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1. Please briefly summarize your background, qualifications, and reasons for wanting to serve on the Albany Unified School District Board of Education.

I've served on the AUSD Board of Education for the past four years, currently as vice president. I'm from a long family line of civil servants (and especially teachers in public schools and universities), and would like to keep a good public education as a right afforded every citizen. I'm a career-long technology and policy professional, and a believer in life-long learning; I've taken several on-line courses in innovation in schools, and on the learning process, to both better appreciate technology in the schools, and to better effect change and innovation.

2. What ideas do you have for addressing overcrowding in Albany schools? How can we protect class size reduction for all levels? What are your views on inter-district transfers and what priority do you feel should be given to children of teachers and other district employees who live outside of Albany?

Overcrowding is actually not the issue we'd have flagged just a few years ago; enrollment in AUSD is actually down significantly from its peak, and the school construction now under way will afford more space. I continue to have concerns that we may come up short in our construction efforts, and exhaust the bond funding for construction with something less than ideal outcomes, and have been outspoken on questions of being good shepherds of that construction funding. I have always maintained that admission to children of employees of AUSD ought to be a priority, if not automatic (they are currently a high enough priority that they are always admitted).

3. How can the district best serve the needs of our diverse range of students, some of whom are ready for AP or honors classes, some of whom are not college bound, and some of whom have disabilities or other difficulties that can make learning a challenge?

We have been deficit spending for years, and face the need to make severe cuts in the next year and likely in subsequent years (or at a minimum maintain those cuts for the foreseeable future); we have less flexibility in cutting in some areas (e.g., where we have contractual obligations for special education), but it seems likely that cuts will be broad, and affect many programs. I will certainly be looking, wherever possible, to allow students, families and teachers more flexibility, e.g., to waive unnecessary requirements where Ed.Code permits, allowing to do as much as we can despite those cuts.

4. How should the district balance the need to attract and retain high quality teachers by offering competitive salary, security and health benefits with the need for enhanced programming for students?

Per the previous answer, we will almost certainly be making significant budget cuts, and should we raise salaries, it will be at the cost of positions, increases in class sizes, etc. Our revenues (which come primarily from the state) are relatively fixed, and costs have been rising. We, as the Board, will attempt to balance what we will need to do to hire, retain and train high quality teachers, with the impact those decisions will have on the overall education process.

5. What is your vision for Albany's 21st-century schools and how would you as a Board of Education member assist the transition of AUSD towards a 21st-century model?

While I am an information technology professional, I think the fundamental processes of teaching and learning are primarily dependent on teachers interacting in the classroom with students, with technology now allowing us to better allocate time (e.g., using online materials to “flip” the classroom, but then obligating us to ensure that all students have access to necessary technology). We as a district also need to address the problems introduced by technology, e.g., Albany High is struggling to address issues of cell phones as distractions, and helping the administration, teachers and students come to grips with how best to use technology while in school (and out) is part of the job. I'm also interested in how we ought to be making better use of online classes and other resources: if universities are opening up entire classes and even programs for free online, we likely ought to shift some teachers toward more of a role of supporting outside, online learning, e.g., coaching students in how to succeed in that environment.

6. Three-part question on alternative instructional approaches:

a. What alternative instructional programs do you support (e.g., "blended" curriculums, flexible and open learning environments, technology-based learning, and project-based learning? What is your understanding of these instructional methods?

Per my answer to question #5, above, I'm fairly familiar with all of them, and believe we should be exploring them. The high school has an assistant principal of alternative education, and that role should likely take lead in innovating at Albany High.

b. Are there other changes in the current schedule, such as a later start time, for which you would advocate, and, if so, what is your reasoning for supporting these changes?

The whole of the board has spoken in favor of a later start time, and I have been advocating that we vote to do so by some set date, e.g., the 2020-21 school year, absent compelling reasons not to. There is also considerable interest on the board in shifting the academic calendar to give students a “true break” over the Christmas/New Year timeframe, either by ending first semester before that break (as many schools do), or changing how teachers make assignments, or how classes are structured (to avoid summative finals, hence the need to study over break). The evidence on a later start time is compelling; shifting the calendar would likely reduce student stress.

c. Are you familiar with the Khan Academy (<http://www.khanacademy.org/>) and what is your view regarding the role of this type of resource in Albany?

Yes, I am familiar with Khan Academy, and my younger daughter is a regular user. We should absolutely make use of it, and also ensure that students who need access get it. (The high school loans chromebooks to students who need them, and that should be more widely advertised to students and families who would benefit by online access outside of school. I am also interested in exploring just

how students are getting online, and expanding opportunities there as well, e.g., via the Albany Library, or through programs we might create, akin to the business collaboration established by Coachella Valley Unified.)

#### 7. Who has endorsed you or is supporting your candidacy?

I have only started asking for endorsements, but I am proud to say I have the endorsement of Nick Pilch. I am registered as “no party preference” as a voter, so will not be receiving any endorsement by the Albany Democratic Club.

#### 8. The following are the 10 Key Values of the Green Party (more details available at <http://www.cagreens.org/platform/10k.shtml>). In view of these values, why do you feel your candidacy merits Green Party endorsement?

##### *Green Party 10 Key Values:*

- 1) Ecological wisdom
- 2) Social Justice
- 3) Non violence
- 4) Grassroots democracy
- 5) Decentralization
- 6) Community based economics
- 7) Feminism
- 8) Respect for diversity
- 9) Personal and global responsibility
- 10) Sustainability

I believe my record in four years on the school board to date squares well with that list. I have in particular been an advocate for openness in the political process, to encourage grassroots democracy, and hope, in a second term on the school board, to make the job more understandable to the public, and manageable as a publicly-elected, part-time position (I was not an advocate of removing term limits, when that was placed on the 2016 ballot).

I am also a fan of collaboration... I would like to see our school board work more regularly with other boards, for teachers to have more access to the work of others (it's disappointing that we're not seeing more benefits of economies of scale, e.g., hundreds of districts in California and thousands of teachers developing curricular resources in parallel with little sharing, something that we might ask the new State Superintendent to try to foster), and other benefits of reaching across organizational, jurisdictional, and community borders.

(Shortly after the 2016 election someone gave me a “Build Bridges, Not Walls” pin, and I've been wearing it on my jacket everywhere I go. Come see me, and it, at any school board meeting!)

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire!

My pleasure!