



CUSD Candidate Information Session



Spring 2020



“Citizen oversight of local government is the cornerstone of democracy in the United States. School board members are locally elected public officials entrusted with governing a community’s public schools. The role of the school board is to ensure that school districts are responsive to the values, beliefs and priorities of their communities.”

California School Boards Association

About the Board

- The District is governed by a five-member Board of Education.
- Each Board Member is elected by the community at large and serves a four-year term.

Functions of the Board

- The primary function of the Board of Education is to act as the policy making body for the District.
- The Board is charged with ensuring a quality educational program for students in grades Kindergarten through 8 in accordance with state law and the desires of the community.
- In addition to establishing the District's goals and policies, the Board also engages in a number of oversight roles such as approving all District expenditures.

Functions of the Board

- The Board of Education delegates the administration of the District to a professional administrative staff headed by the Superintendent.
- Individual Board Members have no power to act independently in the name of the Board. Action can only be taken when the Board is in formal session with a majority of its members present.

What is the time commitment like?

- 2020-2021 Board Meeting Dates
- Events Calendar (while not required, we try to make sure we have each event well attended by multiple Board Members)
- California School Boards Association Annual Conference & Masters in Governance Courses

What is the time commitment like:

Standing meetings and committee work:

- Pre-Board 45 Minute Appointments the week of each board meeting to sit with Superintendent and ask questions about the posted board agenda.
- Committees - each board member may have some but not all of the following assigned committees:
 - Safe Routes to School Cupertino (monthly), Sunnyvale (quarterly)
 - 2 X 2 Committees with cities (Cupertino & Los Altos currently) (quarterly to semi-annually)
 - Budget Advisory Committee - meets 4-6 times a year
 - Ballot Action Committee (Bond & Parcel Tax Measures)
 - Enrollment Committee
 - Facilities Committee

What is the time commitment like:

School Visits:

- Each board member has 5 assigned schools (4 elementary, 1 middle) that are their assigned schools for the year. They will be responsible for working with the principal directly to arrange site visit(s) and will be the primary on reviewing the SPSA (Single Plan for Student Achievement) and School Safety Plans with the site.
- Any board member also has access to a calendar of events and site visit opportunities for all other sites.

What is it like to be a board member?

- Serve all students -- leave personal relationships at the door
- Difficult decisions ahead, community pressure can be intense
- Be committed to doing the homework and coming to meetings prepared
- Confidentiality - even when it's not easy
- Be willing to compromise to keep the peace, and still do the right thing for our kids
- Stay out of the weeds. The board's job is to define the "what" -- it is the staff's job to manage the "how"

Things to know:

- Candidate Trainings may be offered by (contact agency/org for possible dates).
 - The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters
 - Santa Clara County School Boards Assoc.
 - FPPC
- Candidate Forums may be offered by (contact organizations for possible dates).:
 - LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale
 - CFSCPTA (Cupertino/Fremont/Sunnyvale Council of PTAs)
 - CEA (Cupertino Education Association)
 - CSEA Cupertino Chapter 13 (California School Employees Assoc)
- Candidate Nomination Period Opens: July 13, 2020 and Closes: Aug 7, 2020
 - Election Calendar and Candidate Guide available from SCCROV

Question & Answer

Please use the “raise hand” function to let us know if you have a question.