

School Board Project Is for Local Efforts

By Jeanne Delp

Last month's article included quotes from the 2022 One Book, One Community Reads selection: *All We Can Save*. This year's 2023 selection, Amanda Gorman's poem, *The Hill We Climb*, included this timely thought: "To compose a country committed/ To all cultures, colors, characters/ And conditions of man."

AAUW addresses this same thought in our Public Policy priorities: "In response to votes from our statewide members, the California Board has approved 11 changes, which can be viewed [here](#). Additions include support for: civics education, access to diverse staff and curriculum. . . The AAUW California Public Policy Program establishes policy directives that will guide our members, inform our legislative priorities, serve our mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, and are consistent with our values of achieving **fair and equitable opportunities for our diverse society.**"

To this end AAUW CA created a School Board Project, including a webinar--Book Banning and Curricula Censorship--and a Tool Kit that explains the project, its importance to our schools, and how AAUW California members can become involved. It discusses a "movement being faced by communities across our state and the nation: the well-coordinated attempt by conservative organizations to elect regressive school board members who support book banning and curricula censorship."

You can educate yourself about this issue and prepare to become involved in the School Board elections of your respective city by following these suggestions:

1. The League of Women Voters usually sponsors a candidate forum. Watch for these in 2024.
2. "Check <https://votersedge.org/ca> to learn about the candidates and their views. Look to see if they are endorsed by local elected officials whose positions are often aligned with AAUW's policy priorities."
3. Don't become complacent by thinking "things like this will never happen in our city!"
4. Check out AAUW's [Tool Kit](#) that provides multiple resources, and attend in person or follow the on-line school board meetings to broaden your understanding of the present members on the board and the tasks they face. Perhaps you or someone you know will become a candidate for one of the school boards in the tri-city area!

How to Find Your Local School Board Meeting

Fremont

In person: 4210 Technology Dr, Fremont, CA 94538, 6:30p.m.

Video: <https://fremontunified.org/about/board/board-meeting-live-stream-video>

Calendar: Usually on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month with some exceptions: Nov.15, 2023, Dec.13, 2023, Jan.17, 2024, Feb.14 and 28, 2024

Newark

In person: NUSD Boardroom, 5715 Musick., Newark, CA 94560, 7:00 p.m.

Video: Board meeting videos can be accessed through [BOARDDOCS](#) or the NUSD YOUTUBE channel

Calendar: Usually on the first and third Tuesday of each month with some exceptions. Nov. 7, 2023, Dec. 5 and 19, 2023, Jan. 23, 2024, Feb. 6 and 20, 2024

Union City (New Haven School District)

In person: 34200 Alvarado-Niles Road Union City, CA, 94587 6:30 p.m.

Video: <https://mynhusd.org/school-board/board-agendas-meetings/>

Calendar: Usually on the first and third Tuesday of each month with some exceptions. Nov. 7, 2023, Dec. 5, 2023, Jan. 16, 2024, Feb. 6 and 20, 2024

Board vacancies do come up before regular elections, as in this case at New Haven, too late for any action, but something to be aware of. A recent vacancy on the New Haven School Board was announced with an application deadline of Oct. 27. See the following information:

QUALIFICATIONS

- Applicant must be a registered voter and a resident of Trustee Area 2 of the New Haven Unified School District. An employee of a school district may not be sworn into office as an elected or appointed member of that school district's governing board unless and until he or she resigns as an employee. [EC § 35107]
- The appointee will hold office until the next regularly scheduled Statewide General Election for governing board members, which will take place on November 5, 2024, or if and until a special election is required by a petition of District voters.[1] [EC § 5091(e)]