

Haight and LMS to Hold Election Events for Mid-Terms

With the mid-term elections drawing near (please vote on November 6!), some AUSD schools have embarked on their own election activity. There are too many to describe in this space, but here are a few highlights.

Students and staff at Haight Elementary School will participate in a “primary election” on November 6, in which they will vote for one of the following possible new names for their school: “Don Grant Elementary School,” “Niel Tam Elementary School,” “Love Elementary School,” and “Ohlone Elementary School” (with the caveat that the committee is working to get permission from the tribe before using that name). Students and staff will receive small Voter Guides to learn more about the options and will vote at lunchtime.

On November 15, the school will hold a “general election,” in which students, staff, families, and the local community will be able to vote on maintaining “Haight” as the school name or adopting the winner of the primary election as a new name. This survey/election is required under AUSD Board Policy. The policy also specifies that if the majority of participants vote for the new name, the committee sends it to the superintendent for approval. If he approves it, he will send it to the Board of Education for approval. Details on the Haight renaming process, including the board policy that governs it, are available at <https://alameda.usd-ca.schoolloop.com/HaightName>.

Meanwhile, the Leaders in Social Justice student club at Lincoln Middle School will be holding a school-wide mock election for November 6. This will be an optional activity for social studies classes to participate in. Currently the students are considering using Google Chrome Books so that students can vote online; those Chrome Books, by the way, were paid for by the Measure A parcel tax. (#ThankYouAlameda!) And last Friday, several of the club members held a voter registration event at Books, Inc. This was the club’s first initiative of the year; they were especially interested in getting 16 year olds registered but were also generally trying to raise awareness of the election process and the importance of this year’s mid-term elections. On November 2nd, the club will also partner with the LMS Leadership and the Debate Club to host a rally during lunch. The debate topic will be: “Democracy: Pros V. Cons.”

Other schools will also be holding election activities in the next several weeks – we’ll be sure to publicize those efforts, as well.