

# CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

## OSBA Board of Directors

Name: Miriam G. Cummins

Region: Linn/Benton/Lincoln

District/ESD/CC: Linn Benton Lincoln ESD

Position #: 10

I certify that if elected I will faithfully serve as a member of the OSBA Board of Directors. My nomination form has been submitted to OSBA (or is attached to this document) as evidence.

Miriam G. Cummins

Name

9/15/2022

Date

***Be brief; please limit your responses to 50 words per question.***

1. Describe in your own words the mission and goals of OSBA.

To dedicate and ensure that all students receive the education they need and deserve to succeed, thrive, and create opportunities for growth. It is our duty to be the voice and advocate for our students and be the role model of what leadership looks like.

2. What do you want to accomplish by serving on the OSBA board of directors?

Being on the OSBA board of directors, I have seen the need to ensure that all our districts get the resources they need to serve their students better. We need to have the narrative and conversations that each component district is different, and the needs will differ from that; hence, why we need to cater to the needs of each district. Acknowledging and understanding that we do have a vast range of needs, especially as it pertains to smaller rural districts, OSBA is there to help the small districts get the resources that they need. Letting our districts know of the services that OSBA provides, from legal counsel and policy changes/implementations, to school board development/trainings, are services that, as members of OSBA, are tools available to them.

3. What leadership skills do you believe you bring to the board of directors? Give an example of a situation in which you demonstrated these skills.

Some of the leadership skills that I bring to the board, especially as a single parent with a special needs child, are my passion for advocacy, paving the way for others to have their voice/truth be told, empathy, team building, and being able to articulate important issues in a manner that is understood. In February of 2020, I attended the NSBA Advocacy and Equity conference in Washington, DC, where we had the opportunity to meet with the US Senators and US congressmen/women to bring up the importance of supporting and funding special education and increasing federal funding for all children. We also talked about how rural and communities of color need support and what that would look like. I have also participated in the Leadership Institute with OSBA, as I have gained the Bronze Level by participating in trainings on how to be a better school board member. At this 2022 OSBA summer conference, I also earned and gained skills in how to communicate effectively with our communities and how to engage with them, especially when it comes to our students education.

4. What do you see as the two most challenging issues faced by OSBA?

Two of the most challenging issues faced by OSBA are 1) how can we provide support to our smaller component districts and 2) statewide funding, especially as we have seen and personally experienced the challenges that this pandemic has brought forth. We are struggling with finding teachers, support staff, and administrators, that we have to look at creative ways to ensure our students get the education they deserve. These last two years, we have seen that it has taken a toll on our students - their education, mental health, and what we expect of them while in the pandemic. We are in survival mode, and it is our job and duty as school board members to advocate for our students so that we can start planning and having a trajectory and strategic planning for our students future. We need to plan to look forward and get out of the survival mode we are on.

5. What do you see as the two most challenging issues faced by your region?

Similar to the challenging issues faced by OSBA and statewide is the distrust in our public education system. As more and more parents voice their concerns, they start to question our public education system, in which many parents have decided to take their children out of the public education system. What this pandemic has done is brought forth many parent concerns about what level of education our students are receiving to how the students are getting their needs met at school. With the most recent release of our statewide test results, we have seen a decline in achievement, which is not surprising because of the pandemic. Still, it also has highlighted the importance of ensuring that our students get that hands-on, one-on-one education because if there is anything we have learned about this pandemic, it is that our students need in-person instruction, and for most of our students, online/virtual learning did not work for them. That is why it is so crucial that we advocate for our students in having in-person instruction and start creating protocols in how (if and when another pandemic hits) that we are prepared to follow those procedures.

6. What is your plan for communicating with boards in your region?

I plan to meet with individual (1:1) school board districts and then meet collectively with the region (Position 10) to get to know one another and hear about the issues each district is experiencing. Especially as we enter our long legislative session, we will need to work together to address the challenges our component districts are experiencing. It is so important to have a relationship with our component districts, have those conversations, and work together to better help our students. Also, keeping our component districts up-to-date on the legislative processes that are happening and how and what the Legislative Policy Committee is doing to ensure that their concerns are being heard and represented.

**Deadline: September 30, 2022, 5 pm**

*Materials submitted by the candidate on this form may be subject to a public information request under ORS Chapter 192.*

# CANDIDATE PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL RESUME

## OSBA Board of Directors

Name: Miriam Guadalupe Cummins Date: 09/06/2022

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Business phone: \_ \_\_\_\_\_

Residence phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_ \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: miriam.cummins@blesd.k12.or.us

District/ESD/CC: Linn Benton Lincoln ESD

Term expires: June 30, 2023 Years on board: 3 years

**Deadline: Sept. 30, 2022, 5 pm**

Please send your picture (head shot). A high-resolution digital photo is preferred but a print is acceptable.  
E-mail to: [OSBAelections@osba.org](mailto:OSBAelections@osba.org)  
or mail to: Oregon School Boards Association, 1201 Court St NE, #400, Salem, OR 97301

**Work or service performed for OSBA or local district** (include committee name and if you were chair):

- Currently serving as Chair of Linn Benton Lincoln ESD.
- I was appointed to the OSBA board in 2021, up until when my term expired in Dec 31st, 2021 and re-appointed June 2022 as I currently serve as OSBA Board of Directors Position 10.
- I have also participated in the OSBA Leadership Institute and have completed the Bronze Certificate Award.
- OSBA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- Policy Rewrite Advisory Committee for Greater Albany Public School
- Equity & Racial Justice Task Form - OAESD
- Appointed/Nominated for WREN (Western Regional Educator Network) Coordinating Body Member as School Board representative
- OSBA - Oregon School Board Members of Color Caucus

**Other education board positions held/dates:**

**Occupation** (Include at least the past five years):

**Employers:**

Oregon Voice - Executive Director  
MGC Consulting Services - Consultant/Owner  
Casa Latinos Unidos - Executive Director  
Salem Keizer Coalition for Equality - Resource Development  
Linn Benton Lincoln ESD - Spanish Interpreter/Translator  
Oregon State University - Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships

**Dates:**

08/2022 to Present  
10/2021 to Present  
01/2021 to 10/2021  
06/2018 to 04/2020  
02/2013 to 06/2018  
02/2011 to 02/2013

**Schools attended** (Include official name of school, where and when):

High school: Marshfield High School, Coos Bay Oregon, Class of 2005

College: Oregon State University, Corvallis OR, Class of 2011

Degrees earned: Bachelors of Arts in Spanish and French

**Education honors and/or awards:**

Ford Family Foundation - Ford Scholar Class of 2005  
Si Se Puede Award from OSU - June 2011  
Bronze Award from OSBA - Leadership Institute

**Other applicable training or education:**

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate from University of South Florida  
French Language Certificate from Université Catholique L'Ouest, France  
Spanish Language from Universidad de Oviedo, Spain  
TESOL Certificate from International Council for Online Educational Standards

**Activities, other state and local community services:**

Human Relations Committee - Commissioner for Ward 3 - Vice Chair - City of Albany  
Greater Albany Public School Policy Rewrite Committee  
Corvallis Chamber of Commerce - Board Member  
Former candidate for State Representative for House District 15  
Family Tree Relief Nursery, Board of Directors  
Padres en Acción|Parents in Action, Board of Directors - Treasurer  
Imagine Corvallis Action Network - Board of Directors  
CSC Community Action Advisory Council - Board of Directors representing Linn County  
American Leadership Forum of Oregon (ALF-Oregon) - Class 40

**Hobbies/special interests:**

Mom of two beautiful children, an advocate, JEDI and community leader. I enjoy spending time with my kids, going to the beach, playing video games, crafting, and painting. I also love all things Star Wars, Marvel, Legos, Pokemon, Harry Potter, and Lord of the Rings. In my spare time, I am catching up on some reading, watching the latest Netflix shows, or playing Pokemon Go.

**Business/professional/civic group memberships; offices held and dates:**

Human Relations Committee in City of Albany - Commissioner for Ward 3 - Vice Chair - March 2021 to present  
Corvallis Chamber of Commerce - Board of Directors and member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee 08/21 to present  
Imagine Corvallis Action Network - Board of Directors 6/2021 to present

**Additional comments:**

I would be delighted to be part of the OSBA School Board. I believe that my experience, professional skills, advocacy and motivation and leadership are very important to ensure that the work that we do as School Board members is reflected and represented in the duties that we do and hold as elected/appointed officials to do what is best for our students.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

**Deadline: September 30, 2022, 5 pm**

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