

Q1

*Please enter your contact info here*

Name: Jenny Lam

---

District: 8

Campaign contact: Jenny Lam

Phone #: (415) 287-9971

Email: jennylamforschools@gmail.com

FPPC #: 418147

Q2

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

A second generation Chinese American, I was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. I have devoted my career to public service and social change. I'm a member of the San Francisco Board of Education and serve as Mayor London Breed's Education Advisor, where I proudly serve San Francisco's public school kids, families and educators.

I am an experienced community advocate and leader and have worked to expand educational opportunities for all. Before joining the Mayor's Office, I was the State Engagement Manager at Education Superhighway, bringing technology infrastructure to public schools across the country. As Director of Programs at Chinese for Affirmative Action, I expanded civil and political rights for San Francisco's immigrant youth and families. While Executive Director of GirlVentures and Deputy Director of Oakland Asian Students Educational Services, I built the confidence and leadership of diverse youth through robust educational opportunities not usually offered in the classroom, including peer leadership, experiential outdoor education, financial literacy and the arts.

I have served on several public commissions and nonprofit boards directing education funding, supporting teachers, expanding political fairness and access to parks, including: the San Francisco Redistricting Taskforce; Co-Chair of the SFUSD's Public Education Enrichment Fund and the Quality Teacher and Education Act Committee; and the San Francisco Parks Alliance. I live in San Francisco with my husband and two children, who attend SFUSD schools.

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)*

Yellow school bus transportation for General Education students has been on the decline for decades and I do not support an increase yellow school buses and routes. Instead I will advocate for a new yellow bus contract pushing for an all-electric, zero emission fleet, and to improve awareness and new programs that will promote sustainable transportation options for students and employees like public transit, carpool apps, biking, and walking.

One issue I intend to address will be to work with the SFMTA to optimize and coordinate the number and frequency of buses during school start and release times. With 136 schools and 54,000 students this will be a complex task, but I believe worth the effort as it would increase ridership on Muni, and take school trip commuting cars off our already congested city streets.

A fleet of zero emission school buses will help reduce pollution in our most vulnerable impacted communities and an equitable school transit plans should address accounting for environmental and transit justice. Equitable transit means that students in the Mission and Southeastern neighborhoods should have the same opportunities to programs and resources, including hot breakfasts and after-school activities, as students from other parts of the city.

Q4

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

I intend to achieve four things toward this important issue. First, we need better enforcement of 25 MPH school zone law for cars. Second, and relatedly, I will work toward increasing school crossing guards at schools. Third, we can expand the bicycle classes that are in place at several schools - these are part of the PE curriculum and include safety training for participating students. Lastly, I will actively engage parent groups like PTAs/PTOs to raise the awareness of biking and walking, with the ultimate goal of school community cultural integration and adoption.

These are all programs in place at SFUSD, but we need to support and grow these programs in order to serve all our students.

Q5

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

Greening current sites and building new, green sites has been a priority of the District for more than 20 years. SFUSD has one the most ambitious climate action plans of any school district in the nation. I will continue to support sustainable building designs in our school capital program that will eliminate the use of natural gas in buildings, improve stormwater capture with green infrastructure, increase water and energy efficiency, and support onsite energy generation projects. I believe these projects will create a healthier environment for our employees and students, and will instill the environmental values and learning opportunities that are crucial to create new generations of environmental stewards. I further pledge to defend the practices if budgetary discussions begin to question the cost and usefulness of greening.

Q6

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

This is a very important issue because our schools not only serve tomorrow's leaders through instruction, but also need to lead the way in preserving the environment for current youth and future generations. When we make greener decisions, we benefit our students' learning, as well as the environment. The district has made such improvements in the past, like when SFUSD made the switch to greener cleaning products, and when it integrated air quality monitoring and education into the curriculum. We saw the benefits of this strategy: documented improvements in respiratory health among students.

I intend to increase SFUSD Sustainability's Earth Day Every Day program, and find ways to expand and maintain SFUSD's Green Schoolyard programs. I will do this because I wholeheartedly support wellness for our students, including ways that they can help themselves, their peers and adults around them to lead a healthy life.

Q7

*What is your opinion of the School District's current environmental education curriculum? How can it be improved? (please limit your response to 250 words)*

Our students live in a dense urban environment. I believe that access to nature is essential to students' wellbeing, which leads to their ability to learn and thrive. I support SFUSD's goal to provide all SFUSD students with free and easily accessible opportunities to explore, learn and play both in nature and on school grounds around San Francisco.

Further, as the Executive Director of GirlVentures, an outdoor experiential education and empowerment organization, I expanded programs in San Francisco that served a broad and diverse group of young women.

SFUSD established the Office of Sustainability in 2008, which has been steadily growing not only its environmental curriculum, but students' ownership of their school and home environmental practices. However, there is more work to do.

This includes curriculum that focuses on student empowerment to create a more sustainable world for themselves, and learning that grows a healthy respect for the earth, and in turn, for oneself.

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 believe that SFUSD can access more SFPUC Green Infrastructure grants, which funds stormwater management features on building sites. Our school properties can also be used to promote biodiversity through planting of indigenous plants that promote native insects and wildlife.

I also would encourage schools to adopt storm drains surrounding their schools, as it sponsors sense of community service and investing in your neighbors' welfare here in the city.

Further, the Green Schoolyard program has been successful throughout the district, transforming blacktop yards from urban heat islands to cooler places on the yard for students to enjoy and learn in.

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)*

For years now, certain school sites have reduced food waste by allowing students to place unopened foods from breakfast, lunch and snacks in an area in the cafeteria for children to share. This would include apples, unopened milk, and sealed entrees. This is popular among students and staff, and feeds children who may still be hungry. I will encourage the District to adopt what is now a casual, school by school practice of sharing uneaten foods (apples, unopened milk, etc.) as a District policy. Further, I fully support the District's exploration of its own scratch-cooking kitchens. Students and families have been asking to return to school kitchens for decades. As a supporter of this venture, I will also keep a close eye on how to achieve this in a way that is not cost-prohibitive. And, reflecting on a vote this past spring regarding our contract with Revolution Foods, I support this organization, but as Board Commissioner I will continue to compel District staff to work with Revolution Foods towards stronger monitoring, evaluation, and transparency.

Q10

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

Quality education is the right of all children. We must provide all students with an equal opportunity to succeed. Put student learning first, build pathways to success and excellence, and develop our students to contribute towards improving a better society for everyone. Public education is fundamental to democracy.

I am running for School Board because I have a deep connection with public education. I am a daughter of immigrants. My parents immigrated to Oakland the year I was born with few resources. I was an English learner, speaking only Chinese the day I started Kindergarten. I am a proud product public schools and am the first in my family to graduate college from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Public education is what gave me and my family the opportunity for economic and social mobility. I've dedicated my professional life to public service and social justice including working for nonprofit organizations most notably OASES and the civil rights organization, Chinese for Affirmative Action in San Francisco.

I have lived in San Francisco for more than 20 years, raising two children who currently attend San Francisco public schools. Being involved in our schools and SFUSD for ten years, I have directly experienced many exceptional educational practices in our public schools. But I have also witnessed various school challenges in my work with immigrant and limited-English-proficient parents in Chinatown and southeast neighborhoods.