

SFLCV November 2020 Election Board of Education Questionnaire

Thank you for participating in the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters endorsement process. Please limit answers to the below questions to 2-3 paragraphs at most (250 words). We are accepting responses until Friday August 28, 2020 at midnight. Please note that your responses will be posted publicly on our website at www.sflcv.org.

Please enter your contact info here (Name, District, Campaign contact, Phone, Email, FPPC#) *

Name: Kevine Boggess

Committee Name: Kevine Boggess for School Board 2020

Campaign phone number: (415) 275-0367

Campaign email: kboggess415@gmail.com

Website: www.kevineboggess.org

FPPC #: 1427220

What are your qualifications for Board of Education? *

As the Education Policy Director at a SF-based non-profit education advocacy organization (Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth) for almost a decade, I have a proven track record of working to serve the best interest for our students, our schools and our families. I've worked with hundreds of students and parents to improve our public schools and address racial disparities, and have co-led several local and state campaigns to change education policy and increase school funding. I have served on multiple SFUSD committees, oversight bodies and task forces, including: the Local Control Accountability Plan task force to assess progress being made to address disparities in the district; a district-led Special Education working group; the A-G implementation working group to oversee the policy change that expanded access to college readiness courses; and the Equity Studies Task Force, focused on ensuring that curriculum speaks to marginalized student populations.

I spend hours each week at school sites engaging with students, families, teachers and staff, and have led policy campaigns alongside our members to transform our school discipline practices, expand academic supports, and prioritize racial equity. I am dedicated to ensuring that these stakeholders are at the center of decision-making at SFUSD, to fight for the kind of schools that they want and deserve.

On a personal note, I was born and raised in San Francisco and attended public schools K-12. As a graduate of SFUSD, and as the parent of a child who will soon be entering the public school system, I know firsthand the challenges in our schools, and am committed to a platform that puts our marginalized students, families and educators at the center.

Given the constraints posed by the COVID-19 crisis, both financial and operational, how would you integrate environmental imperatives with this new reality? *

I think it's critical to continue and expand the district's commitment to environmental sustainability, particularly as California burns as a result of climate change and drought. I also want to ensure that even under major budget constraints, the Board and the Superintendent understand that deeper investment on the front end leads to cost savings later, in addition to other benefits for our students, our schools and our communities.

Immediately, I think we need to strengthen our environmental justice curriculum K-12. I have been a strong supporter of equity studies and think it's critical for this to be built in-- environmental justice and the connection to racial and economic justice. If we are committed as a school district to addressing climate change, it's important that these explicit discussions and behavioral change start at an early age, and that we are providing project-based learning opportunities for students to get hands-on experience in addressing these enormous challenges impacting their future.

While the District's general operating support is stretched thin, we do have existing and upcoming bonds, and these provide an ongoing opportunity to incorporate funds for school improvements and infrastructure investments that are moving us towards our goals of environmental justice and sustainability.

Finally-- we should be planning now for when we have more financial flexibility and can invest more deeply in being able to move the needle on these goals.

What should the School District do to improve its environmental and climate justice practices? *

Some of the environmental justice initiatives that I support and want to expand include:

Drink tap stations: Building out these drink tap stations in schools K-12 open up access to clean water, address the dirty water issues in the district, and if paired with an initiative to distribute reusable bottles can discourage and reduce the use of plastic bottles.

School improvements/Upcoming bonds: I mentioned this above but I strongly support the investment in solar panels and/or environmentally clean infrastructure at school sites, as well as building out better HVAC systems so that schools can serve as “clean air centers” during these moments of incredible wildfires and unhealthy air.

I am in support of the District’s commitment to Good Food Purchasing Standards, which serves to help the district push outside vendors to abide by key values, including environmental sustainability, local economies, valued workforce, nutrition and animal welfare.

What is your opinion of the School District’s current environmental education curriculum? How can it be improved? *

This is a priority for me, to strengthen this curriculum and program. I am not well familiar with the environmental education curriculum outside of the work of the Environmental Science Center, a partnership with the Golden Gate National Recreation Center. My understanding is that the Environmental Science Center primarily works with elementary school students and I would want to see this program expanded significantly. I spend a significant amount of time at school sites and at School Board meetings and am not aware (nor are the parents and students who I work with, predominantly in the southeast neighborhoods of SF) of much more with regards to environmental education curriculum, which may be a reflection on the need to invest in this program significantly. I know that the SFUSD Sustainability Office has a commitment to environmental sustainability and works to implement principles around carbon neutrality, water conservation, zero waste, sustainable transportation, and connection to nature. But I think there is much more to do to ensure that climate change and environmental justice are a part of the district’s curriculum and that there are project-based learning opportunities for students to get hands-on experience to address these issues, K-12.

How could school district policies encourage the most environmentally-beneficial use of school property surrounding its buildings? *

I want to see bond-funded construction that has environmental justice principles built into bids, including emission-free standards and increasing reliance on renewable energy, which could have an impact not only on school sites but also the surrounding property. I want to see more green infrastructure and investments into initiatives like the stormwater schoolyard model. And I support the effort to look at school sites and school district property for opportunities to break up and remove pavement and instead installing gardens and open space.

Why should the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters endorse you? *

I would be honored to have the support of the League of Conservation Voters. I think the League should support me because I have a track record of fighting for the most marginalized people in SF public schools and have been on the right side of history fighting for racial, economic AND environmental justice. One of my earliest moments of being politically active was at actions fighting for the closure of the PG&E plant in Bayview/Hunters Point. I am committed to working to advance issues of environmental justice because so much is at stake, including the lives of the next generation-- 57,000 public school students and my 2 year old daughter, and would want to continue to work closely with organizations committed to this goal.

For a list of my current endorsements, please visit www.kevineboggess.org/endorsements.



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