



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	4

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.	
I support the articulated vision of our current superintendent, Kyla Johnson-Tramell.	4
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?

My top priority would be to make sure families have an opportunity to provide feedback on how we are opening, and how we will make sure family input on how the process is working is taken into account. I love how it's phrased in the COVID finding that there's no one perfect fit for all families, and in this has not been any truer than at this moment. Distance Learning isn't working for everyone. It's working for some, but it's not working for all...at the same time the brick and mortar school building hasn't always worked for all but has worked for some. We have the opportunity to consider what the next phase of Oakland education is. We have a chance to collect the voices of parents and reimagining what education in Oakland should and could look like.

The second thing that would prioritize is forming assessments. We have yet to see any data indicating where our students are. I think it's very important for us in Oakland, to have a way to determine where students are. If they are indeed at grade level, or if they are not at grade level then what do we do? what are the next steps? We can't determine the next steps because we don't have the first step in this process is to take into having a clear indicator, or decide on what assessment.

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?

I am 100% on board with making sure that everyone has access to a high quality school. Our kids should not have to jump on a bus, jump on BART or take an Uber so they can attend a school that will provide them with a safe, rigorous educational experience. I really do believe in this mission and I think it's very possible, I believe it's attainable. Oakland has some of the most amazingly talented teachers, thoughtful school leaders and innovative district staff. The tough part about bringing this vision to life is just getting all of us on the same page.

Financial Sustainability

Oakland has been in a difficult financial situation for a long time. Much of this is due to poor financial decisions on the part of the school district. Some of it has to do with changes that were difficult to anticipate or plan for. There's many complex elements contributing to the current budget problem. The job of the School Board is to ensure our kids all have access to an A+ education despite the difficult conditions. It's the board's job to prioritize and focus on what will have the greatest impact on student

learning, on student engagement and invest in those things. The flow of information and strategic planning between the Chief Academic Officer and the Chief Financial Officer is pivotal and many difficult decision will need to be made in order to right the financial ship. When I was a principal I helped bring the smarter school spending framework to Oakland. I was trained by the government finance Officers Association and I am now a member. So I wholeheartedly believe in that we need to look at how the different programs we're currently financing translate to student academic success.

Leadership and Candidacy

The key to rebuilding trust with the community is listening and acting on the promises we made. This is 2020. It has been a historically difficult year. I know many of the folks who currently sit on the School Board and I know that their hearts and their minds are all on finding ways to improve our school system. There are many times when their solutions or approach conflict with each other. I could work with folks whose hearts are in the right place. Focused on making sure we are developing, supporting, cultivating our Oakland youth.