



Oakland Unified School District Board of Education
 Candidate Questionnaire, Policies and Issues

Section 1: For each of the following statements, please rank your level of agreement on the following scale:

Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4

At the conclusion of this section, you will have a total of 250 words to expand upon any of your responses. This exercise will help our network better understand your positions on a wide range of issues.

Statement	Level of Agreement (Rank from 1-4)
Quality Public Schools	
I support the #SchoolAfterCOVID Family Demands . Family voices, especially those historically marginalized, should be centered and part of the decision-making process as they have become experts on what it takes to get distance learning right and they have the most at stake. We must follow their lead.	4
District and charter schools can both be part of a successful community of schools in Oakland , but there needs to be equity between systems and fairness in how we hold schools accountable to serving students. The Board of Education has responsibility for the success of all students attending Oakland public schools.	4
I support a system for evaluating the quality of our public schools, both district and charter, that is primarily based on their results for students based on qualitative and quantitative measures such as the School Performance Analysis (SPA) , and the School Quality Review Rubric .	4
Research shows that four key resources have a dramatic impact on student achievement (grade-appropriate assignments, strong	



instruction, deep engagement in what they're learning, and teachers who hold high expectations). As a board member, it would be my primary focus to expand access to these four resources to students who have been historically denied access.	4
I support the articulated vision of our current superintendent, Kyla Johnson-Tramell.	
Statement	Level of Agreement (Rank from 1-4)
Financial Sustainability	
I commit to governing and voting in accordance with nationally established best financial practices, including those in the Smarter School Spending Framework put forward by the Government Finance Officers Association, and adopted in Board Resolution 18-0127 .	4
I would give more funding to support students most likely to have suffered significant learning loss due to COVID school closures, in excess of Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) supplemental and concentration grants.	4
District leadership should be held accountable for presenting their budget in a clear, student-centered way at public board meetings that allows parents, community members, and board members alike to understand and engage. As a board member I will demand this level of transparency from district staff and use GO's Sunshine budget Presentation Rubric . You can find a sample rating here .	4
To increase state education funding, I support Proposition 15 on the November 2020 ballot, also known as Schools and Communities First, and believe that Proposition 13 should be modified to tax commercial and industrial property owners at their properties' current market rates.	4

Section 1 Response (OPTIONAL): In 250 words or fewer (in total, not 250 per statement), expand on any of your responses to the statements above. You might use this section to add nuance to one of your positions or to provide additional context on your opinions. You may

address as many statements from the above section as you would like, so long as your response falls within the 250-word limit.

Section 2: Please answer each of the following questions in 250 words or fewer.

Quality of Public Schools

Review the [#SchoolAfterCOVID findings](#) about family and student experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and extended school closures. As a board member overseeing the district's recovery, what would your top 2-3 priorities in this area be?

I feel students learn best in a physical setting. I would prioritize a safe return (for students and educators) to physical learning. As this will most likely require spending a great deal of money that is not normally budgeted for this of this manner I would work with the district to expand its pool of funding sources.

Review the [vision and goals](#) the district is currently using to determine the future of Oakland public schools in order to increase quality and be fiscally solvent. To what extent do you support this criteria? What would you change and/or prioritize?

While I support the vision and goals the district has undertaken I believe the issues we face were not created by or within the educational system and cannot be solved by the district alone. There are many entities that can become significant stakeholders without losing the identity that public education must maintain. Not to say we should cower to private companies to "fund" education, but we can partner with them to create significant educational content. We ask that corporate American hire Americans, provide a blueprint of expectations and help create educational content that prepares students to meet those expectations. The district spends less on curriculum, gets professional role models for our children to follow and better prepares students for what takes place beyond K-12.

Financial Sustainability

In your view, what are the most significant drivers of OUSD's current financial crisis? As a board member, what would you do to mitigate these issues? (250-word limit)

Stop mismanagement of district funds. We need permanent employees and fewer contractors. Leased district lands needs to be at market value. While I am not a fan of selling district lands I feel creating long term revenue streams could work.

What in your experience and background prepares you for overseeing the OUSD budget of over \$500M per year? What steps are you willing to take, if elected, to build your own capacity (and the Board's collective capacity) to provide good stewardship and oversight for OUSD's budget? (250-word limit)

My background is not in finances. However, I can provide a different perspective to help make sound decisions that drive spending. Part of this requires individuals who are willing to listen, review data, communicate and be open to the possibilities.

We know that millions in cuts need to be made in the coming school years to prevent OUSD from being taken over by the state of California. What criteria will you use to determine whether staff is recommending the right cuts, and how do you see the difference between the responsibility of district staff and the Board of Education? (250-word limit)

The Board's responsibility is to approve or reject a budget submitted by the district. While suggestions on the budget can and should be made, publicly opposing budgets can cause distractions. Keep politics out of the conversation. How often are cuts started at the top? Streamline departments to cut at the top and improve reporting processes to enable us to do more with less.

Leadership and Candidacy

What are 1-2 barriers for positive impact of the current board and how would you plan to address those as a board member? (150-word limit)

It is the duty of the board to set policy which is followed by the superintendent. I feel the board has shifted from this duty and moved into the territory of being superintendents. We need to get back to the basics of setting sound policies to guide instruction, social interaction and building a strong community.

As a school board member, how do you plan to engage your community and rebuild trust, especially when making high-stake decisions? (250-word limit)

The district as a whole needs to communicate with the community much better. I would demand the district, board and OUSD employees hold a town hall twice a year to explain direction, outcomes, and processes which affect families in Oakland. I would also request that Committees, The Mayor's Office, Alameda County Board of Education, the Joint Powers Authority and other stakeholders take part in this all day town hall to present relevant information in their spheres of engagement with the community. The town hall would be

sliced into sections whereas individuals can present for certain sections and not break the rules of quorum for the different boards/committees.

What have you done to lay a foundation for a successful candidacy? Speak specifically to fundraising, campaign staff, field preparation, campaign infrastructure, and key endorsements. (150-word limit, do not count key endorsements against your word limit)

While I have talked to many people within the district most conversations were not geared towards running for school board. I have taken part in planning sessions, sat on committees, and lent my voice to a number of initiatives within the district. None of that was done with the hope/desire to be a member of the board. I see running for school board as an extension of the advocacy work I currently do but on a different level. I have a campaign manager and several advisors but the work itself has not begun in earnest.

What will your ballot designation be, and why? (50-word limit)

While I am a democrat, I feel less concerned about my political affiliation in these times. I am a humanist. I believe in providing opportunities for all families without a political slant.