

NOVEMBER 2022, CVPPAC CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (FUSD) BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

1. What are your educational qualifications, experience, and training for the position of Trustee of the Fresno Unified School Board?

I consider my lived experience my greatest qualification to serve on FUSD's Board. I am a product of public education. I have raised two sons through the public education system and currently numerous grandchildren are in attendance. My lived experience grounds me in my decision making and interest in ensuring a just and fair system for all our students.

My qualifications include a bachelor's degree in Health Science and a master's degree in Public Health. Finally, during my term as a school board member, I have participated in several trainings to support my leadership development. (97)

2. Why do you want to be a Trustee of the Fresno Unified School District Board?

Education has the power to change the world. I want to be a part of creating a more just and equitable world. During my lifetime I have seen many injustices committed against people; from the subjugation of people given their gender, ethnicity, religion, or sexual identity to the institutionalization of oppression. I believe we must be intentional about dismantling systems of oppression and school boards are a very important place of action.

I am interested in continuing to serve as a school board member because I want to be a force for good. (93)

3. What are the biggest challenges facing the Fresno Unified School District?

One of the greatest challenges is our size and complexity. From curriculum development to teacher hiring to facilities operations and everything in between; so much detail needs to be considered that we must compartmentalize functions and duties to administrators to ensure we create a system that operates successfully and complies with all laws. We make one person responsible for all of that – the Superintendent. Then we install seven members of the board to direct him. Each of these board members has their own ideas, values, and beliefs about what the district needs to do. This design is not optimal. (100)

4. What are the best qualities of the Fresno Unified School District?

By far the best quality of our district is the aspiration for all our students to succeed. This is demonstrated in the expansion of Dual Immersion where our students get to simultaneously learn in two languages to Dual Enrollment where students can enroll in college while completing their high school diploma. This is further exemplified in our expanded offerings for Career Technical Education where students can obtain vocational certification and licensure. The expansion of after school programs and summer camps are all part of building student success. (88)

5. What are your priorities regarding educating the children of the Fresno Unified School District, so they are prepared for the 21st century? How will you achieve those goals?

My priorities include ensuring that students with the least advantages are supported to be successful. Advancing education equity requires that we act in different ways.

- Homeless students need services to be designed in ways that support housing for the families.
- Students in foster care require that as a system, we ensure that we are stepping in to address their unique needs and advocating on their behalf.
- Special Education students and English Language

Learners need highly skilled and credential teachers to support their learning.

- African American and our Native American students customized supports to get through our education system. (99)

6. What is your position regarding charter schools?

I have been a vocal opponent of charter schools. I believe that I am elected to represent public education and that any detraction of resources and funding is threat to the success of public education. (35)

7. What is your position regarding on campus police officers/resource officers?

There is a need for law enforcement involvement on our campuses however, I do not believe we need officers on site every day. Law enforcement on campuses does not prevent tragedies from befalling our schools and students. In many cases police officers have been weaponized against students and that interaction has created jeopardy for our students' futures.

We would have safer schools by investing in programs and supports that keep our students engaged and address their social and emotional needs. We have begun to make more of these investment by increasing access to social workers and mental health professionals. (99)

8. Who are your top 3 financial donors?

At this point the top donors to my campaign are myself, Sheet Metal Workers, and Karen Grove. I have been endorsed by the Fresno Teachers Association and I anticipate that they will be my largest contributor eventually. (37)