

BURNSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
Candidate Profiles Student Election of ONE (1) Board Member

Allan, Sam

Kia Ora! My name is Sam Allan and I would love to be your student representative on the Board of Trustees in 2023/2024.

If elected I am committing to holding regular meetings in the library to be able to listen to student's views. Additionally I wish to hold an update on what is happening on the board at least once per term in every divisional assembly. Whilst I have a strong vision for how we can improve Burnside, I am committed to representing what you want to see on the board. I am not representing myself, but the 2,392 people who are students at Burnside. Additionally I would start an instagram page detailing the work of the board and any upcoming events to make it easy to stay informed. You shouldn't have to find me to talk about an issue; I should be coming to you. These actions will make me, and thus the board, more accessible to students, creating better student representation.

I'll be going into year 12 at the time I would be on the board. This means I know the needs of seniors, and how we can make it easier to cope with exams. This is why, if elected, I will push to abolish the requirement for students to have to wear uniforms to exams. In such a stressful time, students of all year levels should be able to feel comfortable whilst sitting their exams, and it is unnecessary to make students wear uniforms whilst they are not going to classes.

Additionally I'm in leadership positions in several clubs (such as Show Quest and Debating) so work closely with students in the junior year levels, so would be able to work on issues that affect them. Being a younger member of such a big school can be a challenge, so it is crucial we give them the support they need.

On the board, students want someone who can fight for them, and I know I can be someone who pushes for a better school for the people that learn here.

Nga mihi e hoa,
Sam

Ayingaran, Ayshanie

Tēnā koutou katoa,

I am Ayshanie Ayingaran. I am running for Student Representative for the Burnside High School Board because I want to make our high school experience a fun and memorable one, driven by our values of having manaakitanga, mana and rangatiratanga.

As your Student Representative, I will advocate to heavily improve our student facilities. This means that I will also explore ways to make our canteen serve affordable food so we may not go hungry at school. If elected, I will put every single bone I have to work to make sure we will not have to be constantly begging our mates for money they don't or very rarely have for prices being constantly jacked up. I will ensure that every bathroom has soap; no more of that scody, icky lukewarm feeling when attempting to wash hands. And I will advocate for ways to make learning in the classroom more personalised, because learning is NOT a one-size-fits-all type concept. I believe that with the right tools, anyone can succeed. Though highly intelligent, a beaver wouldn't use a drill to build a dam.

At Burnside High, we have the power to transform our school into a vibrant and welcoming community where every student can thrive. Together, we can create a safe and inclusive environment that encourages us to pursue our passions.

Let's make Burnside High a place that we all look forward to attending- a place that inspires and helps us to achieve our dreams.

Thank you for considering me as your Student Representative.

Vote Ayshanie today!

Chen, William

Hi there! I'm William Chen, one of the young minds at Burnside this year. This past year has included me joining the student council, winning the Burnside Top Junior Sports Team of the Year award, and coming first place in the Epro8 grand finals. If I do get this position, I hope to attain more funding for the technology and drama blocks such as X block and M block. This is because X block desperately needs more funds for more 3D printers, better computers and soldering irons, and better chairs, while M block needs more space for the drama students to use, as currently some students are forced out into the hallways to work, which could distract or disturb the music students in other M block classes. Overall, I want to focus on funding the important and maybe neglected blocks, so that the students taking those classes can enjoy them better.

Corridon, Keelin

**No candidate statement provided. **

Elmallah, Zeyad

Dear Burnside High School Community,

My name is Zeyad Elmallah, and I am excited to announce my candidacy for the Student Representative Board. As a Year 11 student at Burnside High School, I am passionate about contributing to our school's community and advocating for our students' best interests.

I come to you with a strong background in leadership and a genuine desire to make a positive impact. Throughout my high school journey, I've consistently sought opportunities to grow as a student and as a leader. I firmly believe that every year should be a year of growth and development, which is why I have continuously taken on new challenges.

My track record includes involvement in various leadership roles, such as serving as a member of the Student Council, part of the librarian team, Senior member of Tech crew, Semi-finalist in Debating in the Christchurch Schools Competition, Representing New Zealand at the 2023 Australian Cadet Fencing Championships. I've been actively engaged in planning and executing school events and initiatives, learning the importance of effective communication and collaboration along the way.

In addition to my leadership experience, I am also committed to fostering a more inclusive and supportive school environment. I believe that by promoting diversity and understanding, we can create a school where every student feels valued and heard. Together, let's work towards a brighter future for Burnside High School. If elected as your Student Representative Board Member, I would also work towards making our uniform policies more flexible, with the aim of having less strict rules, allowing students to express themselves while maintaining a sense of unity. So if you would like to see this and more happen then vote for Zeyad Elmallah.

I am running for the Student Representative Board Member position because I am passionate about making a positive impact on our beloved school. I believe that by working together, we can achieve great things and ensure that your concerns and needs are met. I am dedicated to being your voice, your advocate, and your partner in building a better High school experience for all.

So, on election day, please vote for me, Zeyad Elmallah, as your Student Representative Board Member, and together, let's shape the future of our school for the better.

Thank you for your trust and support.

Sincerely,
Zeyad Elmallah

Gupta, Chaitanya

Kia ora and good morning distinguished school board members, educators, parents, and fellow students. Today, I address you not only as a student but also as a fervent advocate for the transformation of our educational system. Our school serves as the nurturing ground for tomorrow's leaders, innovators, and change-makers, and it is our collective duty to ensure that they receive the highest quality education possible. As we gather here, let us remind ourselves of our immense power to shape the future. With vision, dedication, collaboration, and adherence to our core values of respect (Manaakitanga), pride (Mana), and the pursuit of excellence (Rangatiratanga), we have the ability to ignite a revolution in education that not only imparts knowledge to our students, but also ignites their passion, creativity, and resilience. Together, let us embark on a journey to build a brighter, more promising future for every child in our district. Let this meeting serve as a testament to our commitment to excellence, equity, and the relentless pursuit of a better education for all. Thank you for the opportunity to share my vision, and I hope to inspire you all to join me in this noble cause.

Havea, Sione

A Candidacy Statement As a member of the community and a passionate advocate for quality education, I am excited to express my intention to serve on the school board. I believe that my unique combination of skills, experience, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of our educational system make me a strong candidate for this vital role. First and foremost, I am deeply committed to ensuring that every child in our district receives a world-class education. I firmly believe that access to quality education is the cornerstone of individual success and the foundation of a prosperous society. This belief has driven me to actively engage in educational initiatives in our community over the years. My professional experience as an educator has equipped me with valuable insights into the needs and challenges of our school system. I have had the privilege of working with students, parents, and teachers, gaining a profound understanding of the issues that we face and the opportunities we can seize to create positive change. My background in curriculum development and pedagogy has given me a strong foundation for making informed decisions that will benefit our students. I am a firm believer in open communication and collaboration. I am committed to fostering an environment where all stakeholders – parents, students, teachers, and the community at large – have a voice in shaping the future of our schools. I will actively seek input and engage in transparent dialogue to ensure that the decisions made by the board are in the best interests of our students and their families. In an ever-changing educational landscape, I am

dedicated to staying informed about the latest trends, research, and innovations in education. I will work tirelessly to make sure our district remains at the forefront of educational excellence, adapting to the evolving needs of our students and preparing them for the challenges of the future. Finally, I believe in fiscal responsibility and accountability. I will make it a priority to ensure that our schools are well-funded, efficiently managed, and that resources are allocated to have the most significant impact on student learning. In conclusion, I offer my candidacy for the school board with a sincere commitment to our students and a vision for a stronger, more vibrant educational community. Together, we can create an environment where every child thrives, achieves their full potential, and becomes a responsible, contributing member of society. I am excited about the opportunity to serve, and I kindly ask for your support in this important endeavor. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Sinha, Shimeka

“Before I met you, I don’t think I ever felt that my voice was being heard or that my opinion mattered.”

These were the words that my peers told me. Back then I hadn’t really thought about it, my opinions and voice, or how my environment at school would shape my journey as a student. My name is Shimeka Sinha and I am a Year 9 student who is the best fit to be the next Student Representative on the Board of Trustees for 2024.

From an early age, I have always held leadership positions in many social and cultural activities, the most keen to do any speaking event or lead any group task. I enjoy speaking about things I am passionate about. I am a leader that possesses both values and skills. The ability to lead and the ability to listen. I am a very caring, kind and compassionate person. Always ready to listen and have a lot of sympathy for others. Any problem comes up, I will work on a course of action to find a solution.

Through many extra-curricular activities I have achieved many great feats. These include debating, cultural leader, ambassador, peer mediator, assembly leader and road patrol monitor. Another accomplishment is the Rotary Speech Competition. Making it through to the finals and taking home awards, winning with a very informative, funny, significant and eloquent speech on Mental Health. Many of my peers and teachers reached out and gave me great feedback and comments. I am also a big fan of the arts and am very talented in multiple ways. I have taken part in many productions - being up on the stage along with helping behind the scenes. This exposure helped boost my confidence and improved the way I connect with people.

Being at Burnside is an amazing opportunity and I want to make the most of it. There are some changes I would like to make and with my great talents, variety of skills and the right mindset - ready to learn and lead - I am the best candidate and me as the next Student Representative, the students and staff here at Burnside High School will all relate to my peer saying - “Before I met you, I don’t think I ever felt that my voice was being heard or that my opinion mattered.”

Thank you
Shimeka Sinha

Smith, Jasmine

My name is Jasmine Smith and I'm a student in Year 11 at Burnside. I've attended schools in the district since Year 7 (Cobham Intermediate) allowing me to form a large network of connections with many of my peers, and I feel passionate about improving the Burnside experience for everybody.

When compared to the vast plethora of submissions presented by fellow candidates, I acknowledge that my lack of prior experience may be an underwhelming factor during consideration. I am a particularly quiet individual and I prefer to listen rather than dominate a conversation; however, I think that this opportunity would benefit me greatly in terms of experience. I have big dreams for my future—being the student representative on the board would be a much-needed taste of life in the adult world.

I am committed to learning and expanding on my current abilities. I'm also adaptable—doing whatever I possibly can to achieve the greatest results for something is within my best interests. Former teachers of mine have described me as shy but intuitive, and I believe that while I may not be as outspoken as some of my peers I can still do a good job.

In the future I want to pursue diplomacy and foreign relations, so time as a representative on the school board would serve me greatly and be an eye-opening experience. I'm sure it might even heighten my communication skills as I would be forced out of my shell.

It would be the greatest honour to be considered as a candidate for this opening. Thank you!

Suphaskuldamrong, Aticha

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, or good any time it may be for you reading this. My name is Aticha Suphaskuldamrong, and I'm a proud Year 9 student at Burnside High School who decided to run for Student Representative.

I've taken on communicative roles since primary school (Westburn School), where I was a House Leader—a position that regularly speaks in front of a large audience. Additionally, I was awarded the Leadership Cup at my Year 8 Prizegiving, which further established my passion for leadership and communication.

And while I've only attended Burnside for about a year, the people I've met and connected with have made my time here feel like a lifetime. I met people who are driven, passionate, and innovative, people who have been here for longer than I have, and people who are all of the above but missing a voice box to speak their truth.

As a Student Representative, I'll strive to be the voice for the people who need or want it. I'll enforce positive changes, communicate with my peers, and ensure Burnside High School students are a lifetime's worth of successors, like how we know it's filled with a lifetime's worth of good people.

Good morning, good evening, or good afternoon. Whatever time it may be for you, I will always remind my peers their greatness is beyond the 24 hours of a day and that it will last for lifetimes.

Thank you for reading.

Tan, Damon

I am Damon. I will do well and make good decisions. You can trust me. Anything from unlimited bacon to unlimited video games. I will be responsible.

Damon Tan (23093)

Wu, Andrew

Outdated classroom equipment; a widespread vaping problem; and the threat of the school banning phones. We complain about these issues to our friends, and joke about them as if they aren't a big deal, but we all know that they have an impact on our daily lives. These are problems we cannot ignore, and ones I will solve if I'm elected.

Hello Burnside, I am Andrew Wu, and I'm here to make Burnside a better place for all. I'm part of the Sustainability Council, Robotics Club, Chess Club, Orchestra, Symphonic Band, and the Specialist Music Programme. I'm also a class Values Leader and have been involved in events such as Model EU, Scholar's Cup, and Let's Negotiate.

Through these activities, I've gained the important skills of leadership, negotiation, and debate. These skills will enable me to comprehensively represent students' interests on the school board. My negotiation skills will bring us the best possible terms on key policies, and my debating skills will enable me to always fight for our interests.

Here are some key policies I will implement:

1. Block the ban on phones. Phones are a vital communication tool, in addition to other benefits. They allow us to connect with our friends and whānau, and are crucial for emergency communication and safety. I believe the proposed ban on phones is a huge step in the wrong direction, and I will always vote to block the ban.
2. Improve our classroom equipment. Dated and often broken equipment not only hinders our learning, but also worsens the learning experience overall. I believe the school budget will be better spent on improving our learning experience than some unnecessary things which I won't name here.
3. Provide better mental health support for students. Stress is a common problem, and we've all felt stress before. I believe this school can do more to support students. I will advocate for more mental health support, such as better counselling and other activities, so Burnside can be a happier place for all.

Finally, as a student representative, I believe the voices of all students should be heard, not just in classrooms, but in the boardroom as well. In addition to these policies, I have one more promise—I will always be ready to listen to your opinion, and fight for it on your behalf. Feel free to contact me at: 22343@burnside.school.nz.