

SFPARENTS

San Francisco Parent Action
www.sfparentaction.org

Questions for SFUSD School Board Candidates 2024

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

<i>Excellent and Equitable Public Schools</i>	<i>Level of Agreement</i>
1. I SUPPORT the SF Parent Coalition Parent Priorities Platform. 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 2024-25.	4
3. TRANSPARENCY: I support increased transparency of school performance that enables San Francisco to evaluate and improve the quality of our public schools. This should include a public dashboard that shares math and reading assessment data at the school level, updated at least twice a year.	4
4. LITERACY AND MATH: I believe in the urgency of improving student outcomes in literacy and math at SFUSD. I commit to ensuring that SFUSD adopts a comprehensive and fully funded plan , and makes the necessary changes to our curricula, tools, and instruction methods that will follow an evidence- and standards-based instructional approach.	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.	2
6. BUDGET HEALTH: I commit to governing in accordance with nationally-established best financial practices . I will hold District leadership accountable for presenting the budget clearly. When fixing our budget deficit, I support SF Parents' call for minimizing negative impacts to our most vulnerable students while ensuring a baseline of excellence across all schools.	4

SFPARENTS

OPEN-ENDED: (all responses should be 250 words or fewer)

- 1) ***Optional: Expand on any of your responses to the statements above, in 250 words or fewer. Letteris: I highly support all of the above items, except for #5. The reason is I cannot, in good conscience, support a superintendent and staff who are not leading the district in the most effective way possible, or in a manner that reflects the best interests of the schools. On the one hand, I do agree that we should trust in the superintendent's ability to lead and give that person our support, but on the other hand, that trust is only warranted insofar it is earned and the schools are thriving based on the leadership provided.***

Letteris: 我强烈支持上述所有项目，但不支持第5项。原因是我不能凭良心支持那些没有以最有效的方式或以反映学校最大利益的方式领导校区的学监和工作人员。一方面，我确实同意我们应该相信学监的领导能力并给予他我们的支持，但另一方面，我认为这种信任只有在学监已赢得信任并且学校在其领导下蓬勃发展的情况下才能存在。

- 2) ***Why are you running for the Board of Education? Within this response, please describe a) your connection to SFUSD students and families, and b) a description of your leadership style, experience, and/or training. Letteris: I am running for BOE, because I deeply care for the well-being and welfare of all children in San Francisco, children from all backgrounds and walks of life. A great deal of our political dialogue is aimed at adults and monopolized with ideas of how to utilize our city's resources to fix the problems related to homelessness, drug addiction, and crime. This is a necessary discussion given the dire state of our city, but reactionary in nature. I propose we spend as much attention on prevention measures as reactionary measures. For examples, it's much more productive and cost effective to prevent crimes, drug addiction, and homelessness from occurring in the first place, by ensuring our youth, through proper and adequate education and support, do not go down these paths. There is a sobering correlation in social sciences that states if a child cannot read by the time he or she is 8 years old, then the odds of that child failing to graduate from high school at 18 years old and becoming incarcerated becomes exponentially greater. How do we ensure that every 8 year old can read? Answering this question is why I am running. Although I do not have children of my own, I did grow up in the public education system. I have an MA in education and also ran and operated my own private academy (after-school programs) for many years. I also have an engineering degree and have worked in tech for most of my career with large and small***

SFPARENTS

companies. I lead by example and believe in bottom-up decision making, treating all those around me as equals.

Lafferis: 我竞选教委会委员的原因是因为我深切关心三藩市所有儿童的福祉——这些儿童来自各种背景和各行各业。我们的大部分政治对话都是针对成年人的，强调着如何利用我们城市的资源来解决与无家可归、吸毒成瘾和犯罪有关的问题。考虑到我们城市的严峻状况，这些都是需要解决的问题，但本质上是事后补救。我建议我们对预防措施和补救措施采取同样重视的态度。例如，通过适当、充分的教育和支持，确保我们的年轻人不会走上那些道路，从而从一开始就预防犯罪、吸毒成瘾和无家可归的发生，这将更加富有成效和更具成本效益。社会科学中有一个发人深省的相关性，即如果一个孩子在 8 岁时还无法阅读，那么该孩子在 18 岁时未能从高中毕业并入狱的几率会成倍增加。如何保证每个 8 岁的孩子都能读书？回答这个问题就是我参加竞选的原因。虽然我自己没有孩子，但我是在公立教育体系中长大的。我拥有教育学硕士学位，并经营一个私立学院（课外班项目）多年。我还拥有工程学位，并且在我职业生涯的大部分时间里都在大大小小的公司从事技术工作。我以身作则，相信自下而上的决策，平等对待周围的所有人。

- 3) *Do you support the superintendent's [plan](#) to fix SFUSD's budget deficit, including but not limited to classroom consolidations and school closures?*

Lafferis: *I support the plan, but only to the extent that willing and able parents and their children are not excluded from an education due to their schools closing.*

Lafferis: 我支持该计划，但前提是愿意就读于公立学校的孩子以及父母们不会因学校关闭而被排除在教育之外。

- 4) *How can SFUSD increase academic [outcomes](#) for the most underserved students and close the racially predictable achievement gap? Lafferis: This is a complex issue, but I believe one way to bridge the gap is by engaging the parents and encouraging them to read to their children. If the parents are not available, then perhaps we can find a relative, friend, or neighbor to help out. I am even willing to volunteer my time to read to under-served students.*

Lafferis: 这是一个复杂的问题，但我相信弥合差距的一种方法是让父母参与并鼓励他们给孩子读书。如果父母不在，那么也许我们可以找亲戚、朋友或邻居来帮忙。我甚至愿意自愿花时间给这些学生读书。

- 5) *How can SFUSD challenge and create learning opportunities for higher achieving*

SFPARENTS

students? Letteris: When I ran my art academy, I realized that sometimes children make the best teachers. For example, we offered summer camps where 10 and 11 year olds taught other kids how to solve a Rubik's cube. It was immensely fun and successful for the children. As long as all children know the basics of reading and writing and arithmetic, then anything above and beyond that can be considered "higher achieving," and this is a broad umbrella term that can include any subject matter, whether it is science, art, dance, music, sports, etc. So, for example, a child that excels at dance, but not at science can be partnered with a child with the opposite skill set who excels at science but not at dance. They can teach each other. In the process, they will be challenged and learn entirely new skill sets they did not have before.

Letteris: 当我经营艺术学院时, 我意识到有时孩子是最好的老师。例如, 我们提供夏令营, 让 10 岁和 11 岁的孩子教其他孩子如何解魔方。这对孩子们来说非常有趣和成功。只要所有的孩子都知道阅读、写作和算术的基础知识, 那么任何超出这个范围的东西都可以被认为是“更高的成就”, 这是一个广泛的总括术语, 可以包括任何主题, 无论是科学、艺术、舞蹈, 运动等。例如, 一个擅长舞蹈但不擅长科学的孩子可以与一个技能相反、擅长科学但不擅长舞蹈的孩子搭档。他们可以互相教给对方。在此过程中, 他们将面临挑战并学习以前没有的全新技能。

- 6) *What should SFUSD do to increase enrollment and to attract more students and families to the San Francisco Unified School District, at elementary, middle, and/or high school entry points? Letteris: I wrote about this topic in detail on my web site at: www.voteletteris.com/home-1-1. In essence, a healthy, balanced budget is a prerequisite for healthy enrollment. As long as we continue to mismanage the budget and resort to reducing classrooms and closing schools, then enrollment will never increase. For balancing the budget, we require three basic things: a) stakeholder engagement, b) planning, and b) execution and accountability. Again, these elements are described in detail at the URL above.*

Letteris: 我在我的网站上详细阐述了这个主题:

www.voteletteris.com/home-1-1。从本质上讲, 健康、平衡的预算良好招生率的先决条件。只要我们无法解决预算管理不善问题, 并采取减少教室和关闭学校的措施, 那么入学率就永远不会增加。为了平衡预算, 我们需要三个基本要素: a) 利益相关者参与, b) 规划, b) 执行和问责。同样, 这些元素在上面提及的网页中有详细描述。

- 7) *What do you think of SFUSD's lottery system of enrollment? Letteris: The lottery system has it's purpose, but should not be a goal of the public education system.*

SFPARENTS

Our goal should be able to include all students who are willing and able to attend a particular school.

Letteris: 抽签系统有它的目的, 但不应该成为公共教育系统的目标。我们的目标应该能够包括所有愿意并且能够就读某一特定学校的学生。

- 8) How did you vote on Prop G (8th Grade Algebra) and why? What are the top three areas to focus on in math currently to improve math outcomes for kids at SFUSD? Letteris:** *I voted yes on Prop G. Math is a subject that many children, and even adults, are intimidated by. I struggled with math until my sophomore year in high school, when I was fortunate to have a teacher who taught math in a way I understood it. Before 10th grade, I was unable to make this connection with my math teachers. It was not any fault of the schools, but just a personal preference or learning style on my part. I think that with all the YouTube channels available, perhaps kids can find an instructional video that clicks with them? Unlike when I was a kid and there was no Internet, there are many more opportunities available for children to learn math. Therefore, the top three areas to focus on are: a) teacher exposure (expose the children to as many teaching styles as possible via, for example, YouTube), b) moral and emotional encouragement (do not give up), and c) include more fun and games in the learning process. My earlier bit about the Rubik's cube is also an excellent way to teach math.*

Letteris: 我对 G 提案投了赞成票。数学是一门让很多孩子, 甚至成年人都感到害怕的学科。我在数学上一直很挣扎, 直到高中二年级, 当时我很幸运有一位老师以我理解的方式教授数学。在十年级之前, 我无法与我的数学老师建立这种联系。这不是学校的错, 只是我个人的喜好或学习方式。我认为有了所有可用的 YouTube 频道, 也许孩子们可以找到适合他们的教学视频? 不像我小时候没有互联网, 现在孩子们学习数学的机会多了很多。因此, 最需要关注的三个领域是: a) 教师接触(通过 YouTube 等方式让孩子们接触尽可能多的教学风格), b) 道德和情感鼓励(不要放弃), 以及 c) 在学习过程中加入更多的乐趣和游戏。我之前关于魔方的介绍就是一种很好的数学教学方法。

- 9) What was your position on the school board recall of February 2022, and why? Letteris:** *I agree with the recall because re-opening schools should have been the board's number one priority during Covid, but it was not.*

Letteris: 我同意罢免, 因为在新冠疫情期间重新开放学校应该是教委会的首要任务, 但事实并非如此。

- 10) Who will you look to as your trusted sources of feedback, information, and advice**

SFPARENTS

as you make decisions as a BOE Commissioner? In what ways will you engage with and solicit feedback from community members? Lefferis: I will look to the stakeholders, the teachers, parents, and students, as my source of advice and information. I will make it a priority to speak with schools and parent and neighborhood groups on a regular basis to engage with the community. I currently am a member of the Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association and a delegate for the West of Twin Peaks Central Council.

Lefferis: 我将向利益相关者、教师、家长和学生寻求建议和信息。我将优先考虑定期与学校、家长和社区团体交谈，与社区互动。我目前是大西部门户邻里协会(*the Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association*)的成员以及双峰西部中心理事会(*the West of Twin Peaks Central Council*)的代表。