



Neighbors United For Fullerton (NUFF) is a nonpartisan organization committed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in the city of Fullerton, CA through political action. NUFF offers public forums which provide information of community interest and opportunities for civic involvement. Membership in NUFF is open to anyone interested in making a difference in the community in which we live and work.

NUFF FULLERTON SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 11PM PDT on September 25, 2018 to endorsements@nuffpac.org

Note: ONLY electronic submissions will be accepted.

Name: Bridget Donoghue Vornholt

Running for: Fullerton Joint Union HS District

Trustee Area #:5

Indicate one of the following by checking the appropriate box:

- I do not plan to request NUFF's endorsement, so I am not responding to the questions.
- I am submitting the questionnaire and would appreciate receiving NUFF's endorsement upon approval of the membership.

If you are seeking NUFF's endorsement, please answer the following questions in your own words. Your responses will be shared with NUFF's membership as the basis for their endorsement vote (space provided is not intended to limit the length of your response; use the space you need).

1. What is your vision for education in the Fullerton schools? I want to see schools that are offering plenty of opportunities for students to learn 22nd century skills that prepare students for career and university. Welcoming places for students from all backgrounds. To support and nurture students as they develop their knowledge base and discover their yet untapped potential as they grow into contributing members of our community.
2. What do you believe are the top two or three priorities that need to be addressed at the district level? School Safety including student physical and mental health issues and balancing out the basic skills all of us need like solid language development, math and science education, while helping students learn how to think creatively and critically. Finding a way to utilize technology without shortchanging students in the classroom or denying them the time it takes to develop skills like note taking, listening to lectures and having open discussions and critiques.
3. What has been your experience in the public school system? I attended K-4 followed by Community College and University in the public schools. My husband and I send our daughters to local public schools and we are very happy with the education they are getting.
4. In what ways do you feel you are prepared for the job of a Trustee? What strengths do you bring? I am a passionate parent who wants the best for all the children in our community. I feel my PTA and professional experience would be very useful. I have experience working with budgets, and managing staff and most importantly working with people from all walks of life for common goals. In my job I engage with educators and students on a daily basis, I am very familiar with higher education and look forward to bringing some of that experience and those connections to the school district.
5. What are two or three current activities or programs in which the district currently excels? How do you believe that you could ensure that these continue? The school district innovated and developed the Tech program at Troy, several of the career focused programs like the forensics program and new cyber security program are exciting and these are programs that will get people talking about the district and specific schools. As a board member I would continue to look for new and exciting magnet programs to offer, areas where we can piggyback on the NOCCCD to offer a wider range of programing at a low cost, while

making sure the word got out about the programs. Funding is always an issue, as a board member I would work hard to make sure a range of programs are available. If the need or popularity of an activity or program is waning then it would need to be reviewed, updated or possibly replaced. There also needs to be a higher level of understanding among the general population and specifically in the feeder districts so that we continue to build those pathways to enrollment and plan for new programs that the feeder districts are developing and implementing.

6. What is the best measurement for how a district is being successful or unsuccessful in student learning? I believe that standardized tests are one, very overused way to determine the success of a school district. There are several others which in concert with the result of testing can tell a lot about a school district. A successful school district-
- A) Protects the students, teachers and staff ensuring they have a physically and emotionally safe and place to go each day.
 - B) Provides a healthy balance between traditional classroom learning and appropriate levels of technology.
 - C) Emphasises equally career and college readiness as well as the importance of civics and citizenship.
 - D) Provides support and a place for all students to grow and learn.
 - E) Has veteran teachers to mentor the next generation, provide stability and consistency for the students.
 - F) Has a culture of encouraging teachers to teach concepts and information and not simply teaching for the next standardized test.
 - G) Engages with stakeholders including, but not limited to, students and parents to determine student wellbeing and satisfaction with the environment and programs being offered.
 - H) Offers rich professional development opportunities to teachers and staff to continue their growth, learning, and enthusiasm which will be passed on to the students.
 - I) Addresses its own issues head on.
 - J) Encourages transparency whenever possible.
 - K) Has community engagement (beyond sporting events).

7. Do you favor uniqueness in the schools/courses/teaching methods offered, or do you believe that greater consistency is preferable?

My goal in cases like this is to help find the balance. There is no simple answer. I do think that some standardization is needed so that students at each campus are receiving a similar level of information and breadth and depth of education however that can mean having a list of books to choose from or utilizing new apps or developing something we have not even heard of. We cannot throw out uniqueness in favor of consistency or vice versa. There needs to be opportunities for innovation and customization by individuals to keep students engaged and meet them where they are.

8. What are your views on integration of the Arts at our schools?

I believe having the arts available at our schools is integral to developing young creative minds who will be ready for life with more automation and technologies we have not even dreamed of yet. When students create they develop different parts of their brain, they learn to envision rather than simply follow directions, they build something from nothing.

9. Is there anything you would like to add?

I am very proud of the FJUHSD and want to thank all the teachers, administrators, and board members who have gotten us to where we are today. My plan as a board member is to represent families and students from Fullerton, La Habra, Brea, Buena Park, to build on what has come before seeing this district not only thrive but shine for the next generation. I want to use my personal and professional experience to help FJUHSD educate young adults and community members prepared for the 22nd century.