

# Board Candidate Information Session

Cupertino Union School District
Spring 2024



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 CUSD**





#### 23 Schools

14 Elementary
Three K-5 Alternative
Schools
One K-8 Alternative School
5 Middle Schools



13,500 Students

TK - 8th Grade YCC Preschool



1,700 Employees

Certificated Classified Management



#### Six Cities

Cupertino
Sunnyvale
San Jose
Saratoga
Los Altos
Santa Clara

# Functions of the Board

Primary function: act as the policy-making body for the District.

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.

- educational program for students in grades TK-8 in accordance with state law and community input.
- Establishes the District's goals and policies.
- Engages in a number of oversight roles such as approving all District expenditures.
- Delegates the administration of the District to a professional administrative staff headed by the Superintendent.

# **Time Committment**

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#### Meetings & School Visits

- Board Meetings: twice a month
- Board Office Hour: once a quarter
- Board Committee Meetings
- School Visits

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#### **Public Events**

- Major District Events
- Professional Organization Events
- Civic Events

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#### **Conferences**

California School Boards
 Association (CSBA) Annual
 Education Conference (AEC)

# **Standing Meetings and Committee Work**

Pre-Board 45-minute appointments the week of each Board Meeting with the Superintendent to ask questions about the posted board agenda.

Each Board Member may have some but not all of the following assigned committees:

- Budget Advisory (quarterly)
- Wellness (bi-monthy)

- Strategic Partnership Cupertino
- Strategic Partnership Los Altos/Sunnyvale
- Strategic Partnership Saratoga





### **School Visits**

Each year, Board Members are assigned up to five schools (ex: four elementary, one middle).

Board Members work with the principal to arrange site visit(s).

Review each assigned school's Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) and School Safety Plans.

Board Members also have access to (1) the calendar of school events and (2) site visit opportunities at all other schools.

## **Board Members**



Serve all students - leave personal relationships at the door



Make difficult decisions – community pressure can be intense



Committed to doing the homework and coming to meetings prepared



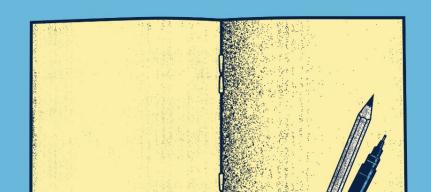
Maintain confidentiality - even when it's not easy



Willing to compromise to keep the peace, and still do the right thing for all students



Stay out of the weeds; the Board's job is to define the "what" - it is the staff's job to manage the "how"



# **Key Dates**

Candidate Nomination Period:

July 15 - August 9, 2024

Election Calendar and Candidate Guide:
Available from SCCROV

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

