



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: Jennifer Harris

Running for: Fullerton School Board

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.
 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?

My vision for Fullerton schools is that we build our district to become a flagship district that other public school districts in California and across the nation look to as a model of success. I support a 21st Century education with STEM programming while also integrating and prioritizing the value of traditional pen-to-paper learning, the visual and performing arts, and physical education. I seek to embrace our diversity and engage parents and community members so that every member of the Fullerton community feels invested in the success of our students.

2. What do you believe are the top two or three priorities that need to be addressed at the district level?
- Fiscal Responsibility- Balanced Budgets
 - Innovative Thinking- How to mitigate declining enrollment across the district
 - Parent Engagement- Many parents feel disengaged from the decision making at the District Level. As a mom of 4 school aged kids in FSD, I commit to reaching out and finding effective communication strategies and listening to our parents and community.

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

I am a product of the public school system in Fullerton. I attended Raymond Elementary, the GATE program at Acacia, Ladera Vista, and Troy High School. I then went on to the public university of UC Berkeley to obtain my degree with double majors in Economics and in History. I believe in the value of a quality public education for all students. After working abroad and out-of-state, I intentionally returned to Fullerton when my oldest child was an infant so we could raise her in Fullerton public schools. I have 3 children attending schools in Fullerton School District, and my youngest preschooler will enter kindergarten next fall.

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

I have a degree in Economics, and a professional background in economic consulting (specifically anti-trust litigation, in which I compiled quantitative and qualitative data to run economic models), and contract negotiation (international real estate agreements and contract holdings in Latin America and the USA). This academic and professional knowledge of economics gives me a strong background knowledge in what I consider the most important role of the Trustee of the Board- approving budgets, contract negotiations, and fiscal responsibility.

Furthermore, I am a mother of 4 school aged children and I bring with me the momentum of an entire parent community in northeast Fullerton (Area 3) who has felt disengaged from the decision making processes at the District level. Due to my extensive volunteer work within our community (School Site Council, Foundation, PTA, Fullerton Rangers) I have a unique connection to the community members in our area to ensure that we are engaging with our community and meeting their needs at the school site level.

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?

- Passion Projects for 6 through 8th graders are a wonderful idea and opportunity for students to investigate issues that really interest and motivate them, and to find self-guided solutions. I would want to expand this program in our elementary program to non-GATE students. My understanding at my school site is that the Passion Project is currently only offered to GATE students. My child is not GATE identified but I would like her to participate in it, as well as all students.
- Reader's Workshop: This is a great program that really fosters literacy for every child, beginning in kindergarten and going through elementary school. I have seen in my own 3 children how much they have grown with this curriculum in place. I would ensure this program continues by supporting it at the Board level and appropriating professional development to new teachers so all our educators are up to speed on how to engage their readers at every level.

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

State benchmark testing can give quantitative data to tell the story of how the District is performing. We need to take the testing results into consideration with other qualitative factors, but data is the starting point to understanding the story of our students' learning.

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

I think every school site is unique, and our school population is diverse. I support granting our school administrators the flexibility to reach their students and embrace student learning in ways that best meet the needs of that community. Having said that, I think that if the District is offering certain programs that are popular/favorable at one school site, then the District should be willing to offer that same program at another site without parents or administrators having to fight unnecessarily for it.

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

I believe the visual and performing arts needs to be a permanent part of our school curriculum.

9. Is there anything you would like to add?

I am a mother of 4 school aged children in Area 3 of the Fullerton School District. I have a vested interest in the excellence of public education in Fullerton. My youngest daughter is 4 years old. I will be invested in Fullerton's schools for 14 more years. If you look at the current Board of FSD, there is not a balance with a current parent's perspective. I would like to be that voice.