



*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](mailto:endorsements@nuffpac.org)**

*Note: ONLY electronic submissions will be accepted.*

**Name: Shana Charles**

**Running for: Fullerton School District**

**Trustee Area #: 4**

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 see an integrated district that is the jewel of our community, for all parts of Fullerton. I envision local schools to which parents are excited to send their children, where they know that students are gaining an education that will prepare them to be successful, curious, civic-minded adults.
2. What do you believe are the top two or three priorities that need to be addressed at the district level?
  - 1) Reduce inequities among schools, bringing successful best practices that promote effective learning to all our campuses.
  - 2) Connecting the Board to our parents, listening to their concerns and providing more support for their needs, particularly for parents with students with special needs.
  - 3) Respecting the multicultural diversity of our community, at all levels, from the curriculum to the calendar.
3. What has been your experience in the public school system?  
I have two daughters who both are currently enrolled in Fullerton's public schools, with one who just started at Ladera Vista Junior High, and the other who graduated from there last Spring and is now at Fullerton High School. In their elementary years, they were at Beechwood and Rolling Hills here in Fullerton, and enrolled in public schools in Los Angeles before we moved here. My own education consisted of public schools from elementary through my PhD program, and I am currently a professor at CSU Fullerton.
4. In what ways do you feel you are prepared for the job of a Trustee? What strengths do you bring?  
My career as an educator and a policy analyst have prepared me well for a Trustee position, along with my experiences as a parent with children currently in the school system of which I will sit on the Board. As an educator, I have taught ages 8 and up, with tutoring beginning when I was just 15, up through my current position nearly thirty years later as a tenure-track professor at the largest teaching-based public institution of higher learning in California. I care deeply about the ability of our public education system to nurture students, and have the wider vision to understand the social determinants that influence student learning.

As a policy analyst, I have a bachelor's degree with a minor in urban planning, a master's degree in public policy, and a PhD that focused on public policy evaluation. I also have a decade of experience analyzing bills for the California legislature. I would bring those skills to bear as a Trustee as well, including my ability to synthesize a great deal of information regarding policy proposals and evaluation of current policies.

Finally, as a parent with children currently in the school system, I have a timely perspective about being on the receiving end of Board decisions. I have found that in many instances, the current Board simply doesn't know how the daily implementation of their actions is affecting parents and students. For example, while the 1:1 iPads are an excellent tool overall, the Board didn't realize that children as young as third grade were receiving news headlines on their iPads that were entirely inappropriate. The current Board also has no mechanism for hearing from parents beyond their public comment in meetings, which stifles communication that could better inform them of the consequences of their actions, or give them ideas for what further actions should be taken.

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 District has been excellent at building partnerships with outside non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at individual schools, including the new hockey rink from the Anaheim Ducks and the Healthy Schools initiative with St. Jude Hospital. I also agree that the dual language immersion programs and cultural programs at the Title 1 schools (with a Latinx focus) and Fisler (with a Korean focus) are excellent. These programs currently have strong community support, and I would continue to promote them. I would also expand their reach, so that the schools within the District are more integrated in terms of programming.
6. What is the best measurement for how a district is being successful or unsuccessful in student learning?  
There is no one "silver bullet" best measurement for District success in student learning. Rather, we need to create a dashboard of numerous measurements, and work on increasing them simultaneously. Some key indicators would include: 1) student readiness for transitioning into the next level of schooling at the key markers of kindergarten, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, 2) student capacity to show critical thinking skills, 3) improvement in standardized test scores, and 4) ability to meet the needs of IEP and 504 students so they can be successful.
7. Do you favor uniqueness in the schools/courses/teaching methods offered, or do you believe that greater consistency is preferable?  
I don't see this as an either/or choice. There must be some uniqueness to the school and teacher freedom to choose their own methods to foster an exciting learning environment, and also there must be consistency in standards so that all students have access to a high-quality curricula and appropriately challenging material.
8. What are your views on integration of the Arts at our schools?  
The All the Arts for All the Kids Foundation is one of the excellent NGO partnerships that exists in the District, and I am completely in favor of it. However, some of the best practices under this program are not offered at all schools. I would like to see more integration of the Arts in more of our schools.
9. Is there anything you would like to add?  
My campaign has been endorsed by numerous Fullerton educators, including Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva, Fullerton City Councilman Jesus Silva, Fullerton Joint Union High School District Board Trustee Joanne Fawley, Fullerton School District Board Trustee (Area 5) Jeanette Vasquez, CSUF professor and Fullerton Collaborative leader Dr. Laura Chandler, and Ladera Vista Junior High's special education teacher, Mrs. Rebecca Robledo. They've endorsed me because they have confidence that I am the best choice for Fullerton School District Board Trustee Area 4. Thank you for the opportunity to earn NUFF's endorsement, as well.