



**For Immediate Release**  
August 26, 2014

**Contact:** Mitchell Lester  
415-308-5849

## **Jodi Muirhead Releases Statement on Legal Challenge and Ina Bendis' Campaign Lawsuit: "I Will Not Be Bullied into Changing My Ballot Statement or Ballot Designation."**

Santa Clara, CA – Software engineer, teacher, parent and Santa Clara Unified School Board candidate Jodi Muirhead today released the following statement regarding a ballot statement lawsuit brought against her by School Board member Ina Bendis and a ballot designation legal challenge:

"Ina Bendis' desperate lawsuit is an effort to bully me into changing my ballot statement, spending my campaign's grassroots donations on legal fees and silencing the voice of parents, teachers and community leaders who support me in this race.

"In her lawsuit, Bendis claimed I was too critical of the School Board. I stand by what I say in the ballot statement: I recognized that longtime principals, teachers and administrators are leaving our schools, the School Board ignores parents' input, and dysfunction and infighting dominate their meetings. Students are being left behind.

"Bendis also asked about my role with the annual District Science Fair. I was proud to volunteer my time to head up the Science Fair after School Board budget cuts were set to shut it down. For the last three years, I have served as the point person for the Science Fair, managing the budget, raising money and recruiting volunteers to give 300 students in 20 district schools the opportunity to actively participate in scientific exploration, research, writing and math.

"Finally, Bendis' behavior demonstrates why we need a change on the School Board: we must put all our energy into improving schools, not into hardball campaign tactics."

At 9:30pm on Saturday, August 16, Bendis appeared at Muirhead's home to serve a "Notice" document, which stated a Superior Court hearing was scheduled the following Monday. The hearing would begin the process of reviewing Muirhead's ballot statement. The two parties have met in court twice since then with a third appearance set for either Thursday, August 28 or Friday, August 29 when a Superior Court judge will rule on the lawsuit.

The following Tuesday, August 19, an anonymous resident challenged Jodi Muirhead's ballot designation of "Teacher/Parent" with the Registrar of Voters – County of Santa Clara. After Muirhead provided documents verifying the designation, the registrar cleared it, emailing Muirhead, "Thank

you for sending all the supporting information. After careful consideration, our county counsel determines that your preferred ballot designation of Teacher/Parent is appropriate, no change is required.”

Muirhead’s ballot statement and a timeline of events are attached at the end of this release.

*Jodi Muirhead is running for School Board in the November 4 election. She has raised more than \$30,000 in grassroots contributions, half coming from parents, teachers, school administrators and others education workers. Organizations, community leaders and neighbors across the district have endorsed Muirhead for School Board. To see a full list of her endorsements or read more about her background, please visit [www.jodimuirhead.com](http://www.jodimuirhead.com).*

---

---

**JODI MUIRHEAD  
FOR SCHOOL BOARD 2014  
BALLOT STATEMENT**

Longtime principals, teachers and administrators are leaving our schools. The School Board ignores parents’ input, and dysfunction and infighting dominate their meetings. Students are being left behind.

I am running for School Board to put our kids first for a change.

I’m a mom, software engineer and volunteer who logged over 5,000 hours at local public schools. I deepened my commitment to education by working as a substitute teacher for seven years. I also resurrected, and now chair, our District Science Fair after budget cuts closed it down.

I learned through these experiences that the School Board is ineffective and lacks leadership. It is not enough to sit behind a microphone at meetings and just talk or disagree with your colleagues. I’ll collaborate with parents, teachers and School Board members to make critical decisions. I’ll be fiscally responsible, especially with bond money, ensure our school budget reflects our values and advocate for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education.

Teachers, education stakeholders, community leaders and organizations across the school district have endorsed me. I hope to earn your support as well, so together we can build a School Board that will give our children a 21<sup>st</sup> century education. [www.jodimuirhead.com](http://www.jodimuirhead.com)

---

---

**INA BENDIS LAWSUIT  
TIMELINE OF EVENTS**

Saturday, August 16: Ina Bendis appears at Jodi Muirhead's home to deliver a "Notice Document" informing her of a Superior Court date, which required her attendance, the following Monday morning at 8am.

Sunday, August 17: Muirhead retains an attorney.

Monday, August 18: Muirhead and Bendis meet at the courthouse but are told to come back the next day, as Bendis' paperwork is incomplete. Anonymous resident formally challenges Jodi Muirhead's ballot designation with the Registrar of Voters – County of Santa Clara.

Tuesday, August 19: Muirhead and Bendis attend hearing before a Superior Court judge. Bendis files the lawsuit and the court sets a date for review. Muirhead provides backup documentation to the Registrar regarding her ballot designation.

Wednesday, August 20: The Registrar's office agrees with Muirhead and lets the designation stand.

Monday, August 25: Muirhead submits lawsuit rebuttal to Bendis and the court.

Wednesday, August 27: Bendis is scheduled to submit response to Muirhead rebuttal.

Thursday, August 28 or  
Friday, August 29: Superior Court judge to rule on the lawsuit