

Q1

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Q2

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

I'm running for Board of Education because I believe that the promise of a high-quality public education for every child is fundamental to a future where all people feel connected to each other and to the opportunities of our city.

My 10 years in San Francisco have been spent building community, fighting for cultural equity, and protecting resources for residents. Currently I serve as the first-ever nonprofit liaison in San Francisco's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, where I administer a multi-agency effort to help community-focused organizations address real estate challenges and strengthen their operations.

Previously I was the executive director of SOMArts Cultural Center, where I was privileged to support nonprofits like the SF Bicycle Coalition and Youth Art Exchange along with artists deeply rooted in the API, Black, Latinx and LGBTQ communities throughout San Francisco. I expanded programs for youth including Flag Stories: Citizenship Unbound, a federally-funded program to build understanding and appreciation for Islamic culture. I have worked as a teaching artist and operated arts facilities. In 2015 with co-founder Ebony McKinney I co-founded Arts for a Better Bay Area and successfully engaged over 500 artists and allies to secure an historic increase in the City's Cultural Equity Endowment.

Last, but definitely not least, I'm a public school parent with two young boys. I believe seeing and

experiencing SFUSD with fresh eyes is valuable as improving communication and operations is one of my top priorities.

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)

Transportation and traffic congestion impacts absenteeism and drives families away from public schools. My son and I walk, bike and take MUNI to work and school, so I personally experience some of the safety and reliability issues I hear from others, for example the recent MUNI shortage due to the Twin Peaks tunnel construction. There are many solutions to be explored but if MUNI and BART are prioritized the Board of Ed needs to play a proactive role as advocates for safety and reliability. Every school orientation should include a reminder of the Free Muni for Youth program. Every PTA could be provided with a “transit champion” toolkit at the start of the year to equip parents for more effective advocacy.

The recent transportation study found that on the west side, many families were interested in SFUSD endorsing one carpool app so that they could more easily identify neighbors to share rides with. This solution involves a one-time startup expense but would likely be low-cost over time.

Q4

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

I support an evaluation of whether current pedestrian and bike infrastructure is working and where it might be improved including protected bike lanes and safety practices within and around schools. More people are biking in San Francisco, and more families are biking, but many schools don't feel safe to bike to as 500+ parents are rushing to get their child in the door and get to work. Some schools bike parking that is blocked by the cars lining up for drop-off at the start of the school day. Others have bike racks on the grounds that are inaccessible to parents at the end of the school day. I would explore pilot implementation of promising practices to support car alternatives in elementary schools such as route maps, safety gear and parent-friendly bike parking to see if a targeted investment

increased the number of biking, walking and rolling trips to school. In the middle grades and high school, I'd look to the students for advice on how to address the drop-off in bike-to-school rates.

Q5

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

I would look for opportunities like the solar schools program that use green and environmental building features as a means to excite students about science, technology, math and climate action.

Q6

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

Reducing car transit is a step in the right direction. SFUSD could also reduce paper waste by continuing to improve digital communication.

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)

San Francisco has some innovative, exciting environmental education initiatives but there are vast disparities among schools. Many schools rely on PTA fundraising to maintain and expand outdoor environmental programs and fund field trips, however, not all schools have access to these resources. SB 720 seems like promising expansion to curriculum but it seems like schools would need access to updated material including textbooks to achieve its full intent.

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)

As stated above I'm supportive of improving infrastructure that will make schools friendlier for car-free families. And, exploration of initiatives like the solar schools program that use renewable energy and other green building features as teaching tools. As a board member I will use my track record activating surplus property to examine SFUSD's capital plan and its "highest and best use" policies for surplus property. I've been an advocate for teacher housing on SFUSD property in the Sunset for many years and have attended every open meeting to support progress on that site.

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)

SFUSD can expand support for student-led food justice initiatives like the award-winning efforts of the Black Student Union at Willie Brown Middle School, who designed a campaign to support healthy eating habits.

Q10

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

SFUSD is constantly facing hard choices and competing interests. I am someone with a long, strong track record of steady progress on complex challenges who sees environmental practices as integral to building enrollment, improving achievement and designing culturally relevant, exciting curricula for students. I'm willing and eager to learn more about conservation and environmental justice. And I walk the talk -- in my two years of public school I can count on one hand the number of times I've driven my son to school. I look forward to working with SFLCV and would be grateful for your endorsement.

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Q1

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Q2

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

I have three children in public schools in San Francisco and attended SFUSD Schools myself (as did my wife). My wife has been a public school teacher for over 25 years (we have been married/together for 28 years.)

I have been active as a volunteer at my children's schools and through the SF Education Fund, working in the classroom, with extra-curricular programs, and around the school in general. I have held various roles with the PTA as well as being a member of the School Site Council.

For nearly 15 years, I have been working with school districts and county offices of education around the state as a software developer working on their back office systems.

This gives me unique insight into all aspects of the school district, from the back office to the classroom, as a student and as a parent.

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)

There is coordination with MUNI in regards to student schedules, but it seems to me that there is room for improvement when it comes to teachers' schedules. Teachers arrive at school early and leave late; there needs to be adequate service to match their schedules.

Q4

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

I have seen how walk and bike to school days can make a difference in encouraging parents to leave their cars at home. More support at schools, including "walking school buses" should be encouraged.

Q5

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

All new construction and renovation should include solar power generation. This seems a no-brainer and if it is not already the case, it should be.

Outdoor classrooms give kids a chance at fresh air and can take advantage of natural lighting reducing the cost of electric lighting

Q6

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

Spending money to light a classroom seems foolish when there is plenty of light available outside. When practical and safe, teachers should be encouraged to take advantage of favorable weather and take their classes outside to make the most of natural light.

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)

There are a lot of programs available but not all schools take advantage of them. Not every school has the funding to provide a dedicated outdoor science teacher. This can be addressed by putting a stronger focus on environmental education and by improved fundraising.

Although I am not overly familiar with SB720, I can say that I support expanded environmental education and that, after a superficial review of the bill, it appears to be a good idea.

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)

I am a fan of community gardens and could see using space around school buildings for that purpose. I also think that when trees are planted, strong preference should go to fruit trees to provide fruit to students, their families, and neighbors.

I am also a fan of landscaping that requires little water use -- rather than lawns, rock gardens and "dry creek beds" give kids opportunities for creative play while reducing water usage.

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)

Having a school garden where students can grow and harvest fruits and vegetables (as is the case at my kids' elementary school) makes a big difference. When kids know how food is grown and have participated in the growing of that food, they will be more aware of the value of healthy, locally grown foods. In addition, by understanding how much effort it takes to produce their food, they will be less likely to waste food. In addition, when there is an active garden on site, students can see their food scraps put to use as compost.

Q10

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

I am not just a parent. I am not just an educator. I am not just an administrator. I have experience in all of these areas and can best put that experience to work for the benefit of our students, our teachers, and our community.

