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1. Motivation -- Why did you choose to run for School Board?

I have been active with the school board and district since becoming a parent. I live in an active community that has been discussing the development of the Emeryville Center for Community Life (the remodeled school). My neighbors that attended Emery Schools have moved their children out of the district. When they have spoken to the board about their concerns, they were dismissed by the board president with such lack of respect that several parents stormed out. I was heartbroken. I had to enroll son in a kindergarten in another district. He was angry at me because he wanted to go to the same school as his friends. I want to fix the system so future parents can put their kids in their local school

2. Program and Priorities -- Elected office provides the opportunity to proactively lead by placing new ideas on the agenda for consideration and development. What are some specific ideas you intend to pursue if elected? What do you believe are the main priorities for the School Board?

I believe the main priorities need to be rebuilding trust in the leadership of the board and superintendent. If the school is going to hire and maintain quality teachers they must provide a culture of open conversation instead of broken top down administration. My thoughts and ideas revolve around empowering student, parent, and teachers by including their input. For example, the LCAP was designed to be a collaborative effort between parents, teachers, and students. Lack of planning and communication by the current administration led to few opportunities to participate with predictable low participation. It ended up being thrown together by the superintendent at the last minute.

3. Qualifications -- Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of School Board member. If you are a current School Board member, what issues can you point to in your time as Board member that have had a positive impact? As a Board member what can you tell us about your service on the Board, and share with us the decisions you have made in this capacity that you believe made a difference in the functioning of the School Board?

I have lived in Emeryville for over 10 years and have been an active participant in my community. I am a mother and involved in both my child's school and serve on the Emeryville Parks and Recreation Committee. I am new to politics, but am inspired and optimistic that by getting involved at a local level I can make a positive impact.

Both my professional experience as web developer and project manager along with my time on the Parks and Recreation Committee will enable me to add value as an objective, impartial member of the Emery Unified School District Board.

I believe that cooperation between the teachers, parents, and administrators is vitally important in creating an environment where every child has the opportunity to succeed. This requires leadership, communication, and a focus on learning. I support fiscal responsibility and the continued joint use of the recreational facilities. I strongly support social emotional education to ensure a safe learning environment. Schools need to educate children from all backgrounds and abilities to become lifelong learners that are engaged in their community.

I will be engaging as many community members as possible regarding ways to improve our schools, and will be available to listen to anyone with concerns or suggestions.

4. School Ratings and Evaluations -- How do you rate the Emeryville schools? Name the success and shortcomings?

I would rate Emeryville schools as some of the worst in the area. Seventy percent of our students perform below grade level standards and well below the rest of the state. Emery is a very small district with a under 700 students enrolled from TK- High School. It has struggled financially over the years. About half of all school aged residents of the district do not attend Emery Unified Schools. Families opt to transfer other public schools outside of the district.

I believe local students that do attend Emery Schools leave the district at middle school due to a lack of positive culture around the middle school. The students have been moved over the years from being joined with the high school to then being placed on the elementary school campus. Even in the new building, they are part of the elementary program.

On a positive note We do have a core of quality teachers the support the students and each other. On multiple occasions, I have attended board meetings where teachers have used their voice to speak out on behalf of their students. They are sincere and passionate about teaching. But the average new teacher lasts on less than two years in Emery.

5. Budget -- What changes to the EUSD budget would you suggest? (include changes to revenue). How do you see the impact of the new Local Control Funding Formula and the role of staff and parents/community in LCAP?

Emery is top heavy; there are more administrators than support staff. Parents and teachers have asked for more support staff during the LCAP process and I would redirect funds from the district office back to the classroom.

The role of staff and parents/community in LCAP is central. The goal of the LCAP was to allow for more discussion and community based decision making. I support that goal and will make it part of the superintendent's evaluation.

6. Properties -- The District controls three properties. How should it allocate resources amongst these properties? Now that the Emeryville Center of Community Life (ECCL) is near completion, what should the District do with the Anna Yates and Ralph Hawley sites?

I am not convinced that the ECCL will be able to provide the space needed for the students or the community therefore I believe the last thing the Board should do would be to surplus Anna Yates. Leasing either school to a charter would more than likely have a devastating impact on EUSD enrollment which would bankrupt the district.

The single site plan has struggled from the start with lack of space. Currently, Ralph Hawley is utilized by the YMCA for project head start and other early childhood development. I think that works well with our model of a full service school. I would like to see the space continue in that role. It could partner with the city that owns part of the campus.

I will never under any circumstance support selling the sites to a developer. They are community assets and should remain in the public hands. I would support a sell back to the city or any other idea that benefits the community.

7. Fundraising -- What role should a Trustee play in District fund-raising from businesses, non-profits, and grant-making institutions?

They should provide a positive relationship with businesses and nonprofits. The board should look into creating a self sustaining developer director to fundraise and apply for grants.

8. Contributions -- Should Emeryville schools receive contributions directly, or should they be managed by a third party?

I see no reason why contributions should not be handled directly. We are a small district and should not have to pay a third party to manage this.

9. Charter Schools -- What is your view of charter schools? How should the District respond to any applications it might receive to create a charter school within District boundaries?

Charter Schools draw funds away from our public schools and do not help sustain equity for public school students. That said, parent who feel disempowered turn to Charters with the hopes of a better education. It could be what causes the demise of EUSD.

10. Testing and Teacher Evaluations -- What should the EUSD policy be regarding student testing and teacher evaluation? How would you use the scores? Should scores be used to evaluate the performance of administrators or teachers?

I believe in teacher empowerment. I do not believe that student scores should have negative impact on teacher evaluation or that they should "teach to the test". Scores are one of many tools to be used as gadge for the overall school performance and inform parents. School administration should be responsible for enabling teachers to perform their duties of providing a quality academic experience.

11. Relationship to Teachers -- As an individual trustee, how would you want to interact with teachers? Would you want to meet with teachers as a group, individually, and if so, how frequently? Or would you primarily rely on the superintendent or public Board meetings to communicate with teachers?

I will work hard to create a productive relationships with the teachers. I would be proactive in engaging the teachers. I would start with the union president with whom I have had positive interactions with in the past.

12. Outsourcing-- In recent years the District has fired or reduced the hours of some staff in favor of outsourcing school services such as the breakfast and lunch programs. When is it appropriate to outsource an existing school service? What factors should guide these decisions?

This is a challenge for Emery given our size. The district is top heavy and should reduce the number of administrators so that there are more funds to do these things in house.

13. City Government Relations -- How should the City of Emeryville support the EUSD, and education in general?

The city has provided financial support for the district and has an ongoing partnership with facilities. The city needs to focus on housing for the community to grow. The need to require developers to build family friendly units.

14. Accountability -- How do you propose making yourself accountable and accessible to the citizens of Emeryville?

I am calling for a full audit of the ECCL project.

15. Money in Politics -- Do you support amending the Constitution to end corporate Constitutional rights and getting money out of politics? Have you [Taken the Pledge to Amend](https://movetoamend.org/take-pledge-amend)? (<https://movetoamend.org/take-pledge-amend>)

I do not think corporations have Constitutional rights. I am looking forward to the ruling being overturned.

16. Endorsements -- Who has endorsed you so far? Who do you expect to endorse you? Who are you endorsing, from President all the way down ballot to local races?

I have been endorsed by Mayor Dianne Martinez, Vice-Mayor Scott Donahue, and Council Member Jac Asher.

I am endorsing Hillary Clinton for President, Barbara Lee for Congress, Kamila Harris for Senate, and Nancy Skinner.

I have interviewed with the Dems, RULE, and EBWPC and am waiting to hear if they are endorsing me.

17. Campaign Funding -- How much money do you currently have for this race? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from? Describe sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you would refuse to accept (if any).

I do not plan to raise or spend more than \$2000, so I am self funded.

18. Anything Else? -- Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

My husband, Christian Patz is currently on the school board and is running for city council.