

Candidate Name: **Joanne Fawley**

NEIGHBORS UNITED FOR FULLERTON SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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?

My vision is to modernize the education and expectations of students by providing a focus on communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. These skills are needed regardless of a student's post- secondary path. The infusion of technology as a meaningful tool beyond replacing paper and pen is important as well. Additionally there needs to be planning for dual language programs. They are already are in place in two of the elementary districts.

2. What do you believe are the top 2 or 3 priorities that need to be addressed at the district level?

1. Consistent, transparent, timely communication
2. Restore employee and community trust
3. Modernize the education experience and opportunities

3. What has been your experience in the public school system?

I attended public schools from Kindergarten through my teaching credential and master's degree. I have been a credentialed teacher since 1985 and have spent my entire teaching career in public schools. Furthermore I have served in both site and district leadership roles throughout my career gaining perspectives and experience beyond one classroom and beyond one school.

Additionally my father, Lou Nicols, was a public school teacher. He taught history at Kennedy High School in La Palma in the Anaheim Union High School District for almost 30 years. He was also the History/Social Science Department Chair for many years. My mother managed a central kitchen at Bell Intermediate in the Garden Grove Unified School District.

My husband, Kevin, has been teaching history at Buena Park High School for 33 years. He is also the History/Social Science Department Chair. We met there over 30 years ago when I was doing my student teaching.

4. In what ways do you feel you are prepared for the job of a Trustee? What strengths do you bring?

I bring the classroom experience with decades of perspective combined with the working knowledge of the new approaches to teaching and learning. I have been honored as District Teacher of the Year in two different districts.

I have academic knowledge of the position having earned a master's degree in Political Science from CSUF.

I am an experienced leader. I have been the History/Social Science Department Chair at Cypress High School for nine years. I served for six years as president of my local teachers' association. I was a junior high activities director for four years. I have or am now serving as a chair or member of number key campus committees such as professional development, leadership team, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) focus group.

I have hands on knowledge of education funding and budgeting including employee benefits. I have served on a district Local Control Accountability Committee (LCAP) which is district is required by law to have in place each year. The work of the committee provides the framework for the district's spending priorities. For six years, I served on a school district's monthly budget committee and also the monthly insurance committee.

I am an effective communicator who has a proven track record of building consensus among various groups and individuals.

5. What are 2 or 3 current activities or programs in which the district currently excels? How do you believe that you could ensure that these continue?

1. The district has excelled in academic success as measured only by standardized test scores though this benchmark fell in the last round of testing. The FJUHSD was the only district in Orange County to have both the 2015-2016 English and Math scores decline. Most districts showed gains in each subject and a few had no change in one or the other.

My experience as an Advanced Placement Government and Politics teacher enables me to provide the insight and skills to direct staff towards effective professional development as well as ensure support structures for students. I also teach special education students in my regular government classes so I work directly with a full range of students daily including English Learners.

2. Some campuses have excellent performing arts or athletic programs in some sports.

I have taught drama and took drama and choir all four years of my high school career. I know what it takes to build and maintain successful programs. I also served a few years on the Anaheim Arts Council. In my role as the teachers' union president, I worked closely with coaches and activities directors to listen to their ideas and address their concerns. I also had a strong, positive working relationship with my counterparts representing the classified staff and know their ideas and concerns as well.

3. The support of the agriculture program.

I can support these programs through thoughtful budgeting, appropriate pay, and partnerships with businesses and community groups. Career and technical education is changing in California and the agriculture programs are undergoing transitions as well. For example, the environmental science classes are now under the purview of the agriculture departments. My skills can provide leadership for this transition.

6. What is the best measurement for how a district is being successful or unsuccessful in student learning?

Both federal and state law have recently changed and require multiple measures to determine student success. Standardized testing will be only one component. Other measures include graduation rate, A-G completion rate (UC and Cal. State requirements) and suspension rates. These changes are a major improvement over the previous narrow focus on test scores because they are a better measure of a student's potential success beyond high school.

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

In terms of what is offered at each school regarding the programs and courses, consistency is much better. This will be a step forward in economic equity since lower socio-economic families do not often have the ability to provide transportation for a school somewhere else in the district. The magnet school concept is an outdated model.

In general, there should also be some consistency among classes. The content of a course would be similar across the district because of state course frameworks.

For teaching methods, ideally there are both baseline expectations and variety. Baseline expectations would be to incorporate more writing and the useful integration of technology as professional development continues. Variety will and should exist recognizing that campuses serve different communities and that will be reflected in the needs of the students. A teachers' unique talents and fields of expertise meet the needs of the students in the classroom and will not be identical to another effective teacher teaching the same subject using different methods.

Additionally, English Learners and special education students need both access to the curriculum and modifications to ensure academic and social development.

Cookie cutter schools, courses and teaching methods is the not goal when discussing consistency. It is simply a way to ensure equal access to courses and programs regardless of the student's neighborhood.

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

A term I have always disliked is "exposure to the arts." This sounds like an illness that needs to be overcome as quickly as possible. Arts should be both unique classes and infused into the core subject areas (English, math, science and social science). Performing and visual arts are legitimate career paths in their own right and should be recognized as such. These courses should be an integral aspect of the comprehensive high school experience. This includes ensuring that the facilities are adequate and properly staffed.

As a former drama teacher, I have seen student growth firsthand both academically and behaviorally/socially. As a former drama and choir student, I know that the skills I learned (collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking) have served me well throughout my life and are now a major push in education.

9. Is there anything you would like to add?

I am grateful for this opportunity to share my ideas and qualifications. Four of the five school board members have been in office 28 years or longer. It is time to change as education is changing. I am very qualified for the position.