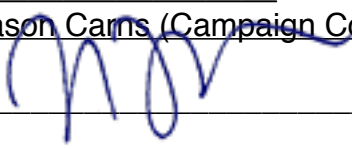


Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee
Endorsement Questionnaire for FUSD School Board Candidates

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Date 9/2/18

Please limit your responses to no more than 300 words per question.

1. Educational outcomes in the Fresno Unified School District are significantly impacted by poverty, segregation, and school funding inequities. As a school board member, how will you combat these issues to improve public education in Fresno Unified?

As a school board member I would advocate to fund projects equitably across the district and to increase funding for social emotional and additional support resources on campus. Social emotional and additional supports have been proven to assist students in poverty. These additional resources will help our educators focus on improving educational outcomes while our students get the support they need.

2. Recent studies conducted by the non-profit organization In the Public Interest have shown that the unrestricted growth of charter schools takes away resources from public schools. As a school board member, what are your solutions to curb charter expansion within Fresno Unified?

Charter schools are opened following a very specific criteria. I will ensure that all existing and future charter schools follow the criteria and serve students well. Unrestricted growth of charter schools is a concern as we have seen in LA and Oakland. I will ensure that we continue to innovate within the district to curb charter school expansion and to provide the best possible education for the vast majority of our students within the district.

3. Evidence-based, comprehensive sex education has been shown to decrease teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection rates. As a school board member, will you support the use of evidence-based sex education in Fresno Unified?

Yes, per the California Healthy Youth Act set by California Department of Education.

4. Go Public Schools Fresno is predominately funded by corporate billionaires who have significant ties to the charter school industry, and a strong history of promoting the privatization of public schools. As a school board member, what will you do to evaluate and limit the influence of such an organization on Fresno Unified?

I welcome the thoughts and input from our community. I would look at all reports with a discerning eye and seek to identify and understand any underline motives. We need to set policy and build relationships so that our teachers and staff can feel secure to provide suggestions and have a pathway to implement innovations on their campuses.

5. Despite the many positive effects they have had on funding and program development, public sector unions have come under attack. What role do you think FTA and other FUSD labor partners has in supporting the growth of students and schools in Fresno Unified?

When we support our teachers and staff, they can better support our students. I support growth of career technical education for students and our labor partners can play a strong roll in this moving forward.

6. FUSD serves an ethnic student population that is nearly 90%; however, ethnic site principals comprise less than 50% of that workforce. Studies have shown academic achievement improves when students of color see people reflecting their background in leadership positions, like school principals. Will you commit to hiring policies that encourage the appointment of principals who are more representative of FUSD's student population?

Yes, because representation matters. We can create a better pathway to encourage leadership and advancement opportunities for employees and make sure employees of color feel included in the process.

7. Community based schools that offer wrap-around services, such as health clinics and social workers, have been shown to decrease the achievement gap, especially in socioeconomically disadvantaged communities like Fresno. What will you do to increase the availability of services to students and their families on campuses in Fresno?

Work with partners to bring more services to campuses and fund projects to create more wrap-around services for our students and their families.

8. FTA and FUSD have recently agreed to create a work team to explore a special tax with the aim of decreasing class sizes in Fresno. Would you support such a tax?

I would support the work team to see if the community is ready for a special tax. If the community is uncertain, we should wait until we feel a special tax would be successful. In the meantime, we need to ensure we are using the dollars we currently have most effectively.

9. What does your dream public high school look like?

A place where teachers are empowered to innovate and teach in a way that connects and engages their students. A place where students are able to pursue their interests through the curriculum and feel like what they are learning is connected to what they will need to know to be a productive adult.

10. What is the purpose of public education?

Public education is a great equalizer with the goal of growing productive and community-minded citizens ready to take their next step - either into a career or college.

Thank you so much for your time and energy in completing this questionnaire. Your answers will be distributed to our members prior to the September 8 endorsement meeting through the CVPPAC Website.

Please return this questionnaire by email to Mike Rhodes < mikerhodes@comcast.net >. The deadline is Sunday, September 2 at 11:59 p.m. If you have any questions, call CVPPAC president Pam Whalen at (559) 994-9390.