



Dear Candidate:

The San Francisco Democratic Party (SFDCCC) is eager to learn more about your candidacy and invites you to participate in our endorsement process.

If you would like to be considered for an endorsement by SFDCCC, please complete the attached Endorsement Questionnaire and return to [info@sfdemocrats.org](mailto:info@sfdemocrats.org) by **Monday, August 13 at 5:00pm**. Our Endorsement Committee will meet candidates for interviews on **August 18, 2018**. The exact time of your interview and location will be provided to you after we review your completed Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire and have determined that you meet our bottom line requirements to be considered for an endorsement. At the time of the interview, you may also provide additional information to supplement your questionnaire. You are limited to four (4) total pages, and you must provide 5 copies.

SFDCCC seeks to encourage the election of qualified local candidates who will help to advance our shared Democratic values. We are only able to endorse registered Democrats, except in the case of a nonpartisan race in which no registered Democrat has qualified for the ballot. We also seek to support those candidates who express agreement and have demonstrated support for our core issues and priorities, which are included in the California Democratic Party Platform, our Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures Manual (which can all be found at [www.cadems.org](http://www.cadems.org) and [www.sfdemocrats.org](http://www.sfdemocrats.org)).

To qualify for an endorsement interview, all candidates must indicate that they support the Democratic principles in our party platform, complete the Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire, and return it by the deadline of **August 13, 2018 at 5:00pm**.

Candidate interviews will be brief and will be open to both SFDCCC members and members of San Francisco's chartered democratic clubs. Following the Endorsement Committee interview, the full body will deliberate and vote on a final endorsement at our

meeting scheduled for August 22, 2018, at 6:30pm, at the Tenderloin Community Elementary School. Meetings are open to the general public and are live streamed on our Facebook page. You are welcome to attend or follow our progress online.

The following rules also apply to the SFDCCC endorsement process and any violation may be subject to further actions, including a revocation of the endorsement:

1. Candidates may only use the "SF Democratic Party" name and image after the full membership endorsement;
2. Once endorsed, the SFDCCC will provide a high-resolution copy of our logo which may be used in your materials **only** for the race for which you were endorsed;
3. In the case of elections in which Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is employed, listing of the SFDCCC endorsement must accurately reflect the ranked endorsement as detailed in our Policies and Procedures Manual;
4. Third parties wishing to utilize the SFDCCC name or logo in their campaign materials must submit a request to our Executive Director.

Thank you very much for your interest in the SFDCCC endorsement. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions. We look forward to learning more about your candidacy and your campaign.

Respectfully,  
The San Francisco Democratic Party

By signing below, you acknowledge that you will comply with the SFDCCC's Bylaws and Policies and Procedures and you will not utilize the SFDCCC name, the San Francisco Democratic Party, or its logo without written permission.

Michelle Parker \_\_\_\_\_



Board of Education \_\_\_\_\_

August 13, 2018 \_\_\_\_\_

**SF DCCC Candidate Questionnaire  
Board of Education**

Name: Michelle Parker

Address: 3015 Balboa Street

City, State, Zip: San Francisco, CA 94121

Campaign Phone Number: 415-634-7218

Cell Phone Number: 415-260-8572

E-mail Address: info@michelleparker.org

Are you a registered member of the Democratic Party?    YES                      No

Have you read the California Democratic Party Platform?    YES                      No

Will you fight for its implementation in policies?                      YES                      No

What office are you running for? Board of Education

Are you running for re-election?    Yes                      NO

What other elected positions have you held previously? NONE

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Please complete this questionnaire and bring 5 copies (for the 31 Committee members and for Democratic Clubs) with you to be distributed just prior to your interview appointment on **August 18, 2018**
- **\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*** Please send electronic copies to info@SFDemocrats.org by **5:00 PM on August 13, 2018**
- **With the possible exception of a Democratic candidate filing to run after the questionnaire due date, only candidates who return a completed questionnaire electronically by the due date will be allowed to present before the committee.**

- At the time of the interview, you may also provide 45 copies of up to 4 pages of supplemental information attached to your questionnaire for distribution to SFDCCC members (materials are not to be passed out during the meeting).
- We may distribute the questionnaires in preparation for event and post them on the SFDCCC website for the public to view.
- If you have not heard from the committee by **Thursday, August 16**, please contact Executive Director, Adam Mehis at 415-626-1161 or info@sfdemocrats.org to schedule a time slot during the Endorsement Interview Meeting.

**PART I: GENERAL QUESTIONS (200 words or fewer)**

**Why are you committed to serving on the School Board? What stake do you have in decisions made at the School Board (e.g. parent, student, educator, etc.)?**

*I was raised to be an active member of my community and to serve those around me because that's how we make things better for everyone. My particular passion is in public education and creating opportunities for young people, and so that is where I have focused my efforts, and is what brings me to this election. Fundamental to our shared democratic values is a free, high-quality public education for everyone, that prioritizes equity and access. I believe that when we invest in our children and their education, we create opportunities for economic mobility and strengthen our communities. I am a parent of three public school children and am an active advocate at the school site, district, city, and state levels because I see and experience the direct impact of policies and procedures put in place by our elected school board and our state legislature, and know we can do better.*

**Please describe your contributions to the Democratic Party and/or increasing civic engagement in the democratic process at the local, state and or/national level in the most recent years.**

*I have been an officer of the City Democratic Club for six years, where we engage our members in issues of importance to the entire city so that we can do our part in creating an informed electorate and help elect people and pass legislation that will benefit our entire city. I ran for Assembly Delegate in District 19 in 2014. I participated in the Emerge California program in 2011, which trains Democratic women to run for political office. I have attended two state Democratic Party conventions. I have also been a strong advocate for others to get involved: I support non-citizen voting rights in school board elections so that all parents have a formal say in how our school district is run. I strongly support Vote16, actively advocating for its passage in the last election. I'm also involved in helping move the conversation forward to get it on the ballot again. Making sure young people understand their civic duty and have an opportunity to*

*vote to affect a community that has meaning for them is critical for establishing lifelong voting habits and civic participation.*

**Are there any other civic causes or organizations that you are involved with? Please describe.**

*As mentioned before, I am an advocate for Vote16. And, generally, any issue that can positively impact children and youth. I am also a strong arts and arts education advocate. My Bachelor's degree is in Piano Pedagogy and Performance, and I have long been involved with organizations who provide artistic opportunities for young people. I worked at the African American Arts & Culture Complex where we provided arts education to children and young people in the community, and helped design a program that would help black artists receive mentorship and training to help them turn their art into a career. I also serve as President of Performing Arts Workshop, and arts education organization that primarily serves underserved youth all over San Francisco, including at Juvenile Hall and SFUSD's newcomer schools that educate new immigrants. We teach critical thinking through the arts, prioritize compensating our artists a fair wage with benefits, and train all our staff (and board) to advance racial justice with our students and our organization.*

**Please summarize your qualifications and experience for the office you are seeking.**

*I am one of the most qualified, prepared, and experienced candidates to run for school board in many years. I am an invested stakeholder (single mother of three SFUSD students). I've been an active public education advocate for more than 10 years, holding several related leadership positions, fighting for issues like education funding, access to after school programming for all students, and more accountability. I served as President of the Second District PTA, supporting and developing parent leadership at more than 60 schools across San Francisco. I was 4-year co-chair of the QTEA (2008 parcel tax) oversight committee. I've been a parent leader on all school district-related ballot measures for years. I've served on State PTA commissions and committees focused on legislative priorities and improving parent understanding and participation in their local LCAPs, and have a good understanding of how state education policies affect our own district. With all this experience, I come to the table ready to jump in and start working on Day 1. Our children can't wait. [www.michelleparker.org](http://www.michelleparker.org)*

**Please list any organizations or elected officials who have endorsed you. (You may attach a list and exceed the word count limit).**

*Mayor London Breed  
State Senator Scott Wiener  
Assemblymember David Chiu  
Assemblymember Phil Ting  
Board of Equalization Member Fiona Ma  
Assessor-Recorder Carmen Chu  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Vallie Brown  
Supervisor Ahsha Safai  
Supervisor Katy Tang*

School Board Member Shamann Walton  
School Board Member Dr. Emily Murase  
School Board Member Rachel Norton  
City College Trustee Alex Randolph  
City College Trustee Thea Selby  
LiUNA Laborers Local 261  
Northern California Carpenters Regional Council  
Sprinkler Fitters Local 483  
City Democratic Club  
Alice B Toklas LGBTQ Democratic Club (PAC rec, vote 8/13)

**If you are elected, what are your top concerns? How would you address these concerns?**

- 1) **Implement Universal Preschool.** Every child in San Francisco should have access to two years of high-quality preschool before they enter kindergarten. This early investment can help close the achievement gap, increase high school graduation rates, and impact salary later in life. I will take the lead on this project in partnership with the city to increase the number of preschool seats SFUSD offers and identify funding.
- 2) **Expand Career Technical Education (CTE) in SFUSD high schools.** Our school district has been increasing the number of Career Academies in recent years, but I will make sure we have them in every high school and expand the programs in the schools that do. Pathways that link learning with student interests and career preparation lead to higher graduation rates, increased college enrollments, and higher earning potential. CTE can also help us close the achievement gap and reverse predictive homogeneity in colleges, apprenticeships, and San Francisco workplaces.
- 3) **Attract and retain excellent teachers.** This will take several approaches including increasing educator salaries, building teacher housing and making housing generally more attainable and available, providing professional learning that is relevant and useful, and investing in more high-quality teacher pathway programs.

**The California Democratic Party Platform mentions building healthy, livable, and sustainable communities, what does this mean to you?**

*Healthy, livable and sustainable communities mean we value all people equally, and care for the environment they live in. It will be safe and clean, with access to green space. We provide efficient ways to travel, with minimal impact on our environment. We provide high-quality education to all, with pathways to careers. We house everyone at every income level and provide access to services for mental and physical health, which we treat as a right, not a privilege. We listen to our communities and provide ways for all to have equal voice and participation. We collaborate and are solutions-oriented. We make decisions with the future in mind, so that our children don't pay for our mistakes.*

**Would you support the idea of school districts using local accountability plans to grant funds to reach students with the greatest needs for whom they are most needed? Why or why not?**

*The Local Control Funding Formula is specifically designed to allocate more dollars to districts that have the highest numbers of underserved students (foster youth, English learners, and*

*those who qualify for free- and reduced-price meals) through supplemental and concentration grants (all districts receive base grants based on enrollment and grade levels). School districts are required to create a Local Control Accountability Plan with stakeholders that spells out their plan for using these funds to impact these underserved students (and all students) and measure their success. This is much better than our old system of revenue limit funding with categorical grants that could only be spent the way the state it could be spent, with no consideration of individual districts' students' needs. What needs to improve is the accountability part of the Plan. The template is too dense and difficult to track how spending impacts high need students to see if this funding formula is having the intended impact. Also, we just need more money. Next year California will get back to funding education at only the 2007-2008 levels – which wasn't enough even then.*

**PART II: YES/NO QUESTIONS**

While it may seem that some of these questions do not apply to the office you are seeking, they represent California Democratic Party Platform principles and since many people run for higher office where they will be called upon to answer these questions, we would like them addressed.

**ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

Do you support the divestment of public funds from Wells Fargo and other financial institutions involved in speculative and questionable banking practices?

**YES**

No

Do you believe that the government should provide foreclosure relief for borrowers who were victims of unethical financial service practices?

**YES**

No

Do you support the creation of a local municipal bank in San Francisco?

**YES**

No

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE/POLICE REFORM**

Do you support overhauling the bail system?

**YES**

No

Do you believe in ending mass incarceration and supporting the abolishment of capital punishment?

**YES**

No

Do you support using jails as mental health facilities and substance abuse treatment programs?

Yes

No

We should not criminalize mental illness nor substance abuse, and should provide services and programs to people experiencing those challenges.

Will you commit to encouraging “ban the box” to ensure that those formerly incarcerated are given an equal opportunity for housing and employment?

**YES**

No

Do you support the San Francisco Police Department being equipped with Tasers?

Yes

No

It is all about the training. If officers are properly trained how to use them and can be held accountable for that use, yes we can have tasers. If that is not the case, then no, we should not.

## **CHILDCARE**

Do you support expanding affordable childcare to low- and middle-income families?

**YES**

No

Do you support expanding child care to include children aged 0-3 years old?

YES

No

## EDUCATION

Do you believe in a “debt-free college” and free community college (i.e. Education financed entirely without student loans)?

YES

No

Would you support the idea of school districts using local accountability plans to grant funds to reach students with the greatest needs for whom they are most needed? (9)

YES (see above)

No

Do you support that teachers and professional staff deserve commensurate wages?

YES

No

## ENVIRONMENT

Do you oppose new fossil fuel infrastructure projects and supporting the divestment of fossil fuels?

YES

No

Do you believe in Free MUNI for youth?

YES

No

Do you support the Safe Routes to Schools program?

YES

No

## **HEALTHCARE**

Do you support a publicly funded single payer health care system for all people?

**YES**

No

Should SFUSD expand Healthcare Centers to all high schools?

**YES**

No

Do you support that all students have access to safe and reliable reproductive services and information without their spouse, judicial, parental, or guardian consent?

**YES**

No

## **CIVIL RIGHTS AND IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES**

Will you work to implement full Ethnic Studies courses and language immersion?

**YES**

No

Will you support Sanctuary policies and Due Process for All -- limiting the ability for local authorities to collaborate with Federal government on immigration enforcement which incites fear in immigrant communities?

**YES**

No

Do you support speaking out in public against all forms of racism, discrimination, hatred and violence and support standing in solidarity with movements that promote equity, including Black Lives Matter?

**YES**

No

Will you protect the right of all people to use facilities and participate in all aspects of society regardless of their gender identity and the gender assigned at birth?

**YES**

No

## **LABOR**

Will you support the push for a statewide minimum wage for at least \$15 per hour and living wages for areas that have high cost of living?

**YES**

No

Do you support that teachers and professional staff deserve commensurate wages?

**YES**

No

Do you support paid parental leave for school educators?

**YES**

No

## **CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

Do you support full disclosure of funding sources for political advertisements?

**YES**

No

Do you support full disclosure of funding sources for political advertisements?

**YES**

No

## **HOUSING, TENANT, & LAND USE ISSUES**

Do you believe that housing is a human right?

**YES**

No

Do you believe the split roll for Proposition 13 that treats taxes for commercial and residential property differently?

YES

No

Would you support repealing Costa Hawkins and the Ellis Act?

YES

No

Do you support use of SFUSD property to build affordable housing?

YES

No

Have you read the California Democratic Party Platform?

YES

No

Will you fight for its implementation in policies?

YES

No

**PART III: SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS ON ISSUES (250 words or fewer)**

**1) What programs or initiatives would you undertake to address the educational disparities for SFUSD students?**

*I will do a few things:*

- 1) Take the lead to fund and implement universal preschool in San Francisco, so that all kids have access to two years of high quality preschool before they come to kindergarten. This early investment is known to increase kindergarten readiness, which in turn levels the playing field and helps reduce the achievement gap. When we instituted Preschool for All 10 years ago (less than 20% of SF children benefit) we saw participation rates of African American and Latino kids increase significantly, so we know there is an appetite for this program.*
- 2) Support teacher training for cultural competency, implicit bias, family engagement, and differentiated and experiential instructional practices (known to be highly effective for at-risk students). High-quality instruction and positive relationships with adults are critical to closing the opportunity gap.*

3) *Support community schools and work with city and community partners to ensure wrap-around services for all students. This includes mental health services, nurses, job training, and more.*

**2) What would be your budget priorities for the School District?**

*My priority will always be keep funding closest to student impact. We may have to make budget cuts over the next few years as we fund the teacher salary increase we just approved, and as our obligations to pension costs grow. If we do, I will keep cuts far from the classroom.*

*My priority will be to fund people who work with students – educators, mental health workers, counselors, support staff, and others – a fair and living wage. Also, to fund the instructional training that these professionals need to be successful with their students, and the other mentors and staff who help them do their jobs. We also need to fund the investments we know pay dividends later, like early education, behavioral interventions, and college and career prep.*

*After that, we need to fund the infrastructure that supports an effective school system. This includes technology, data systems, facility repair, educator housing, etc.*

**3) Do you believe that SFUSD's school assignment system needs reform? If not, why? If so, how would you change it?**

*Yes. SFUSD's student assignment system is stressful for families because it is difficult to navigate and results are unpredictable. Families anecdotally say they want neighborhood schools, though the annual enrollment data tells us only 1 in 5 families lists their neighborhood school as their first choice. Additionally, most of San Francisco's children live in areas where there are not enough seats in schools.*

*Three things we need to do:*

- 1) *Conduct a survey or hold meetings to learn what families' barriers are to choosing a nearby school, and then create a plan to address both perceptions and realities alongside our curriculum and instruction team.*
- 2) *Offer an initial assignment to every family entering kindergarten that is located near their home, or a cluster model that guarantees them one of three nearby schools so SFUSD can balance enrollment, diversity, and needs. This will increase predictability and reduce stress, while still retaining a small element of choice. If more children attend school nearer to where they live, we can increase family engagement, strengthen communities, and reduce environmental impact. Recent data also says our*

*neighborhoods are getting more diverse, so neighborhood schools don't necessarily mean racial isolation (which we don't want).*

3) *Make long-term plans to ensure we have schools where our students live that accommodate projected enrollment growth over the next several decades. As we determine how to accommodate both of these things, we can build phases of change into the assignment system to allow for new schools and shifting geographic data.*

**4) What is your belief on Common Core Standards? In recent years, there has been controversy that the new methodology is placing some students at a disadvantage for high achievement and college preparation. How would you address this concern?**

*Our Standards were very out of date and needed an update to reflect the changing workforce as we aim to prepare students for college and careers. Some of the controversy over the past few years centered around poor implementation of the Standards vs. the content of the Standards themselves (though this was primarily in other states; Californians have generally supported CCSS). I like the idea that there is consistency across states when evaluating student outcomes. I like that we are trying to deepen student learning and asking them to communicate what they know in ways that are appropriate in a changing media landscape. I like that they emphasize critical thinking and class discussion on concepts rather than multiple choice, lecture-style teaching.*

*I also understand the concerns about the discrepancies that exist between some Standards and both what educators believe is important for college readiness and what employers believe are important qualities in future employees. And that some of the Standards are not clear.*

*We have our own local control as a locally elected school board to make decisions that we think we most help our students. We should use our student data to evaluate whether we need to add other programs and curriculum, or even higher or different Standards to make sure the students we are responsible for can succeed. And, importantly, provide supports and training to educators to help them be successful and ask for and respect their input every step of the way.*

**5) What do you think are the factors attributing to the teacher shortage in SFUSD? How would you address this?**

*It all boils down to how we treat teachers as a nation. We ask them to solve all our problems through their work in the classroom, pay them a meager salary, and then vilify them when they aren't perfect. This conversation must shift because great teachers are fundamental to anything we want to accomplish in this city, state and country. We should:*

- **Increase educator salaries** – The recent contract and parcel tax do a lot. We have to keep advocating for more education funding from the state and get creative locally.
- **Make housing more affordable** – Remembering some educators are single and some have families, we should build teacher housing (the first project has been planned for the Sunset District), advance home ownership assistance programs, explore group housing, and encourage more affordable-by-design options like in-law units. We can also explore state legislation that would allow us to reserve housing units for educators.
- **Provide adequate and relevant supports and training to educators** – One of the primary reasons educators leave the profession or their school is due to a lack of support – from their administrator, lack of educator-designed professional development options that meet their needs, or lack of mentorship and support for new teachers.
- **Invest in more high-quality teacher pathway programs** – SFUSD has recently started its own in-house Pathway to Teaching program, and we need to continue to support and expand programs like the SF Teacher Residency Project, our successful Para to Teacher pathway, and our recent initiatives to recruit more educators of color.

**6) What is your perspective about charter schools and their role in San Francisco? How would you advocate differently than SFUSD’s current policies?**

*Generally, I am not in favor of an expansion of charter schools in San Francisco because they have a real financial impact on the rest of our public schools, due to the per student costs that follows students to that school versus staying in the district to help pay for the central services we must provide (like curriculum development, training, and HR). We also need to ensure that charter schools serve ALL students, including those with special needs and English learners, for example. There are good charters and bad charters. One good charter is Five Keys Charter, in our county jail, that is serving a real need that the district cannot serve, by helping those in the jail earn their high school diploma and leave more prepared to succeed in their communities. Research shows that charters, as a whole, do not outperform traditional public schools; however, a charter may reach a community that is beyond SFUSD’s ability to reach (e.g. Five Keys).*

*One final note: As the charter school conversation continues to come up in San Francisco, we can counter the “charters are better” narrative by making charters irrelevant and doing the job we have been charged with - to provide ALL our students an excellent education. This takes partnership with the families who don’t believe SFUSD will serve their children well, and is an area I am willing to take the lead on as a member of the Board of Education.*

**7) Do you support the Safe and Supportive Schools Policy at SFUSD? How would you further these goals as a School Board member?**

*Yes, I support this policy which increases behavioral interventions, creates alternatives to suspensions, improves instruction, uses data to improve practices and student outcomes, and reduces racial disparities. But I believe that to maximize its potential, we must also be prepared to adopt implementation plans and allocate the resources necessary to support the program's successful implementation. Teachers and staff should do their best to follow the policy, but I think it is equally important for staff to communicate when they do not have adequate time, resources, and support to effectively implement the programs we ask them to. The other thing to consider is that as we pass new policies we deem mission critical, we need to be willing to look at past approved policies and make choices about where we allocate our human and financial resources so that we are using them in a way that is most likely to help us meet our goals.*

*Finally, we must be willing to ask hard questions and evaluate ourselves on effectiveness. We should solicit feedback from our teachers, families, and students to see if the policies we pass are implemented well and accomplishing the objectives we established.*

**8) What role do you feel the Board of Education should play in sexual harassment and assault cases involving students? If elected, how will you address this concern?**

*Sexual harassment and assault are incredibly serious and unfortunately, SFUSD has seen its share of cases over the last few years. The Board of Ed's primary role should be to ensure that victims of sexual harassment and assault are provided the support needed to recover. Ensuring counselors and wellness centers are available full time at every middle school and high school are the minimum steps to be taken. SFUSD should explore restorative practices for the perpetrator when appropriate. However, in violent situations, the police should be notified and SFUSD should support the criminal justice system investigating and if appropriate, prosecuting the offending party.*

**9) There is a perception that parent-led fundraising has widened the educational inequality gap among schools. What are your thoughts on this issue and how would you address distribution of school funds districtwide?**

*This question has been discussed at great length in the parent community for years. SFUSD funds school sites based on a weighted student formula. Schools with high percentages of students receiving free- and reduced-price meals receive more per student funding. If populations at a school change and the number of students receiving free- and reduced-price meals decrease, that school receives less funding which can often result in programs being cut. When parents are faced with programs being cut, they often try to fill*

*the gap and start fundraising to pay for programs once funded by the district (we're talking basics like librarians and support staff) – not many extras.*

*As a district, we prioritize equity and access. Students who are systemically underserved and who face challenges in and outside of school have higher needs, and we need to support those needs. We should leverage partnerships with non-profits, businesses, foundations, and others to make sure these needs are met in the context of consistent underfunding.*

*One takeaway here should be that NONE of our schools has enough funding. This is a problem I have spent lots of time working on, including working to pass funding measures like Prop 30 and 38 at the state level, and local measures like Prop C and the recent Prop G. I also advocate that we not treat Prop 98 as a ceiling, but rather as a floor. As one of my mentors used to say: The best fundraiser you can do is pass a good piece of legislation.*

**10) What role do you believe SFUSD should play in the City's housing crisis? How would you address the needs of homeless or underhoused students and their families?**

*School board members have certain opportunities in this housing and affordability crisis for impacting the people they serve. I played a leadership role in the most recent Prop G to increase teacher salaries, organizing the parent vote and volunteers, and will continue to work to increase SFUSD staff compensation and provide full time work for paraeducators. I support the current teacher housing project in the Sunset, and am interested in QUICKLY identifying additional sites and funding to start more projects. I also supported HOME-SF because of the possibility to increase middle income housing that will help our educators and families.*

*The school board has a responsibility to work with city and community partners to address housing for youth and families. Partnerships like the one SFUSD has with Hamilton Families (Heading Home Campaign to house 800 homeless families by 2020), and the coordinated community plan to end youth homelessness, are both appropriate and important. If we don't work together to address these issues, we can't possibly expect our students to be able to be in school ready to learn. It will be my job as a school board member to regularly ask for updates on these projects, initiate new projects if necessary, and allocate funding to support them. And, importantly, to listen to our students and families who are experiencing homelessness to be able to help meet their needs.*

**11) Beyond reforming school assignment program, what do you see as the greatest barriers or major issues for families and youth getting to school safely while reducing traffic congestion?**

*We can increase the number of students walking, biking, or taking transit in a few ways:*

- *Start “walking school busses” like those happening at schools like Longfellow Elementary, where parents and children organize to walk together and pick up more classmates on the way to the school.*
- *Work with the City to ensure adequate staffing of crossing guards and safe pedestrian crossings, as well as more bike lanes across the city.*
- *Ensure families know about Free MUNI for Youth, so that more middle and high school students can ride transit to school without added expense to families experience low income. Also, consider instituting “guardian” ride passes that allow parents and guardians to ride transit for free before and after school, so that elementary students can also safely take advantage of the Free MUNI for Youth program.*

