

QUESTIONNAIRE

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2014 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

Name: **Donn Lee Merriam**

Phone: **415.902.1983**

Email: merriam2014eusd@gmail.com

Website: merriam2014eusd.com

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

EUSD is in the process of constructing the new ECCL which provides our educational system a fresh start; an exciting new beginning. I would like to insure that the right decisions are made from this time forward. Based on my experience, I believe I can make a difference.

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?

Local Control Funding Formula would be a main priority. Although it will take time to administer, major oversight of this program would be one of the most important responsibilities of the Board.

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've been in the public school system the greater part of my life, from grade school through college and with my professional experience. As an Architect with 20+ years of experience

specializing in public K-12 educational design, I have dealt with all parties when it comes to working with a School District.

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

EUSD is in the process of constructing the new ECCL which provides our educational system a fresh start; an exciting new beginning. We can use this to create a successful endeavor that would overcome the mistakes of the past.

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?

Currently the District is implementing the new LCFF and has yet to see the results.

6. Properties -- The District controls three properties. How should it allocate resources amongst these properties? Assuming the completion of the Emeryville Center of Community Life (ECCL) in 2016 and the use of the San Pablo Avenue site for K-12 instruction and administrative offices, what should the District do with the Anna Yates and Ralph Hawley sites?

Based on the possible increase in future enrollment due to our city's growth, the existing sites could be utilized as expansion to meet those needs. Prior to that time, they could be used to generate income to the district in the form of rental or leasing options.

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

It should be pursued within reason. If opportunities existed that would benefit the district, then it should be explored.

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

The use of a third party entity to manage contributions would

depend how efficient their services are (i.e., fees, contractual obligations, etc.). Or if it were not in the district's best interest, then an in-house approach would be more appropriate.

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?

For a district of Emeryville's size it wouldn't be prudent to entertain the idea of incorporating a charter school. The small size of our district provides us with a unique advantage that allows us to be flexible in meeting the future demands and the ability to integrate dynamic yet proven teaching methods.

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?

Standardized test should not be the sole means to gauge student progress. Working with teachers and the administration, a middle ground should be established in order to evaluate the student, teacher, and administration progress.

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?

Meeting with teachers would be flexible (one on one or in a group). Interaction would be facilitated by appropriate means but within the requirements of the bylaws of the board.

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?

Reallocation of resources is always a difficult situation. All aspects must be considered when change may occur. In some cases it may behoove the district to consider an outside resource

due to the district's size. However great care would be taken in order to maintain a level of quality at or above its replacement.

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

With the new ECCL, the City and EUSD will need to enhance their relationship working together. The new ECCL is a testament to this.

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

I plan to be available by phone, email or most importantly face to face. Listening to the concerns of all.

15. Endorsements -- Who has endorsed you so far? Who do you expect to endorse you?

At this time, I do not have any endorsements.

16. 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 expect to spend anywhere from \$1,000 - 1,500. Most of which will be self-funded. I would refuse any resources that would affect the integrity of public education.

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

If given the opportunity, it would be an honor to represent you as a member of the EUSD Governing Board.