



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: Beverly Berryman

Running for: FSD School Board Trustee

Trustee Area #: 3

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.
- XX** 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?

Preparing our students to be successful in high school and beyond by instilling a passion for learning and providing them a personalized plan for learning. I want to provide them with a safe environment where they can be engaged, grow, learn, and explore their individual interests.

2. What do you believe are the top two or three priorities that need to be addressed at the district level?
The social-emotional and behavioral health of our students needs to be continually addressed. A focus on these elements of success can help us confront issues such as bullying but, more importantly, can also develop the well-being of each student. Development of a student as a whole person is an important foundation for their flourishing, and I will continue to advocate allocating more resources towards this issue.

To continue to improve parent engagement by focusing on authentic parent involvement by building a culture at every school where parents and family members feel welcomed, respected and appreciated and to promote and involve more parents and community members in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

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

School Based Committees

Served on numerous Elementary and High School committees throughout my career including:
FJUHS- Superintendent's Advisory Council, Guidance Services Committee, Budget Study Committee and interview committee

FSD- Interview Committee, boundary committees, school site councils (Acacia and Ladera Vista)

PTA 1996-present

Have held many positions with PTA in individual schools, the Fullerton Council PTA, and the Orange County PTA. I currently serve as the Immediate Past President of the Orange County PTA, which supports over 400 individual PTA units in the county. Responsibilities over these years have included: the recruitment, motivation, training of PTA volunteers for all levels of PTA; Assist with problem solving and conflict resolution among our PTA leaders; Coordinate and organize special projects at the Orange County PTA utilizing PTA volunteers; Represent Orange County PTA as needed at events throughout the county; Represent Orange County on the Advocacy Team advocating for all children in California, Orange County and Fullerton; Also currently serving on the California State PTA Leadership Team as a Leadership Commissioner. Responsible for mentoring County District Presidents to help them lead in their respective communities.

FSD Board of Education Trustee - 2006 - Present

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

I have the experience, knowledge, and the ability to work with many personalities to the board. My connections in the community have helped to bring funding, people and organizations to help the students in our district. Most of all I bring honesty, trust, respect and integrity to this position and will continue to do so if re-elected.

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 Fullerton School District is known across the nation for being one of the most innovative districts around, not only in educational technology, but in the development of engaging student programs. Both of the programs that I will share can be continued with the support and direction of enthusiastic educators that have a shared vision and a supportive board of education that understands the need to provide engaging innovative programs for our students.

iPersonalize gamified English Language Arts curriculum.

Students in the program will be completing curricular “quests” and earning experience points through the gamified quest-based learning management system, Classcraft. Dr. Pletka developed this program last year and now our personalized learning teacher leaders continue to create this “gamified curricular” offering and are to be commended for their creativity, dedication, perseverance and commitment to providing the most excellent learning experiences to our students.

Dream Big is an FSD initiative to enhance personalized learning in the district. One product of Dream Big is the PATH Finder program. This program is geared to prepare 5th through 8th graders on their journey to discover the best fit for high school, college, and career through strengths assessments, exploration, and discovery. Part of the PATH Finder program is Dream Catchers. This is the identification of students who are pursuing their passion and making their dreams a reality.

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

Schools should have multiple measures for success. When evaluating assessments and test scores, I look at student growth as one indicator of success. I look at each population of our students and look to see if they are moving up from the last assessment. Another thing that I look at is our attendance rates. If students are coming to school, then they will be more successful in learning. Engagement is also a predictor of success

with our students and this is an area that our principals measure when visiting classrooms on a continual basis.

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

Our educators are life-long learners and have a passion for teaching. Each educator understands the standards and skills that need to be covered and are provided a curriculum and resources to cover those standards and should be granted creativity to deliver lessons. We do need to ensure that our students are receiving the same basic information but the way in which it is delivered will be unique to the individual class and students.

As far as uniqueness of schools – yes, I do believe that offering parents a choice of schools in our district has helped us to stay competitive and is good for students. Each student is unique and by having different offerings at each of our schools is allows our families to choose what fits each student the best.

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

Arts are critical to a well-rounded education. Research has shown that creativity is the crucial feature for success in the workforce. As routine work continues to be relegated to other countries' work forces, those who are creative will be those who are successful in our workforce. Creativity is naturally taught and developed through the arts in a way that is not easily taught through other subject areas. This is why I have continued to support our All the Arts for All The Kids Program 100%!

Research has also shown that students who are actively engaged in the learning process stay in school and learn more readily. The arts provide engagement in a way that few other curricular areas do and can be used as an effective tool to engage students in learning about other curricular areas.

Additionally, students who are successful are those who have actively developed both sides of their brain. Involvement in the visual and performing arts stimulate development in both the left and right sides of the brain, thus allowing them to think in logical, linear terms, as well as more global and intuitive ways.

9. Is there anything you would like to add?

I am a mother of two wonderful kids that were lucky enough to be educated in Fullerton. They attended the Fullerton Elementary School District, the Fullerton HS School District, Fullerton College, and one even graduated from Cal State Fullerton. As a parent, I have had an opportunity to understand and appreciate the entire Fullerton Educational System first hand.

Like other moms, I have always taken my job very seriously. Early on, I became one of *those* moms: always involved in school activities, always interested in what was happening on campus, and in the classroom as much as possible. I took on many roles to guide my children, from Boy Scout leader, Girl Scout leader, soccer coach, to PTA mom. Volunteering became simply something that I did. There were no choices, it seemed as though this was my calling.

As the kids got older, I began to volunteer my time in service-oriented organizations, such as Crittenton, National Charity League, and I moved up through the positions available through the PTA. As I reflect upon what drew me into these groups, the common denominator is service to our children. That is my passion.

I have found energy in advocating for these organizations, asking others to get involved and be a voice for our children. Soon enough, I asked myself what more *I* could do.

In 2006, an opportunity on the school board opened up. I went for it. I have been working for 12 years to improve the lives of our children and our communities, and I am passionate about representing children and families that do not always have a voice. My work is incredibly important and I am not yet done. Serving children is what I do best. Being an advocate on their behalf is an honor. Our schools have changed over the past decade; we have more English language learners, more children from blended families, single

parents, children being raised by grandparent, and more children that are on free or reduced lunches. Over the past 10 years, these figures have gone up an incredible amount and more emphasis has been placed on social-emotional and behavioral health in children. I have made it a priority to direct resources towards these important services to our students. Without a safe environment, our efforts to educate will not find success.

I believe that there should be a focus on family and community engagement in all areas of programming and committees. Families and the community should feel welcomed, respected and appreciated. The state of California implemented a new funding and accountability system in 2013. We continue to improve the process and involve dedicated stakeholders to develop this plan for the board to approve each year. This is still in the beginning stages. Our families deserve a voice and, as a trustee, I have always listened. For those that have stepped up, changes have been made and issues are continuously resolved.

Our task in education curriculum presents difficulties of a different nature. We must prepare our students for careers that do not even exist today. My unique position on the board has allowed me to observe the largest changes in education in decades, changes affecting every major learning system, and requiring the district to redesign our entire learning systems. These changes are not complete and the experience that I have gained in their development will help to guide and ensure equity and student success.

One of my personal goals has been to improve the quality of the junior high experience. Engaging students and fostering passion in junior high makes a difference in the long run. Our junior high schools have made improvements and student enrollment continues to increase each year. As a result of this focus, Ladera Vista received a National Schools to Watch award in 2018. A few other successes for our junior highs include: increasing advanced classes at all junior high schools in the areas of geometry, computer science, and English; pre-AP and college coursework; individualizing learning; implementing a mentor program for at-risk students; and expanded intramural sports programs for all students.

We have a lot that we still need to accomplish. It cannot be done without long term District financial stability. Our goal at the board has been to provide adequate funding for all desired programs, facilities, and the resources necessary to attract and retain superior employees—all while eliminating structural deficit spending in the unrestricted general fund.

We have been successful in this effort. We weathered the massive cuts to education over the last decade and consistently received a positive certification each year. Over the past two years, we have been able to maintain and improve most campuses. This includes fences, new paint, and new fields at many schools. We currently have a healthy and stable reserve balance in place to protect our district from another massive reduction in education funding, and to cover the increasing costs of retirement benefits.

Focus on the student has motivated all of these ambitions and successes. By putting students at the forefront of every decision, our district has been recognized with many deserved awards.

That work is not complete. I would love to have the support of the Neighbors United for Fullerton to help me continue to advocate on behalf of all students in our district.