New S.F. Board of Education to Meet for the First Time

January 11, 2011 (San Francisco) - The new seven-member San Francisco Board of Education meets today for the first time. One new commissioner, Emily Murase, and two re-elected, Hydra Mendoza and Kim-Shree Maufas, were sworn into office on Friday, January 7, 2011.

Emily Murase
The newest member of the Board, Emily Murase, is a graduate of San Francisco public schools. Dr. Murase’s younger daughter is in the district’s Japanese Bilingual Bicultural Program (JBBP) at Rosa Parks Elementary School. Her elder daughter attends Presidio Middle School, her alma mater. Most recently, Commissioner Murase was a member of the Rosa Parks School Site Council, the JBBP Parent Teacher Community Council, and the Lowell Alumni Association Board of Directors. In 2008, she chaired the Parent Advisory Council, a group created by the San Francisco Board of Education to ensure parent voices in key policy decisions. Murase also served on the Proposition A Steering Committee which successfully passed a local measure to increase teacher salaries in 2008.

In her professional capacity, Murase serves as Executive Director of the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women, where she oversees a $3.5 million budget and a professional staff of five to promote the human rights of the women and girls of San Francisco. Previously, she served in the first Clinton White House as Director for International Economic Affairs (1993-1994), after working for AT&T Japan in Tokyo, and later worked in the International Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission.

Kim-Shree Maufas
Ms. Maufas was first elected to the S.F. Board of Education in November 2006. She has served the Board of Education as Vice-President (2008) and President (2009), chaired the Budget and Personnel/Labor relations committees and participated in the Curriculum committee. Additionally, Maufus serves as Co-Chair of the College District and School District Select Committee, a joint partnership between City College of San Francisco and SFUSD.

As the former Program Director at the UCSF National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health (CoE), Ms. Maufas helped develop programs that supported the CoE’s year-round internship/leadership development opportunities for girls and young women. Before working with UCSF, she served as the Senior Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Policy Analyst from the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women focusing on critical life issues surrounding girls, young women, and health disparities for women of color.

Hydra Mendoza
This is Ms. Mendoza’s second term on the S.F. Board of Education. Commissioner Mendoza served as Vice-President of the Board of Education for the past year. She is the chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and a member of the Rules, Policy and Legislation Committee, Select Committee and Ad Hoc Committee on Student Assignment.
Prior to serving on the board, Ms. Mendoza worked on issues of public education in San Francisco for over 15 years. She was the Executive Director of Parents for Public Schools, a national organization that engages various stakeholders to support, promote and improve public education. She was called by former Mayor Gavin Newsom to leave this role and serve as his education advisor. In addition to these roles, Mendoza has been very active in various electoral efforts to strengthen public education in San Francisco. She served on the steering committee for the successful passage of two facilities bond measures (2003 & 2006), and Proposition H (2004) and Proposition A (2008).