

Q1

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Q2

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

I have been working in education for over 10 years in a variety of capacities. I started my career as a paraeducator working in the same school district I attended for two years. I also worked in arts education at a non-profit that provided professional development for public school educators and administrators to bring arts instruction into the classroom with low resources for five years. Meanwhile, attending Cal State Dominguez Hills and UCLA to get my Bachelor's in Liberal Studies, teaching credential, BCLAD certification and Master's in Education. I am now a fifth grade Spanish Immersion teacher and the mentor of a teacher candidate from USF. At my site, I am on the Union Building Committee, I am on the School Site Council, I am the Arts Coordinator and I am part of Mentoring for Success, which connects me to the diversity of people working in schools.

In addition to these roles, I am on the English Language Learners Committee for the California Federation of Teachers, appointed by then president of my union, Lita Blanc. I am also the only teacher serving on the Public Education Enrichment Fund Community Advisory Committee appointment by Board of Education Commissioner Mark Sanchez. I am a core member of Teachers 4 Social Justice and I volunteer with the Academic Peer Education Project in San Quentin.

I have a unique perspective that allows me to bring my experiences, and the experiences of those we are

serving to the board. Being an employee of the district I am seeking to serve as a Board of Education commissioner, I deeply understand how important our contribution to the work in schools is.

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 regards to public transit, students and families simply need more education and experience with the system. We need to incentivize teachers to plan field trips that use public transit. In the last year in my classroom, we went on a field trip every month, and public transit made this possible. Beyond the great experiences we had at our destinations, my students also became increasingly familiar with the system and the people who ride on it.

Another factor is a school assignment that places many children far from their schools. In this instance, schools can create systems to connect families whose students have similar commutes so that they can ride public transit together. Experience taking the public transit system in the early grades will make students and families more likely to choose public transit.

Q4

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

From my perspective as an elementary school teacher in the Mission there are a few factors at play. one being an exaggerated perception of danger in our neighborhoods and on our public transit system. I have tremendous empathy for those who want to keep their children safe, but the sad truth is obesity and diabetes are far bigger dangers to our children. What we need to do more of is model for students in San Francisco the importance of walking and biking by doing it ourselves. I am one of the fortunate few who gets to live and work in the same community, so many of the students and families I work with see my efforts in walking to work.

For those that live close to school we can easily connect families that live near each other to form "walk

pools" so that students are able to profit from the joy of walking to school. We can incentivize and celebrate students who walk to school in the same way that we celebrate perfect attendance.

Q5

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

We need to ensure all students are using energy, water, and other resources more efficiently, and have a clear understanding of the positive impact this will have on the environment early on. Promoting and implementing green building elements will help with this effort and give people the skills necessary for an environmentally friendly lifestyle, who will be future contributors to our communities.

Q6

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

We can continue to partner with local environmentally friendly programs and groups, including Recology, Education Outside and Urban Stewards Program at College Hill Learning Garden, that share information with students starting in kindergarten that will help build better habits that are friendly to the planet. In my classroom, we have had classroom visits from experts, gone on field trips, studied and practice living in environmentally friendly ways every day.

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)

SFUSD does not currently do enough to address environmental education in its curriculum nor does SFUSD provide enough professional development in this area. SFUSD needs to create and adopt a set of environmental education standards that start from Pre-K to 12th with a clear scope and sequence that is developed and implemented by classroom teachers. SB 720 raised the profile of environmental education in our schools but leave out Pre-K and Kindergarten in its thinking. Hopefully this will be amended as it goes through the legislative process. We have to, at every opportunity, encourage and

teach our students, at every age and grade level, to be environmental stewards -- who have a clear understanding of our interdependence on the natural world and its precious and finite resources.

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)

School district policies must reflect our values. As the leadership of the school district, the Board of Education must create space for our best minds and thinkers about the environment to come together to help guide SFUSD in its policies. I would advocate for the Board to convene an advisory committee on environment and sustainability to help shape and create district policy that would lead to a more sustainable and green school district and to maximize our green impact and reduce our environmental footprint on the city. I think this issue is too important and impactful for everyone to not do more and have this in place to ensure the board makes the most informed decisions possible.

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)

The district can improve food services by creating relationships with local gardens to bring in healthier food and starting community gardens within schools. Meals should also be prepared on site by workers who are represented and have access to ingredients and products from nearby sources.

Q10

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

As a public school teacher, I understand the needs of students, families and educators. I work closely with many different people whose roles support the day-to-day success of a school. I am seeking the endorsement of the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters because I want to elevate the voices of marginalized groups and the communities I work with, to the leadership of SFUSD and ensure that we are represented. As a bilingual, Latina educator, I can bring my 10 plus years of unique experience in education to the school board.

