

## **Juan Sandoval**

Trustee on the Fresno County Board of Education (FCBE)

### **CANDIDATE QUESTIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2022 ELECTION**

*Please limit your responses to the following questions to no more than 100 words per question.*

1. Why do you want to be a trustee on the Fresno County Board of Education?

As a retired educator of 37 years, educating children is my passion; it is my desire to work closely with the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools and trustees to provide the required services, per the LCAP to students within area 4. Most of these schools are in the rural area of Fresno and do not have the required resources, urban schools have, to provide students with a competitive opportunity to be successful in the work force, in their future. I want to prioritize services to our disadvantaged students, that under the LCAP and LCFF, those services should be guaranteed.

2. What are your educational qualifications, experience and training for the position?

In the 37 years of my educational career, I worked as a teacher for 10 years in elementary, Jr high, high school, and adult school settings. I worked as an Assistant Principal in charge of attendance and state and federal projects for five years, high school principal for two years, and the other 20 years at the district level. My district level experience ranges from author and director of Dual Language Programs/EL and Migrant Education Director, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum/State and Federal projects, and Superintendent. I have attended the California School Board Association annual conferences for over 10 years in which I kept updated and attended school governance seminars, while working with, and advising board members and board presidents for over 20 years, within my scope of duties and responsibilities.

3. What is your current employment?

I retired as a superintendent in June 30, 2021, but I continue active advocating for students and parents when they seek my assistance, and I run my own Aztec and Andalusian horse breeding and training program.

4. What do you think is the most important role a trustee on the Fresno County Board of Education performs?

The most important role to perform for a trustee on the Fresno County Board of Education is to work closely with the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools and other trustees, to continue providing students with quality educational programs and the implementation of innovative programs to keep students engaged throughout the school year and during the summer, providing enrichment programs, such as in the Fine Arts and Vocational education settings also according to goals and activities per the LCAP.

5. What are three goals you would like the Fresno County Board of Education to accomplish over the next two years?
  1. To ensure school district adhere to their LCAP and LCFF as approved by FCSS and California Department of Education
  2. To implement high quality Dual Language immersion programs where more than 50% of the student population are English Learners.
  3. To have full-time Mental Health Therapists at every school
6. What are the biggest challenges facing the students served by the Fresno County Board of Education?

With the COVID-19 Pandemic, the after affect is a great one, specifically the loss of education, which is even more serious in the rural areas, due to lack of resources, such as broadband internet access and Mental Health resources. For our English Learners and students with special needs, there must be commitment to provide rigorous instruction and support. For our high achieving students, challenging, rigorous and innovative instruction and resources must be provided. Catch-up educational programs must also be provided after school and weekends.

7. What do you see the role as a trustee of Fresno County Board of Education in achieving the “legislative mandate to ensure that school districts remain fiscally solvent and in compliance with state and federal laws.” Quote is from the Fresno Office of Education website.

The Fresno County Superintendent of Schools does a fine job of providing assistance to all its school districts in the development of the Local Control Funding Formula to assist school districts in achieving the legislative mandate, to ensure that districts remain solvent fiscally solvent and in compliance with state and federal laws; however, the reality for urban small school district with declining enrollment, such as those in area 4, have little financial flexibility as compared to larger school districts. As the trustee of area 4, it would be necessary to monitor those districts that are meeting its mandates, but still falling short financially for uncontrollable reasons. The Fresno county superintendent and trustee must explore and implement additional services that FCSS can provide to relief those districts of certain financial obligations.

8. Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is supposed to help the students with the highest needs get the largest amount of financial resources. How will you work to ensure funding transparency and equity?

In theory, LCFF is the solution to address the students with the highest needs, and the guide lines from California Department of Education and FCSS is consistent as the LCFF is developed. The problem is the follow-through at the school sites, because the site administrators are not well informed of the goals, activities and dollars attached to those activities, to address students with greatest needs. The majority of the time, the LCFF is developed by a district administrator or consultant, and the information doesn't filter at the school site, to the site administrator, or taken seriously; it would be necessary to monitor the LCFF for each school as the trustee, with the assistance of the FCSS, to ensure full implementation.

9. How should the schools in Fresno County respond to the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic?

Safety is priority in addressing the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic. All school districts must have all safety protocols in place, consistent with

state and county health departments guidelines and recommendations. School districts must deliver high quality education and provide support to students via in-person instruction preferably, but must have plans to provide a hybrid instructional program or alternating small cohort instructional programs or combination of virtual instruction. Parents and community members must be kept well informed and be part of the decision making, of the school districts' recommendations and directives. Mental Health services must be made available to families, to cope with stress and family situations that arise, due to the epidemic.

10. Who are your top 3 financial donors?

I have no donors at this moment.