School Boards 101

Meeting is in Session

SCHOOL
......SAY HELLO......

Impacting Your School District

by Lilian Ongelungel
and the Field Team at

APANO
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN NETWORK OF OREGON
I always hear about the school board whenever I’m at a school. But I’m not exactly sure what they do at the schools.

What is a school board? And what do they do?
A school board is a group of people that oversees the superintendent of a school district. The superintendent supervises all of the principals in a school district.
A school board is made of elected volunteers who make important decisions about the school district.

**District Patrons**
The people who vote for School Board Directors. That's us!

**School District Board of Directors**
These are the people we elect to the school board.

**District Superintendent**
This is the person who oversees the district and its schools.

**General Operations**
This can include things like:
- Human Resources
- Equity & Compliance
- Finance
- Logistics
- Technology Services
- Communication & Marketing

**Curriculum & Instruction**
This can include things like:
- Supervising School Principals
- Designing Curriculum
- Managing Federal Programs
- Student Assessment Measures
- Tracking Student Success
- Grants & Community Partners
School boards help to create and shape policies that impact the district. They also make sure that the superintendent does their job.
The people selected to be on the school board are elected by the people who live in the school district. When people vote for a school board member, each member serves a term that usually lasts a few years before there is another election for their seat.
My community is full of diverse people.

But that’s not what my local school board looks like.

What can I do to improve my local school board?
School boards hold regular meetings that are open to the public. This is where community members voice their concerns to the school board in person.

I can take my concerns directly to the school board.

- We need culturally responsive support
- We have input on ethnic studies
- Schools need to address bullying
- Students are facing racism
- Language immersion classes can be improved
With supportive school board members in office, we can pass policies that represent our communities. This is how we got Ethnic Studies curricula for K-12 classrooms in 2017.
I can run for a seat on the school board.

In 2019, the majority of Oregon’s school board candidates ran unopposed. I can run for my local school board to make sure my community is seen and represented.
The school board can make choices about our district.
But the power is in the hands of the people.
Notes:
Notes: