

1. *What do you think are the biggest challenges currently facing our public school and what are your plans to address them?*

I think the biggest challenges currently facing our public schools is recovering from the trauma of COVID, particularly the disparate effect on families of color and other minority groups. Many people have lost faith in our public education system and are opting out. We need to focus first on the children's mental and emotional wellbeing, and trauma-informed teaching. We can do this by hiring more teachers and counselors to provide more individualized attention, and providing trauma-informed trainings to school staff. Another major challenge will be the incorporation of technology in education, which will become more commonplace due to COVID. We need to provide more trainings so teachers and parents can become proficient with technology, as well as incorporate more assistive technology in schools for students with disabilities. An additional challenge is recruitment and retention of qualified minority teachers, particularly those that are multilingual. I would like to address this by creating partnerships with local universities and colleges for "teaching pipelines," where future teachers can get scholarships and training to become teachers.

2. *What is your definition of equity and what is its importance in education?*

*My definition of equity means making sure that everyone gets an equal opportunity to succeed. This does not mean treating everybody the same, rather it means recognizing that some of us have additional barriers (and have been historically disadvantaged) and need extra support in order to be on the same footing to succeed as our peers. Equity should be at the forefront of reshaping education, so all students can succeed.*

3. *Describe the achievement gap in your district and what you think can be done about it.*

*How could the Student Success Act Funds be used to address this gap?*

Students from minority groups such as students of color and students with disabilities have lagged behind their peers on state assessments in English/Language Arts, Math, and being on track to graduate. I think our district should hire more minority/multilingual teachers with the Student Success Act Funds, as an overwhelming majority of teachers in our district is white. It is extremely important for students to see teachers who represent their diverse backgrounds. The Student Success funds should also be used to hire more school counselors, who can provide emotional and psychological support to students. Finally, more after-school or summer programs should be offered, both for academic support and enrichment activities.

*4. How can schools address the learning needs of students from other cultures and languages?*

Schools can create a welcoming and accepting environment by teaching a culturally responsive curriculum that celebrates different traditions and holidays. Not only does this help promote world citizenship among students, but it also helps support students to learn better because they feel respected and safe. Additionally, for students with limited English, classroom learning materials should be provided in other languages, and teaching should be adjusted to their level of English. School information should also be provided in other languages for parents whose first language is not English, so they can fully participate in their child's education.

*5. What is your vision for the future of education in your community? What would be your role as a school board member in realizing this vision?*

My vision for the future of education in my community is a vibrant and diverse community where the whole community is involved and invested in our schools, and children from all backgrounds feel welcomed and supported. I want there to be more dual language programs, rather than having my children's school be the only dual language program in our community. I would like there to be more community events and celebrations that bring people together. As a board member with a disability and a bilingual, bicultural family, I would like to bring better representation and understanding to help bridge the gap between the minority and majority populations in my community.