



*Bringing Oakland Together for Our Students*

**Election Season Kick-Off: Small Group Discussion Notes**

<b>Wows</b>	<b>Wonders</b>	<b>Next steps</b>
School board membership is a serious endeavor	Democracy?	Political engagement
School board embodies a team concept/collective will	Is there a vetting process?	Utilizing tools available to get informed
Board engagement = attending hard meetings	Community engagement. How do you please them all?	Take responsibility
Needs of each given district may be different	Norms are fundamental. Can our school board function with norms? Can't really agree. Come together for strategy-how do we sustain this?	Become members of various organizations
Good to hear about board culture and norms		Change habits
Make mindfulness part of our culture "confirm thy soul in self control, in liberty and law" - America the Beautiful	Is there a vehicle to train school board candidates?	Understand the power of local government
Community can take on the role of reminding the Board of norms/culture	Is it a thankless job?	Find out more about what our members do
Resources/time on district sites	How do we get a larger pool of candidates?	Attend/support debates and school Board members
Body language, tone boils down to respect	How does our school board advocate effectively for changes/ needs at the county/state/federal level?	Encourage great local leaders to run
Focus on solving a problem sometimes causes the Board to ignore the process	What should be the Board's role in advocating for additional funds?	Build/publicize social spaces to connect people (ex: Laundromat)
No experience required	FOR BOARD MEMBERS --> What is your primary responsibility?	Each of us spreads the word and information
Presenter will welcome a rubric to invite feedback	How and who maintains Board norms?	Board members should look beyond current issues
Micro managing	Thankless position, lots of heat... so what motivates people to be on the board?	More accountability (suggestion: score cards)

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Community pressure	How can a Board member know which policies will be effective in their schools without spending time in them?	Norms installed and enforced
Bureaucracy	Should this position be considered a full time job?	Training
80% of Gary's time even though we heard this is not an effective practice	Can we ask the same [in terms of norms and culture?] of City Council?	More forums and discussions
Requirements to be elected to the School board pretty open	Could the board have a pre-meeting to remind each other of norms, even under rules of the Brown Act? (i.e. public)	Find out more about current Board members
Defining governance and what is the relationship between Board members and district Superintendent	Can this presentation be taken to SSCs parent groups, other parent orgs and communities to have a more educate electorate? Back to school night?	Engage students with this (suggestion : student membership)
Lever analogy re: board and schools	How can we get this to be the culture of schools?	Brainstorm on how to hold the Board accountable (suggestions: report cards, rubric for great Board work)
Emphasis on role of non-verbal communication	How do Board members disseminate information to constituencies?	Encourage students to be more accountable for their learning
Lack of power was a surprise , 1/2 the role is to follow the rules and regulations	How to get to more parents? (suggestions: pick up/drop off, churches) teachers?	Communication amongst Superintendent/Board, admin, teachers, talents, students, and community = accountability and engagement
Surprised at all of the different forces at play! Like the four forces of your school. Would be helpful to understand before criticizing	Family community office role?	Full service community schools: role to shift social capital
Guidance removed from managerial control- they are not the managers but asked to be	League of Woman Voters' role?	Create more forums for using new lense to look at Board members
A lot of the presentation was not surprising. The Board members are just politicians- seems like they were stuck and there are a lot of issues not addressed by the current structure	What tools do Board members use to evaluate the superintendent?	More forums to "vision" and address issues by the Board
Some things they are required (pass budget) are managerial	What orientation do Board members have coming in?	Empower parents to exercise their power to participate
Can't get fired because they're elected so the Superintendent has little control	How can we do more presentations like this one w/parents, teachers, act.?	People should be voting more

Wows	Wonders	Next steps
<p>The idea of culture of a board-never seen a board there that was a priority. Very important, what is said gets lost in the heat of the heat of the moment.</p> <p>A lot of the skills that make a good cocktail waitress make a good Board member</p> <p>Very few requirements to get the job- like the spirit but in reality when there are 37,000 students we want really thoughtful folks Like that in Oakland members have to live in the district</p>	<p>How/what can Board members do to advocate for Oakland?</p> <p>Can we perform recall elections?</p> <p>How can we hold Board members accountable?</p> <p>How does the board utilize research/best practices?</p>	<p>Students can do this as well-stipend a students, keep them in safe spaces and get them involved</p> <p>Involve non-profits</p> <p>Standardizing components of OUDS's schools (i.e. mandatory uniforms)</p> <p>Giving each school site autonomy in academics curriculum --&gt; parent choice, array of differential student learning</p>
<p>Despite community voters putting them in offices, still have legal obligations</p>	<p>How can the Board be more transparent?</p>	<p>School board norms instituted and enforced and all members held accountable.</p>
<p>Promises of candidates vs. actual knowledge of needs in district</p>	<p>How can a Board member know the policies w/o spending time in schools?</p>	<p>Diversity training, multicultural training ONGOING</p>
<p>Value driven work</p>	<p>How can we support Board members in their job?</p>	<p>Each person present the info and message to another person; get them involved in being proactive members in this movement</p>
<p>Challenging to direct change</p>	<p>How can we get more community involvement?</p>	<p>Can share this information with others (i.e. students, parents)</p>
<p>Dynamics never thought about</p>	<p>How doe the role of the Board in collective bargaining impact their role in other areas?</p>	<p>Promote norms to Board members</p>
<p>Four attributes of effective Board members</p>	<p>Who usually get elected? Are there trends?</p>	<p>High standards</p>
<p>Constituent impact on policy making</p>	<p>Is there a way to recall an elected board member?</p>	<p>Consequences</p>
<p>Board members looking beyond minimum requirements. Current issues: Teacher effectiveness, core standards, budget priorities.</p>	<p>How can we impact Board norms and behavior?</p>	<p>Recruit qualified potential Board members</p>
<p>Sense of accountability</p>	<p>Who owns relationship with CA Board of Ed?</p>	<p>Provide research and policy recommendations for school board members because GO builds capacity by providing information</p>

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Tension between governance and staff. (Board sets policy, staff implements policy)	Are there any GO members running?	Yee asks for wows/wonders reflection post Board meetings. Four categories to provide feedback are
There is an expectation of what voters should get	What is the relationship between the SSC and Board of Education governance?	preparation, focus, mindfulness, and manner
Board members have a hard time harnessing goals with resources and capacity	As site leader how to balance agent of change role particularly in relation to the Board	Improve relationship w/ Board and community
Candidate expectations	How do you grapple with the promise of Board to constituents?	Community could be more proactive
Community pressure	The history of the division of the Board	More parental/family involvement
Focus on school sites	Role of the Superintendent	Local financial support
	Role of charter school's parents in impacting the Board	Community involvement/support/advocacy
	Coalitions of coalitions	GO should think about how to educate people to have real expectations for Board members or what to look for in a candidate
	What does it mean to be above direct managerial control?	"If I haven't voted, why should I vote now?" Need to communicate the purpose of small successes to folks to demonstrate the importance of voting
	How much direct influence or power does a Board member have to create change/ make decisions for the individual schools he/she oversees?	Lot of people pass over the School Board section on the ballot because they are not informed. Need to increase public education
	Has the Board really thought about the four attributes of an effective Board member? Can they?	Look to grassroots organizations (untapped resources)
How does Mr. Smith see himself in relating to Board policies and admin regulations?	Coordinate with the League of Woman Voters	
What tools do Board members use in order to evaluate the Superintendent's effectiveness?		
Parcel system of city council and School Board but different pay/staff/etc?		
How do we influence the national agenda?		