



PRESS RELEASE

Poway Unified School District

15250 Avenue of Science ■ San Diego, California 92128-3406 ■ www.powayusd.com

Phone (858) 521-2707 ■ FAX (858) 485-1075

For Immediate Release

April 8, 2021

CONTACT: Christine Paik, Chief Communications Officer

PHONE: (858) 521-2707 **EMAIL:** cpaik@powayusd.com

Poway Unified Appoints 2021-2022 Student Board Member

Winnie Xu of Westview High School will assume seat on Board of Education beginning August 2021



(San Diego, CA) – It is with great pride the Poway Unified School District announces the appointment of Westview High School junior Winnie Xu as the Student Board Member for the 2021-2022 academic year.

A Board sub-committee consisting of the current Student Board Member, Chief Communications Officer and two Board Members met on April 2, 2021 to interview candidates from high schools across the District. Upon final review, the Board sub-committee members recommended Winnie Xu for the position. The full Board of Education approved Winnie in an official vote at its April 8 meeting.

“Winnie’s passion to enact positive social change and advocate for students during a global pandemic is remarkable, and directly reflects the qualities we look for in PUSD’s Student Board Representative,” Superintendent Marian Kim Phelps said. “I am confident Winnie will excel in this role, and that her innovative ideas for student engagement will be a welcome addition to the Board.”

Winnie is a dedicated student who is passionate about civic engagement, community leadership, and academic achievement. She is known by her school counselors and teachers to

have “a strong moral character that guides her decisions and choices, drives her to get involved in her community [...] and make a difference for future generations of students.” Throughout the past year, Winnie has specifically focused her attention on ethnic studies within the high school setting. She is the National Political Director for GENup US, a statewide student-led social justice organization, where she spearheads a campaign that has mobilized over 2500 students to participate by calling their Senate representatives. Winnie is also the Founder and President of GENup through PUSD.

In addition to this, Winnie is an active member and co-author of the California State Seal of Civic Engagement. She worked alongside state politicians to draft the criteria for the award, and mobilized a survey process wherein 900 students gave feedback about their democratic engagement levels that inspired the State Seal rubric. Her passion for others’ wellbeing during the global pandemic has extended to working behind the scenes on the Mental Health Days Resolution that was recently passed by the PUSD Board of Education, and the Students for Mental Alliance Coalition at the state level. She hopes to “further the accessibility and transparency of mental health resources for students,” and continue the work of the current Student Board Member during her term.

Winnie’s term of office will be the entirety of her senior year. The term will begin with the August 2021 Board meeting, and conclude with the June 2022 meeting. The duties of the Student Board Member include providing continuing input for Board deliberations (excluding discipline, personnel, and employer-employee relations), strengthening communications between the Board and students, representing all students in PUSD, and facilitating the discussion of all sides of an issue.

###