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San Francisco Parent Action Questions for SFUSD School Board Candidates 2022

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1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Somewhat Disagree, 3 = Somewhat Agree, 4 = Strongly Agree

Thriving and Equitable Public Schools	Level of Agreement
1. I support the <i>SF Parent Coalition Parent Priorities Platform</i>. A focus on equity and excellence going hand-in-hand, improving student outcomes in our district, regaining trust and rebuilding community morale, improving the fiscal health of SFUSD, and overall good governance should be the top priorities of the School Board going into 2022-23.	4
2. QUALITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: San Francisco should not have two tiers of education quality. We need to hold all SFUSD schools accountable to high-quality instruction and related supports for students. The Board of Education has responsibility for the success of all students attending San Francisco public schools.	4
3. TRANSPARENCY: I support increased transparency of school performance that enables San Francisco to evaluate and improve the quality of our public schools, starting with a public dashboard that shares math and reading assessment data at the school level to be shared publicly, updated at least twice a year.	4
4. LITERACY: I believe in the urgency of improving literacy outcomes for all student demographic populations at SFUSD. I commit to supporting staff's literacy improvement plan and recommendations, and making the necessary changes to our literacy curricula, tools, and instruction methods that will follow an evidence- and standards-based core literacy curriculum.	4
5. GOVERNANCE: An effective School Board follows the lead of and supports the superintendent and staff, letting them be the experts and making recommendations for the direction of the district.	4
6. BUDGET HEALTH: I commit to governing in accordance with nationally-established best financial practices. District leadership should be held accountable for presenting their budget in a clear, student-centered way at public board meetings that allows parents, community members, and board members alike to understand and engage. As a board member I will demand this level of transparency from district staff and follow their lead, supporting their recommendations.	4

Open-Ended:

1. **Optional: Expand on any of your responses to the statements above.**

I wholeheartedly support SF Parent Coalition's Priorities Platform. Thank you for focusing on effective governance practices as an underpinning of your priorities.

My purpose on this Board is to improve student outcomes, address the budget deficit, and ensure transparency and accountability. My participation as a parent, community member, and now as Commissioner, reflects these priorities.

Aligned with your examples of smarter school spending resources and OUSD's dashboard, I've engaged with the Council of Great City Schools, School Services of California, and CA Dept of Education to utilize their training resources and institute best practices. The Board is embarking on a review of our governance practices. I will be chairing a short-term committee to identify and recommend improvements.

I will continue to participate and seek out professional training and accountability practices to ensure positive outcomes for all of our students. We need to take a hard look at what we offer as a baseline of instruction and service across all of our school sites. Part of this work is to acknowledge and improve where we are not serving our students well - and to highlight and expand successes.

I welcome SF Parent Action's support and partnership. I look forward to working together to ensure all of our students succeed and are prepared for their futures.

2. **What are your priorities in terms of fixing SFUSD's budget deficit, and how would those priorities impact students, families, and our schools?**

1. Relentless focus on student outcomes and priorities: Outcomes, not inputs. The budget should reflect student priorities and outcomes. Not vice versa. In years past, the district focused on spending plans - and declined to effectively communicate what is actually delivered with those funds and how they benefited students. Co-chairing the Public Education Enrichment Fund Advisory Committee (PEEF CAC - we reviewed \$80m of annual SFUSD funding from the City) made clear we need to assess the efficacy of what is offered to our students and ensure the district delivers.

2. The Local CAP; collaboration and communication. Every California district, including

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SFUSD, must create a three-year student priority and budget plan with community engagement and report on progress. We currently do not do this in a meaningful way. Student, family, educator, and community voices are essential to ensure our student priorities are clear, reflective of need, and outcomes are on track. I have been a vocal advocate of this work in my role on the PEEF CAC and on the LCAP Task Force, and now as a commissioner.

3. Adherence to basic budget practices. Ensure that our budget projections are correct, adequately plan for our needs and costs, and regularly communicate progress and variances.

These actions will enable us to deliver for our students, their outcomes, and improve the overall efficacy of the district's performance usage of funds.

3. What should SFUSD do to increase enrollment and to attract more students and families to San Francisco Unified School District?

Clear commitments at all schools. We need to clearly and broadly communicate what is offered to students at all schools in our district. Likewise we need to invest in programming that is attractive to our students and families, including consistent and coherent pathways.

Reduce uncertainty regarding enrollment. Our enrollment system needs to reflect student and family priorities. I hear too often that the complexity and uncertainty baked into our enrollment systems have led to families divesting from our system or otherwise adversely affecting their confidence in our district.

Improve outcomes at all schools. The district needs to deliver on its educational promises and show positive outcomes at all school sites so that families have confidence that their children will be set up for success. That does not mean that all schools should be the same. ALL neighborhoods and communities must have schools that they are proud of and wish to attend.

4. What are your top three concerns on the current state of the district and what do you plan to do as a commissioner to address those concerns?

I've touched upon them in my answers above.

1. Relentless focus on student outcomes
2. Strong fiscal discipline,
3. Engaging with students, families, educators, and the community at large.

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In the last four months since taking office, I've been working hard to move these priorities forward. We've hired a new superintendent, approved a balanced budget, committed to in-person instruction for our students, restored criteria-based enrollment at Lowell High School, embarked upon a process to improve all high schools, settled the Washington High School murals lawsuit, and are working with our city partners to share resources and shore up financial support.

I have also visited at least a dozen schools and talked with countless educators and site administrators about their experiences and needs. I have continued to engage with our district leadership to ensure that our financial decisions are sound and I have worked collaboratively with our Dept of Education colleagues to ensure we are headed in the right direction. I have met with numerous parents and community groups who are invested in our student success.

In short, I am deeply committed to getting SFUSD back on track for our students. I am all in for our kids.

5. How can SFUSD increase academic outcomes for the most marginalized students? How can SFUSD challenge and create learning opportunities for higher achieving students?

The current system, although ostensibly designed to promote equity and integration, has not. I am committed to doing the work to improve outcomes for all of our students, at all of our sites. I understand that we have a diversity of students that we must set up for success.

The district has suffered from very real budget challenges coupled with a lack of focus on core educational services and outcomes for students. This combination has both failed our learners who we know need additional support as well as a much broader range of students.

For instance, 40% of our 8th grade graduates are designated as "not prepared for high school." We need to build our systems and practices to ensure we are providing coherent educational instruction and supports for all of our students. As a board, we have committed to collaboratively working to establish priorities, review objective data and information, and align our priorities and systems to deliver for our students.

6. What was your position on the school board recall of February 2022, and why?

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I believe in the democratic process. I was deeply frustrated by board leadership during the pandemic and felt strongly that the needs of students, families, and educators were not prioritized or acknowledged. My middle schooler did not attend school his entire 8th grade year, and my 5th grader returned for only eight days. It breaks my heart to type that sentence.

The weight of the experience of living through that very sad and divisive time also deepens the honor I feel and the weight I carry in this role.

We cannot forget our collective purpose as adults to both serve our youth now and set them up for successful futures. This is why I am focused on student outcomes, fiscal accountability, and community partnership.

7. What are some specific ways that you will work with the SFUSD parent community and invite their participation/feedback as a board member?

I have worked with the SFUSD parent community for the last decade through SSCs, PTAs, the PEEF CAC, LCAP Task Force and have collaborated with other advisories and parent groups. I have built relationships with numerous parent organizations and will continue to do so. I initially engaged with SF Parents to help educate and bring awareness to our budget issues and I will continue to work with all parents to ensure all of our students are successful within SFUSD.

Thank you for considering me for the SF Parents Action endorsement. And congratulations on your inaugural process. May it be the first of many!