

Please respond by Friday, March 25, 2016

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- 1) Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of County School Board.

I am a graduate from the University of California Berkeley and former Oakland Unified School District Teacher. I have served on this board for 2 terms and served as vice-president and president in the past 3 years. I serve on the Policy and Leg committee, the Facilities committee, served on the Personnel Commission for 7 years, chaired the Intergovernmental Agency Committee and I currently chair the Budget committee.

- 2) A. Why are you running?

I am running for re-election because I know that I have been a hard working public servant and I believe I add value to the board. I have always spoke truth to power, evaluated all of the materials and voted for what I felt was in the best interest of the subjects, held our own district accountable and have always availed myself to the public.

B. What do you believe are the main priorities for the County School Board?

The main priorities for the County School Board are ensuring that our students are receiving the best education and facilities we can provide, properly adjudicating judgment on all appeals and getting the County Office of Education fiscally in the black.

C. If you are an incumbent, how would you assess your job performance? Please cite specific accomplishments and setbacks. [If you are not the incumbent: How would you assess the current incumbent's job performance? Please cite specific strengths and/or weaknesses.]

I am the incumbent and I would say, I have done a good job to date. I am consistent and reliable as a board member. I have only physically missed 1 board meeting in my 2 terms on the board, I serve on 3 committees and 2 ad hoc committee and have only missed 3 meetings in 7+ years and I have always had an open door policy. Any ACOE employee can and have contacted me with issues/concerns via e-mail or my cellphone. During my Presidency on the Board, I created the Facilities Committee and began the effort to have our student leaders to have a voice during our regularly scheduled board meetings.

- 3) Concretely and specifically, how will you make yourself available to those who elect you? That is, how can we participate in holding you accountable if you are elected?

I host community meeting within my district, many of our employees have my e-mail or personal cell number for communicating with me and since I served as President of the Board in 2014/2015 I ensured the All Staff emails went out to let our employees be aware and attend committee and ad hoc committee meetings.

- 4) How familiar are you with the School Board's responsibilities under the Local Control Funding Formula? What efforts would you make to hold district's accountable for demonstrating that they have conducted an adequate process for getting public input into their Local Control Accountability Plan? How will you ensure that the LCAP aligns with the state priority areas and expressed community needs?

As a board member I am very familiar with the Board's responsibility as it relates to the LCAP. As a Board we have be critical of our staff in

the past when receiving reports regarding our own LCAP. Our critique stemmed from the feeling that we were not getting enough input from our parents and students in the process. We sent the staff back to hold more meetings and direction to change their approach to getting families out to provide the necessary input for a complete and comprehensive LCAP. It came back to the Board and we approved it with the proper amount of community input.

5) How will you deal with violations of the law over which the School Board has direct control? Specifically, Education Code section 41372 requires that when a district fails to meet its obligation to spend at least 55% of expenditures on current classroom expenses, the deficiency needs to be set aside and paid to teachers and instructional assistants the following year. The Superintendent's office has either waived the provision or, when she has refused to waive it, has not mandated the funds be used in the proscribed manner the following year. Would you enforce this provision?

Yes.

6) A. Alameda County has had several "fiscally challenged" districts over the past few years, with Oakland perhaps being the most notorious. Are there systemic reasons why this is so, and how can the County School Board address these if they do, in fact, exist?

I was not serving on the Board in 2003 when OUSD was bailed out by the State, so I can not speak to any potential systematic failures. But, since I have served on this board we have not had any districts require a bail out or become insolvent. LCAP has helped districts realize their fiscal needs and better articulate them.

7) The School Board and the Superintendent provide fiscal oversight for Alameda County's school districts, including Oakland Unified School District. The Oakland Education Association previously said

"Oakland Unified has gotten over 20% in COLA since 2002, yet District employees have received less than 1%!" Please explain how your fiscal oversight will be used to benefit the students and employees of OUSD.

The County Board plays no role in obligating OUSD to pay their employee higher or lower percentages in COLA and ensuring the dissemination of said dollars. This is an OUSD school board issue.

8) A previous County Superintendent's message on the ACOE website stated, "it is true that we lack the funding needed to do the job right." What proposals do you have for increasing funding to our schools? Please include proposals that can be implemented at the County level and also proposals for which you advocate when contacting State-level officials.

I was not able to find that quote or message and I do not know of what this previous Superintendent was speaking of.

9) What is your position on charter schools? Will you support charter school applications turned down by local school districts?

I am not pro or anti charter schools. I have read many charter petitions on appeal from local districts and I have approved some, declined some and closed some. I have gone to the state level to testify against a charter school that I did not feel was a good fit for our districts upholding a district decision when no representatives even showed up from that district. I vote on each petition based on the application and the answers to our many questions.

10) A. What is the role of the County School Board in appeals from parents and students from the local districts?

Our role is to hear all appeals and to make a determination to uphold or overturn the district's decision using a set of very clear guidelines.

B. Transfers, expulsions, other decisions of the local boards are sometimes overruled at the County level. What are the criteria for overruling a local decision?

Some of the criteria for overruling a local decision are whether the party receives a fair hearing, whether there was information withheld, whether there was an abuse of authority and a host of other reasons.

11) A. How much money do you currently have for this race?

\$0

B. How much money do you plan to raise?

\$40,000

C. Where will the money come from?

Labor, constituents and the business community

D. Describe sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you would refuse to accept (if any).

Prison industrial complex money.

12) What endorsements have you received thus far?

AFL-CIO, Buildings and Trades Union, 6 current ACOE members & 2 past, Assembly member Bill Quirk, Mike Gipson and former member Sandre' Swanson, OUSD board members Aimee Eng and Rosie Torres, Oakland City Council members Desley Brooks Abel Guillen, President of the East Bay Young Dems Igor Tregub, AC Transit Directors Mark Williams and Joel B. Young, Fremont Mayor Bill Harrison, BART Director Rebecca Saltzman, Alameda County Tax Collector Don White

and Former Emeryville School Board member Miguel Dwin

13) What is your political party affiliation and how committed are you to that affiliation?

Democrat. My commitment is absolute!