

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ELECTRONICALLY: September 7, 2016 to info@nuffpac.org

Candidate Name: Barbara R. Kilponen

- I do not plan to request NUFF's endorsement
- I do not plan to attend the September 19 Meet and Greet at the Library
- I plan to attend the September 19 Meet and Greet at the Library Yes
- I am submitting the questionnaire and would appreciate receiving NUFF's endorsement upon approval of the membership. Yes

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?
That every student be instructed by a highly qualified teacher, be provided supportive services such as tutoring to advance with peers, be encouraged by accessibility to take advanced coursework to attain academic or career goals after graduation. In addition, character traits such as perseverance, honesty, respect for all, and civic duty should be part of a student's education.
2. What do you believe are the top 2 or 3 priorities that need to be addressed at the district level?
 - Because students even from the same family experience achieve at different levels, it is essential that all students are encouraged to reach the highest goals of achievement for themselves. There is usually at least one teacher whom students remember as making a difference. Staff development means not only instructional skills but interpersonal skills to inspire students to stretch for success.
 - In today's world there is benefit for students and families to plan early in a student's high school years whether to attend a higher education institution, enter the military, or go into the work world with skills that are in demand currently. This district offers all these opportunities, not as separate levels of education, but as integrated paths which can be enhanced or changed as students' interests and skills develop. Guidance from home and school are always at the top of the list for student success and constantly encouraged by regular meetings with counseling staff yearly.
 - Financial stability is at the core of all the needs of an institution. The communities we serve expect to maintain the quality in our schools, health and safety of staff and students, and to pay the bills in a timely, efficient manner. The constraints by state government have to be understood, and watched carefully for negative changes in funding. Our district does an excellent job of forecasting to remain in a conservative financial position so that programs and salaries are competitive and appropriate.
3. What has been your experience in the public school system?
 - My two children were entirely educated in the Fullerton elementary and high school districts which offered me the opportunities to work at their schools. After taking on various PTA jobs such as newsletters, fundraising, and treasurer, I was president of PTAs at the elementary, junior high and high school levels, and then president of the council of 21 Fullerton PTAs.
 - I volunteered for various task forces such as the Moral & Civic Values high school program to imbue values in our students common to successful citizens in our world.
 - I served six years in a volunteer capacity - one week per month year round in Sacramento - as a panel member of a subcommittee of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. I

represented school board members throughout the state in evaluating wrongdoing and recommending for penalty teaching staff from the classroom teacher all the way up and including superintendents.

- My terms as school board member for FJUHSD.

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

- My past experience as a school board member in this district.
- This is my one and only job. I am visible and accessible for school events and board meetings.
- I have been president four times - last year leading the board in its hiring of our superintendent, Scott Scambray.
- I have volunteered in various organizations in our community including the City, Needlework Guild, National Charity League, Muckenthaler, and Meals on Wheels. I have a broad network of colleagues to call upon for information, advice, and work effort to support the goals of the district.
- ~~being~~ a good listener, indicating I can do, and then what I say I will do.

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

- AVID - Advancement Via Individual Determination. This program seeks and furthers the ambition of students who wish to go to college as the first in their families. By providing support and knowledge on the expectations of college acceptance, students strive to take strong coursework, raise their test scores and achieve acceptance into four year as well as community colleges. Since a strong educational experience is the goal for every student, there will be AVID or a like four program as long as there is student/family need/interest.
- Magnet/Career Technical programs: Agriculture, JROTC, Engineering, Computer technology, Construction, Auto Repair, and on and on. These programs draw students from outside the district due to their attractiveness as possible career opportunities. Additional students allow more programs to be developed for the benefit of all to try out timely career paths. There is periodic evaluation of programs so that they can be enlarged/enhanced or eliminated as student interest or the market for employees wanes. Preparation for future endeavors is an important part of the district's mission.
- Extra-curricular Activities: So many programs such as Speech and Debate, Band, Theatre, various academic competitions such as Science and Computer Olympics, Sports, Robotics, etc., are award winning opportunities for students and propel them into college entrance and scholarship possibilities. Since these programs round out students' growth experiences, they will always be encouraged. If changed or eliminated, programs will be based on student demand or lack of demand.

6. What is the best measurement for how a district is being successful or unsuccessful in student learning? Attendance. While that may sound like a strange choice, it really is not. Education cannot take place without the student seated in the classroom every day, every week in the year. If the placement is correct with counseling and parental advice, at least one teacher/course/extracurricular activity will tempt even a reluctant student to come to school daily. Then to maintain participation in sports, for instance, students must have a 2 point grade point with excellent attendance and citizenship. The district has about a 97% average daily attendance. There are some absences due to illness, but it is one of the best attendance averages in the county, if not the best. The habit of strong daily attendance **on time** has benefits for society as well. The military and workplace has expectations of on time daily attendance. Doctors appointments, catching an airplane, filing income tax all have expectations of attention to date and time.

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

There is a purpose for both. The uniqueness in schools/courses/teaching methods offered are what attracts students to the classroom/extracurricular activities associated with the school. The consistency of information provided/expected, in say, AP Biology, among several teachers needs to happen so that

the student who has to change classrooms at the semester will be at the same place in the book or sequence of understanding the material. In addition, the student needs to master the information for testing in AP Biology, for instance. Teachers need to be accountable to the testing process for the student's mastery. Teachers will always provide a uniqueness in the classroom by virtue of their past experiences and education. That's most often why students single out teachers who have most influenced their time in high school or brought focus to their career choices.

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

Arts are always integrated into the education of our students by virtue of demand and by diploma requirement. When student interest (we call it "demand") increases in an arts area and fills a class size established by the teacher/principal, that class is established for the next semester or year. For instance, a violin class added will augment musicians in band, which in turn, can result in an orchestra class.

9. Is there anything you would like to add?

- I am a 44 year resident of Fullerton.
- I have made it a point to examine my commitment to being a member of the board in the following ways at the time of re-election. Do I have the physical stamina to attend a myriad events over the course of the year and be accessible to the community for informal conversations on education as well as speak to specific areas of concern? Do I have the mental stamina to read sometimes boxes of reports, scientific materials, board agendas and proposals every week? Do I have the zeal for public education? I have thought carefully on each of these questions and can honestly answer yes.
- The challenges in education are increasingly complex. My having the historical background of this district not only in academics but also in the prior construction bond will be of value during the current construction process. Thanks to the community's passage of the bond, many physical improvements will be seen on our campuses such as swimming pools, stadiums, theaters, and kitchens. Other improvements will take place on each campus as well with upgrades on technology wiring, some seismic retrofitting, cameras for safety, etc.
- There is a saying "Good schools make good towns, and good towns make good schools." All the comprehensive high schools in the district are in the top 1,000 schools in the country out of 26,407 public high schools. Property values will remain high and are a reflection also of the cluster of five colleges and universities located here in Fullerton and the resources they provide the City of Fullerton and our citizens.