

ALAMEDA SCHOOL BOARD Questionnaire

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2018 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

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Current occupation: [Trustee - Alameda Unified School District](#)

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

[My motivation to seek re-election to the School Board is be an advocate for every student's success. I look continue my efforts in ensuring out district provides support of mental and emotional wellness of our students. My commitment to the Alameda schools stems from my experience in public education and in understanding how public education can benefit our children and community.](#)

[- Served on School Site Council for Bay Farm, Lincoln \(Chairperson\), Alameda High School \(Chairperson\) & Encinal High School](#)

[- Volunteer as an after school Math Enrichment Instructor](#)

[- Budget and Accounting/Finance Qualifications](#)

[- Demonstrated leader and collaborator with various community organizations. I am a board member for the Community of Harbor Bay Isle, homeowner association president \(14 years\) and co-founding Managing Director of the Alameda Vipers Basketball & Volleyball Club.](#)

[As an active parent in our public education system, I have gained much insight and understanding to the needs of our students and the support our teachers. I understand the importance of making sound financial decisions and want to help our community allocate the district's limited resources to maximize student success.](#)

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 that we must seek more input from our teachers regarding their professional development. Continuing professional development for teachers as it relates to differentiated instruction and providing sufficient collaboration time to ensure that teachers can effectively implement Common Core standards will be necessary for its success.. The main priority of a school board is to be fiscally responsible and transparent as we allocate our limited resources to achieve student success.

3. Qualifications -- Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of School Board. If you are an incumbent, what issues can you point to in your time as an incumbent that have had a positive impact? As an incumbent what can you tell us about your service on the school 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 district? I have my degrees in Accounting, Finance and Business from the Haas School of Business at U.C. Berkeley and the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. I have been involved in my son's schools as I believe it is important to assist our dedicated teachers and administrators. I have served on: School Site Council (SSC) for Bay Farm Elementary, Lincoln Middle School (Chairperson), Alameda High School (Chairperson), and Encinal High School; Principal Selection Committee for Bay Farm Elementary and Lincoln Middle School. While serving on SSC, I understand the importance of allocating our limited financial resources to meet our goals of student success.

While serving on the board, I have focus on efforts to ensure our district addresses the emotional and mental wellness of our students. Students will not succeed if they are not healthy in both mind and body. The data states that: 1 in 5 children have a mental health condition; Teens suffering from depression and anxiety are twice as likely to drop out of school. They suffer from absenteeism, behavioral challenges and chronic health issues; 50% of children under 14 are diagnosed with a mental health condition and 70% of those receive no formalized service for their condition. As a result, our district has conducted a needs assessment to understand what would be the best course of action or plan to serve our students in this critical area.

During my term as president of the board, I established a joint subcommittee between AUSD and Peralta Community College to strengthen our collaboration in providing free services to our students. Our objective is to offer in 2019 summer school classes provided by the College of Alameda hopefully at our AUSD facilities for middle and high school students. These courses will be free to AUSD students.

4. There has been a concern over the cost of the school district lease in Marina Village which houses the district offices. What are your thoughts about this situation; have you considered a more economical solution to this cost? The board considered numerous options for district office as a result of our lease expiration in January 2019. After

reviewing many options, our board selected the most financially viable choice that would be cost efficient for our district. Below is our breakdown of our options with associated costs for the district office.

5. There are close to 4,000 housing units on schedule to be built along the north shore of Alameda. What solutions would you suggest to accommodate the increased number of students this housing would generate and what ideas would you propose to cover the cost of these new school buildings? The district has hired a demographer to project the impact on our district based on the development of these housing units. Currently, 240 and 250 Singleton Avenue (Parcel 3 of the former Alameda Naval Air Station) was originally leased to the district in 1961 with infrastructure for the facilities maintained by the Navy. The Board of Education returned the properties to the Navy in 2011 when they discontinued supporting the utility infrastructure. In 2015, the District submitted to the United States Secretary of Education an Application for Public Benefit Allowance Acquisition of Surplus Federal Real Property for Educational Purposes to acquire Parcel 3 of the former Alameda Naval Air Station from the United States Navy. The Navy approved the transfer of Parcel 3 (containing the properties located at 240 and 250 Singleton Avenue) in 2016. The program proposed by the district would restore the prior use of Parcel 3 to house both the Woodstock Child Development Center and Island High School. The district intended taking time to transfer the properties as to be in conjunction with the sale of North Housing to a private developer who would be responsible for development of the utility infrastructure. This would expand our facilities to meet our district needs in the future.

6. How did you perceive the district's refusal to obtain appraisals for the tidelands swap with the city? I think it is essential to obtain appraisals so that we have pertinent information in determining if there is a difference in market value between the exchanged properties. This is a necessary function in performing one's due diligence as a board member in order to make an informed decision.

7. The teachers turned down a contract proposal at the conclusion of the school year. This necessitates negotiating a new contract to settle the dispute. It is our understanding the issue is class size. What suggestions would you offer to settle this dispute and obtain an agreement with the school district teachers? A contract was ratified by the teachers for this past school year in June. What is being negotiated is a contract for this current school year and beyond. Our board has created a transparent and public process in deciding our priorities for the 2018-2019 budget. We had discussions with our collective bargaining units during this process to ensure their comments and concerns were taken into consideration as we sought public input on our district priorities. This has set a model as to how we should proceed in determining our future budgets. It is mutually understood that we would like to bring our staff to county average in pay. However, we must continue the process of

discussing the budget in detail with all stakeholders to achieve this goal so that Alameda remains a destination school district.

8. Accountability -- Concretely and specifically, how will you make yourself accountable to the voters who elect you? How can the voters participate in holding you accountable if you are elected? As an elected official, you are always accountable to the voters. I intend to visit all our school sites to obtain feedback from PTA or School Site Council meetings so that I can be in constant contact with our teachers, students, staff, and the community. During our recent budget discussions, our board provided a transparent and open process that was inclusive of our collective bargaining units, parents, and community members to meet district's objectives.

9. 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). My intention to run for re-election to the school board is to ensure that we provide a positive environment for student success. I currently have on hand \$500. I am in the process of forming a committee to determine my financial expenditures. If necessary, I plan to ask for contributions from my friends and supporters. I will refuse financial contributions from organizations and individuals who contradict my values of inclusion.

10. Anything Else? -- Is there anything else you would like us to know about you? Parent lunchtime volunteer at Bay Farm School where we implemented a successful recycling program that separated the various items into three categories (green, recyclables, and non-recyclables). As a result of the school's effort to reduce landfill waste, Bay Farm won the California School Board Association's Golden Bell Award for innovative recycling program.