and to improve our health and welfare benefits. But our public strength as a union is only as good as our internal strength. I am committed to supporting a strong union through greater transparency, communication, and open decision-making.

Our union must work collaboratively with both our leadership in the District Office and the individuals that make up OUR union; we share goals to serve our membership effectively and I will work tirelessly on your behalf. I remain committed to professional, responsive, and individual service to you and to all our members and dedicated to the values of our union.

As **Certificated Vice President**, I am responsible for organizing, informing, representing, and supporting all certificated staff. I will continue to work closely with different committees to conduct our local chapter business and communication. Information needs to reach our members in an efficient and clear format.

I have served as a member of the **OFTSE Budget Committee, Health Retiree Medical Insurance Gap Committee, Negotiations team member**, and a **delegate to the Tri-Counties Central Labor Council**. I was a former **site representative** at Pacifica High School and was a member of the **OFTSE Political Action Committee (PAC)**. I have served as **OFTSE Secretary, and Certificated Vice President**.

Record of professional service, organizational vision and openness to your ideas: I bring over 19 years of commitment, proven leadership and integrity as an educator. I promise to reach out to you—and listen to you—as we work together for a stronger union.

**Our current wages and benefits are the highest in the county. This is not by accident. This came from strong leadership at the negotiating table, where I helped fight for our profession, and working conditions.**

### **Important Issues:**

- **Helped increase salaries 22% over the past 10 years**
- **Ended Furlough Days**

- **Will advocate for a return of the calendar committee**
- **Won the fight to maintain duty-free prep periods**
- **Bring communication, actions, decisions, and goals of the union to the union membership**
- **OUHSD Executive Board presence at EACH site within the OUHSD**
- **Preservation of the Lifetime Medical Benefits Trust Fund**
- **Union Involvement in all district administration hiring**
- **Perform and maintain a level of professionalism within our union**
- **Listen and act on the concerns and needs of the certificated and classified staff**

Thank you for your support.

In Unity, Joshua Chancer Certificated  
Vice President OFTSE

## **Ed Ransom, Certificated VP Nominee**

Hello, my name is Ed Ransom Jr. and I would like your vote for OFTSE Certificated Vice President. I have worked in the OUHSD for 19 years. In my time in the district, I have both taught and have been an administrator at Rio Mesa, and I am now happily a teacher again at Channel Islands. I have a Masters in Teaching, a Doctorate in Leadership, and over the last two decades I have worked, trained, and learned along with many of you. I have found that each of you expects a transparent and honest union.

A well-run union represents all of its members in a straightforward and reliable manner. Communication, compensation, and benefits are the key issues for any voting union member. As Certificated VP, I promise to continue to be straightforward and reliable. I will make myself available to you and to maintain clear communication. I will listen and work to keep you informed and as I have always done. I will find the answers to your tough questions. I will also keep my eye on the ball and focus on the real issues that matter to you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at [ed.ransom@oxnardunion.org](mailto:ed.ransom@oxnardunion.org)

Thank you, Ed Ransom Jr. Ed.D. For OFTSE  
Certificated VP



# Para Vice President Nominees

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## **Linda Baker Torres, Para VP Nominee**

Hi!! I am Linda Torres, Para 5 – Interpreter for the Deaf at Rio Mesa. I am running for a Vice President position on the OFTSE Executive Board in order to continue serving the Paras, Certificated, and Classified staff of the Oxnard Federation of Teachers and School Employees. Over the past 38 years, I have had the opportunity to serve as the Rio Mesa Site Rep, to help start the original OFTSE PAC, to attend trainings and conventions, to be on various committees at Rio Mesa as well as at the district level, but I am most proud to have had the honor of serving as the Para VP for 6 years. I always take pride in giving the time and attention that is necessary to get answers to all questions or concerns quickly for our paras, our classified, our teachers and our coaches. Being the wife of Rick Torres, 36 year Rio Mesa teacher and Coach, all Certificated and Coaches concerns, became my concern.

My promise to you is the same as it always has been. I promise to be available to listen to you, to keep you informed, to find answers or options to your questions, to be transparent and honest about the information I receive even if the answers aren't what we were hoping to get. I promise to keep your concerns confidential and to always have your best interest in mind.

Through the years of working in the OUHSD I have had the pleasure of getting to know many of you and I look forward to meeting many more. Please help me to help YOU, the Para staff, the Classified staff and the Certificated staff by voting for me, **Linda Baker Torres** for OFTSE **Para Vice President** on Thursday, May 2.

Thanks!

## **Andrea Sturtevant, Para VP Nominee**

My name is Andrea Sturtevant. I am running for the Para educator Vice President of the OFTSE.

I have worked with the Oxnard Union High School District for twenty-three years. I have had the pleasure of working at most sites as a Para I, Para IV, and worked alongside the sign language interpreters. My role as a Para IV is to help provide the best educational support for their success and personal growth as an active citizen in their community. Every year, I attend trainings provided by SELPA to learn new tools and share the information with my colleagues to incorporate in the student's educational goals.

I have worked with the union as a site representative for a total of nine years. Being a union representative has its challenges but I approach it in a proactive manner and collaborate with my colleagues to find a solution. My goal is to ensure that employees are treated with respect and fairness by their site Administration and the District Office employees. I would like to think that we all work collectively to create an environment for professional and personal growth. I have attended many leadership Conferences in Sacramento and locally to learn about new laws affecting our students and our staff. I also worked on the Para contract negotiating team to help para educators enhance their education and hopefully become a Teacher in this district.

I am optimistic about the future of our Union and District and I look forward to help expanding opportunities for our staff and students. I hope that you will give me the opportunity to show you that I am qualified to represent you as the Para educator Vice President.

# Adult School Vice President Nominee

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## **Ko Tamura, Adult School VP Nominee**

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the OFTSE membership as an Adult School site representative and, since 2004, as a member of the executive board. My aim as a union representative is simple:

- 1) To improve salaries,
- 2) To improve working conditions, and
- 3) To defend the collective bargaining agreements for all three bargaining units (Para, classified, and certificated) of OFTSE.

Your vote to allow me to continue working for you would be greatly appreciated.

In unity,  
Ko Tamura  
OFTSE Adult School VP

# Secretary Nominee

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## **Carri McDevitt, Secretary Nominee**

It has been a pleasure serving as OFTSE Secretary since October 2016. Through this opportunity, I have been able to gain in-depth knowledge and experience as how to better serve our union and its members. If re-elected, I would bring to this position the knowledge I have gained in various leadership roles in the OFTSE and my experience working in the district. I have been a counselor in the district since 2004, working at Channel Islands until 2016 and now at Rio Mesa High School. I have been able to serve our union members on the Certificated Negotiations Team for our last two successful contracts and plan to continue to represent our union and contract with our members' voices and needs in full consideration.

If re-elected, I will continue to serve in this position with the upmost integrity, confidentiality, and knowledge of our working contract. I bring a wealth of knowledge to this position, providing for a diverse executive board that is able to relate to and represent all of our union members individually and collectively. I am passionate about continuing to help our union grown strong, and plan on continuing to take any opportunities to learn and grow, not only in this position, but also as a union member, to best represent our members and provide equity for all.

# Treasurer Nominees

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## **Robert “Nic” Gaffuri, Treasurer Nominee**

My Name is Robert “Nic” Gaffuri and I have been a Social Science Teacher in the OUHSD for 13 years, working at Pacifica High School. I am the current OFTSE Treasurer with the energy and enthusiasm to be reelected. I have really enjoyed supporting the teachers and staff I work with throughout the OUHSD. In addition, I have put numerous hours into accurate reporting, ensuring legal compliance during annual audits, as well as learning to improve the efficient management of our OFTSE Budget and Financial records. I am excited to, and will continue to do so with the votes and support of my colleagues.

## **Josue “Josh” Vasquez, Treasurer Nominee**

Greetings OUHSD family,

My name is Josue (Josh) Vasquez and I serve many of you through our Information Technology department. Now I am ready to serve and contribute to **YOU** and our union through the position of treasurer. For years, I have sat on the sidelines and listened to union members share their concerns, needs, and wants. I am ready to go hands-on within our union and help make a positive difference. I have happily maintained a customer service-oriented position for the past 12+ years within the district and I am ready to take on new challenges and experiences. As a member of the Information Technology department, I have had the ability to interact with classified and certificated union members. Through those interactions I established several friendships and professional relationships. It is because of all the relationships I have developed here at OUHSD that I ask for your faith and trust in allowing me to serve you as your next union treasurer. I plan to maintain transparency and an open window of communication through whatever questions or concerns you may have. This opportunity would be a learning experience for me, but I wouldn't ask for your nominations if I didn't think I could take this on. I am excited and honored to have been nominated. Now, I look forward to serving all our Union members. In case anyone was wondering, I am bi-lingual, and I also speak tech. At the end of the day, no matter what the outcome, I will continue to maintain the highest quality service and support possible for all our staff, faculty, and students. I thank you for this consideration and opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Josue Vasquez

## **La Vada White, Treasurer Nominee**

My name is La Vada White and I am running for OFTSE Executive Board Treasurer. I am a Special Education Teacher and current site representative at Rio Mesa Adult Transition Program. I have been a teacher with OUHSD for 7 years and have taught a total of 12 years. For 4 years, I have served as a Site Representative. I have volunteered for 2 years for the Medical Committee as well as the special education committee. Prior to teaching, I worked in the medical insurance field for 5 years.

My promise to you is to be available to listen and be open, honest and transparent. I have a passion to serve and ensure that we continue to have great medical benefits. I promise to keep anything you share with me confidential and remain open minded and fair. Please help me to help YOU by voting for me **La Vada White for OFTSE Treasurer** on Thursday, May 2.