

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1000 Broadway, Suite 300

Oakland, CA 94607-4033

ousd.org/boe | boe@ousd.org

510.879.8199 w | 510.879.2299 f | 510.879.2300 TTY/TDD

**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2020**Jody London**, President, District 1jody.london@ousd.org**Shanthi Gonzales**, Vice President, District 6shanthi.gonzales@ousd.org**Aimee Eng**, District 2aimee.eng@ousd.org**Jumoke Hinton Hodge**, District 3jumoke.hintonhodge@ousd.org**Gary Yee**, District 4gary.yee@ousd.org**Roseann Torres**, District 5roseann.torres@ousd.org**James Harris**, District 7james.harris@ousd.org

Student Directors' Report

August 12th, 2020

Samantha Pal and Jessica Ramos, Student Directors

Good Afternoon Board Members, Students, Parents, & Community,

It is an honor to serve the 2020-2021 School Year in the position for Student Director's, we would like to formally introduce ourselves,

Samantha Pal, I am a first generation Southeast Asian student attending Oakland High School as a Junior. I'm super excited to see what this year holds for myself. As Student Director, this year my goal is to be here to listen and let it be known that young people are a part of Oakland's big legacy in making change. I am here to share my values as a young person because growing up I never really knew my worth. I wasn't proper tongued, English was not my first language, and so I grew up wanting to make my family proud and this is why I am here now. This seat plays a big part in the future I am shaping for myself.

Jessica Ramos, I am first generation Latinx student and am a Senior at Skyline High School. I come from a low-income family, I come from a family that have always worked for OUSD, so it is a privilege to now represent the voice of many students not just from Oakland but students who have been pushed out of the town and still attend OUSD. This year has been a roller coaster that has not finished. I come from a family that does not give up "y todo se puede" anything can be done, so I hope to fight for the voices of students and hope to make a change in our community and our education system.

We would also like to introduce the new All City Council Governing Board for the 2020-2021 school year: ([slideshow](#))

The All City Council does have an open position for LCAP Director. If you are interested, please contact accmediadirector@gmail.com.

The All City Council Governing Board would like to be connected with the OUSD School Board to continue the work from previous years, and build a youth-adult partnership. During the Summer, All City Council (ACC) had trainings that helped our Governing Board learn the history of community organizing, the history of ACC and student engagement, work with Oakland Youth Advisory Commission and the work that continues with Oakland Youth Vote.

The Oakland Youth Vote (OYV) is a critical opportunity to extend the rights to vote in School Board elections to 16 and 17 year old's. Young people need representation within their community. Oakland students are directly impacted by priorities and policies of the School Board and where it impacts them the most is their very own education system. We deserve to have a voice in determining outcomes on our health, safety, academic success, and well-being.

And so, youth leaders (from All City Council Student Union, Oakland Kids First, and many other OYV Coalition Members) started to explore, with months of research and organizing to engage their own school communities, met with Councilmembers to enlist their support and develop legislation. The OYV will be on the November 2020 ballot. And we would like to deeply appreciate everyone who had endorsed OYV. We would like to say a very special thanks to Councilmembers and Board Members. We cannot win this without you!

We would also like to acknowledge the young people that stood up during the COVID-19 crisis and said the Oakland Youth Vote is now more important than ever. Our voices mattered before, it matters today, and always. We want to be at the table, not on the menu.

Because of this Pandemic, it has brought up (the things that have been there but not shown) the digital divide, where many of our students, families, and teachers to this day do not have access to the internet or a technology device to be able to communicate. The Oakland Undivided with Tech Exchange will be giving out 25,000 laptops to keep and over 14,000 hotspots.

We would like to give special shout outs to parents, teachers, staff, the family engagement team, and students for working through these hard times with lots of care, love, and commitment in making sure OUSD's top priority is students first and equity within our schools. We want to acknowledge that you are heard, loved, and valued.

There are not enough words to express the anger, sadness, and disappointment to the recent deaths of our black brothers and sisters. Eleven years ago, our own Oscar Grant was killed at Fruitvale station by Bart Police, where many of our own OUSD students use as transportation to get to school. To this day, we are still fighting for Black lives, Black Lives Matter is not a trend, it is a movement until we seek justice for Breanna Taylor, Sandra Bland, George Floyd, Eric Garner, and many other lives lost.

We ask for a moment of silence. Thank you.

This is one of the reasons we continue the work to remove police from schools which oppress our brown and black students. We thank the Black Organizing Project for many years of work as we move forward to create a Districtwide Safety Plan to ensure students are in a safe and positive school environment.

With the recent passing of Vannesa Guillen who was a soldier for this country and was brutally killed on her own base, has made the community reflect and have made us think on how we do not want to hear that story to our own classmates or students in Oakland. The military recruits and targets students from low income communities, **we do not want military presence in our schools...**

We hope to start this year and continue the work that our last student leaders have started and represent our students.