

Public Policy:

WHAT?? School Homework?

By Guest Contributor Laurinda Ochoa with Jeanne Delp

Editor's Note: Jeanne and Laurinda are both public policy chairs for their branches, Jeanne for Fremont Branch and Laurinda for the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch. Laurinda is also a member of the AAUW-CA Public Policy Committee.

Timeline in my inbox from the AAUW-CA Public Policy Committee:

Fall 2024: Project 2025 is the most dangerous thing you've never heard of

October 2024: Project 2025 and How it Would impact AAUW Public Policy Priorities

February 2025: Project 2025 is Becoming Reality

March 2025: School Board Project takes on new emphasis

What is the School Board Project and Why Should I Be Concerned?

The revised School Board Project, developed by AAUW CA Public Policy team, is available [here](#). Its purpose is to encourage the monitoring of school boards by local AAUW branches to ensure the Boards are not being affected by organizations whose objective is to ban books, censor educational materials, and provide public funds for nonpublic and charter schools that do not meet public school civil rights and accountability standards. This is happening in numerous other states and has occurred in several school districts in California, including our neighboring Sunol Glen Elementary.

Across the country, we have seen school boards, and candidates for school boards, taking up controversial policies that have led to banning books from school libraries, the censorship of curriculum in school classrooms due to individuals finding content "objectionable," and policies leading to the prevention of safe school climates for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

AAUW's Equal Access to Quality Public Education for ALL students stands in opposition to:

- The Executive Order eliminating federal funds for schools that recognize transgender identities or teach about structural racism, white privilege, and unconscious bias.
- The Executive Order directing federal agencies to look for ways to expand access to private school vouchers. (Ohio grants vouchers to all students to attend religious, private, or public schools).

Local School Board Meetings

All school board meetings are open to the public. They also allow for remote viewing. Dates and times are listed below.

Fremont Board of Education Meetings

Meetings start at 6:30 pm unless otherwise specified and are held at 4210 Technology Dr., Fremont.

The tentative meeting schedule for the rest of the school year is

April 16

May 14 and 24

June 11 and 25

The public can attend in person, observe the meeting via live stream on the District's Website, view the Board Meeting via Fremont Comcast Cable channel 26 (and 1084), or on Zoom (registration required).

<https://fremontunified.org/about/board/>

New Haven (Union City) Board of Education Meetings

Meetings start at 5:30 unless otherwise specified and are held at the Educational Services Center at 34200 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City.

The tentative meeting schedule for the rest of the school year is

April 15

May 6 and 20

June 3 and 17

Meetings can be viewed in the Board Room, Live on Zoom, and Streaming on YouTube.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/nhusd/Board.nsf/Public>

Newark Board of Education Meetings

Meetings start at 7 pm unless otherwise specified and are held at 5715 Musick Avenue, Newark.

The tentative meeting schedule for the rest of the school year is

April 1 and 15

May 6 and 20

June 10 and 24

Members of the public may observe the meeting via the [NUSD YouTube Channel](#), or in person inside the NUSD Boardroom.

<https://www.newarkunified.org/district/board-of-education>