

# The Campanile

## Caswell, Dauber, Emberling are best candidates in School Board election

**T**he next School Board has many challenges to tackle, such as the counseling system at Gunn and the controversy that arose after the district aligned graduation requirements with A-G requirements. The Campanile endorses Melissa Baten Caswell, Ken Dauber and Heidi Emberling to guide the School Board through these issues in coming years.

We feel most compelled to support non-incumbent Ken Dauber. Through his relentless work from outside the system to impact Board decisions, Dauber has helped shape homework policy, drive discussions on student well-being and Project Safety Net and more. Dauber's focus on data-driven decision making would allow the Board to make informed choices grounded in research.

Dauber is also the only candidate who supports mandating teacher usage of Schoology, and the Campanile views this mandate as an example of Dauber's ability to recognize instances for which top-down

decision making can lead to an effective use of district resources. The Campanile also applauds his support of revising the Gunn counseling system to model Paly's Teacher Advisor system.

Next, the Campanile endorses non-incumbent Heidi Emberling. As the only candidate with a background in education, she would bring a unique perspective to the Board. She has young children in the district and can voice the concerns of parents. She also has a strong focus on elementary schools, and as an educator and child development specialist at Parents Place, can effectively lead in this usually underlooked area. However, we are concerned by her lack of specifics, especially her reluctance to take a position on the new academic calendar.

Finally, the Campanile supports incumbent Melissa Baten Caswell. Though we disagree with her views on the Teacher Advisor system at Gunn, her strong background in finance and work securing a strategic plan for the Board make her a positive asset.

With regard to incumbent candidate and current School Board President Camille Townsend, her disregard for transparency is a major concern. Townsend, among other Board members, privately communicated with Superintendent Skelly about School Board matters last year. Though we agree with Townsend's views on the Gunn Teacher Advisor system, she should have been a stronger advocate at School Board meetings rather than in private emails. Townsend has already served two terms, and the Board could benefit from fresh blood and new ideas.

The Campanile supports a guidance system at Gunn that models that of Paly, graduation requirements that align with A-G requirements and measures that promote student well-being. The Board aims toward efficiency through more substantive, data-driven and transparent discussions. The Campanile believes Baten Caswell, Dauber and Emberling have the backgrounds and skills to accomplish these goals.