

Q1

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Q2

What are your qualifications for Board of Education? (please limit your response to 250 words)

My professional experience and relationships with educators and families across SFUSD makes me uniquely qualified. I have a masters in education from SFSU and 20+ years of experience supporting public education. I co-authored a national educator guide used by thousands of students with UC Berkeley's TRIO program to prepare first-time college bound students for the college application process. I developed and delivered training to thousands of educators on data use, college-going, academic writing, anti-bullying, and anti-bias. I was district liaison for the Chief Academic Officer of Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) leading strategic planning of the "A-G for all" high school graduation initiative.

I helped secure \$2 million for improvements at Carver ES in the Bayview. Seeing the widespread inequity in our public school system, co-founded SF Families Union, a parent organization devoted to creating integrated, and inclusive public schools. In this capacity, I've served on the Close the Gap coalition, working with UESF, Jobs with Justice, Coleman Advocates, SEIU-1021, Children's Legal Services and other organizations focused on supporting democratically-controlled, community public schools.

I'm an active member in the African American Parent Advisory Council. As a parent organizer and experienced educator, I've championed ethnic studies across the K-12 curriculum and successfully

implemented Black History celebrations in schools where it had not previously happened. I also write a blog for families and educators about race/gender equity, education and parenting at <http://sfpsmom.com>

Q3

How should the school district add more school buses and improve its coordination with MUNI and BART in order to provide better, greener transportation to schools for students and employees, many of whom currently drive? (please limit your response to 250 words)

In SFUSD, we should work to reduce the number of cars involved in transporting students to school. Free muni for youth makes muni more accessible to young people and grows the next generation of public transit users. In neighborhoods like the Tenderloin, volunteer efforts like "Safe Passage" provide support for students to walk safely to school, without increasing the presence of armed police officers. Additionally, I do not support the expansion of private rideshare companies in to public school transportation. Recent studies have shown that rideshare industries have increased, not reduced the number of miles driven, I have concerns about accountability and the safety of children, and I think our city should put out talents and resources into having a world class public transportation infrastructure, not a fragmented privatized and for-profit system which results in more miles driven, worker exploitation and less safety for passengers.

Q4

What should the school district do to improve bicycle and pedestrian access to its schools? (please limit your response to 250 words)

Ultimately the expansion of bicycle lanes and crosswalks comes down the Board of Supervisors, but if elected I commit to continuously advocating for more access to bike lanes and pedestrian crosswalks for the all students and their families. Taking one family out of their car and onto a bike or muni makes a huge difference in the city's congestion problem and more importantly our fight against climate change on this planet. Additionally, I look forward to working to ensure that SFUSD participates with the city's Vision Zero initiative and works closely with pedestrian safety and bike advocates so that families transportation needs are included in planning for bike lanes, muni routes & other public transit initiatives.

Q5

How would you promote and implement green building elements for new and renovated school district buildings? (please limit your response to 250 words)

There are two key categories to promoting green and sustainable buildings: 1) design, construction, operation of new and existing district building; 2) green school culture.

In San Francisco, there are two primary rating systems for the design and operation of green buildings: USGBC-LEED and GreenPoint Rating systems. The district should be updating existing buildings and operational plans of current buildings while also designing new buildings to meet these standards. All buildings the district builds ought to aspire to these standards. It's not only healthy for the environment, its healthy for the students, families, educators and staff. It will also save our district money in the long run.

Another important element of green design is promoting "green school culture". Sustainability is the belief that everything is interconnected. I believe in promoting green schools in our district. A green school is a school that promotes these and other core values: efficient use of resources, ecological curriculum, healthy environment, nutritious food, and sustainable community practices. Again, I think the whole community school model would be a good mechanism for having these important conversations about how to make this happen in our schools.

Q6

What should the School District do to improve its environmental practices? (please limit your response to 250 words)

As a two-time cancer survivor I am especially concerned about exposure to environmental hazards and contaminants especially exposure to our SFUSD children. I pledge to support legislation allowing for safer, livable, and green communities. As I mentioned above, the Green School model is one all schools should aspire to. It would allow families, students and staff to participate in assessing how well their schools meet environmental standards. The recent lead problem in drinking water at some schools is a primary example of a lack of transparency and accountability at the district level. When families and staff participate in assessing how well schools meet standards, schools improve.

Q7

What is your opinion of the School District's current environmental education curriculum? How can it be improved? What is your opinion on SB 720, the environmental education bill currently in the State Senate? (please limit your response to 250 words)

I'm in support of SB 720. However, there is a significant gap between progressive policies and their full implementation at sites. Ultimately, policies only go so far. We need to ensure teachers receive the training and support they need to properly teach environmental literacy to students K-12. Providing recycling and compost bins is great, but students need to learn how and why to care for the planet wherever they go. Additionally, I'd like to know how it might align with the districts new CCSS science curriculum which has recently been implemented this fall (which my daughters are now taking.) Aside from students, we should also be looking to ensure that when we renovate schools with bonds we are doing so to increase sustainability.

Q8

How could school district policies encourage the most environmentally beneficial use of school property surrounding its buildings? (please limit your response to 250 words)

We need to ensure our schools use drought tolerant landscaping on all property. Where possible, it would be great to engage with communities to care for and enhance landscaping around schools. Some schools have shared schoolyards, and school gardens. These are hard to maintain without community support. I like the whole community schools model because it is a way to create sustainable relationships between families, school staff, local businesses and nonprofits to support projects such as school gardens.

Q9

SFUSD has done a lot to improve student access to locally grown, healthy and organic foods. What more can be done in this and related areas (for example, to address the issue of food waste)? (please limit your response to 250 words)

I am also committed to increasing fresh, tasty food options to ensure students are physically healthy and ready to learn. Outsourcing food preparation to private contractors like Revolution Foods, as we are currently doing, means our district misses out on opportunities to create healthy food from scratch for our students and create good jobs which keep families in San Francisco. Instead, I support the pilot project returning scratch kitchens to our school sites and will work to expand it. By switching to more in-house preparation for our students we can significantly decrease our food waste compared to using bulk item

purchases from private contractors. By dedicating resources to healthy, local organic food preparation, we can link nutrition instruction and vocational education with food service work in our schools, we can ensure kids are eating healthy, delicious food, and create good jobs for SF families.

Q10

Why should SFLCV endorse you? (please limit your response to 250 words)

Education is the great equalizer. We cannot have true equity in our country, if all children don't have access to high quality education. I am personally invested in this belief, because my family history is an example of the power of education. My father's parents were not allowed to go to high school because of Jim Crow, and yet because of the investment from their public school teachers, they both were able to become the first in their families to go to college and both became the first in their families to achieve a Doctorate.

I am grateful for the educational legacy my parents gave me. I'm running for SF School Board because all children deserve the rich opportunities my parents had. I know my father's experience has not been the case for every child. Many children, especially those from marginalized communities attend schools that are overlooked and under-resourced. I am personally committed to ensuring all children get the educational opportunities that me and my parents have had.

I'm running for School Board to be able to pay forward the investment previous generations made in me and my parents. SFUSD has many great schools, yet there are significant inequities. For the 20+ years I've lived in San Francisco, I have successfully advocated for safe schools, access to strong academic programs for every child, and increased communication with families. Now, I'm running for the Board of Education to ensure our district keeps its promises because every child deserves a great experience in SFUSD schools.

