

League questionnaire
Gabriela Lopez

Q1: What are you most proud of accomplishing during your time on the Board of Education?

1. Latinx Resolution — Co-authored with Commissioner Sanchez, this is aimed at closing the achievement gap for Latinx students. It establishes oversight and community input to insure success.
2. Arts Equity Resolution — I co-authored this with Commissioner Collins to bring arts and music to every school, not just those that could afford to fundraise for extra programs.
3. Student comment time — when I became Board president this year, I began allotting time for students to speak at the beginning of general public comment. This has increased student participation during a critical time. I hope Commissioner Moliga continues this when he is Board president next year.
4. Covid response — Through the Latino Task Force, I saw what families were experiencing and knew how dangerous it would be for them to be back in schools, especially when we have buildings with conditions like we saw at Buena Vista Horace Mann. Latinos had the highest infection rate in San Francisco. By keeping schools closed, we minimized illness for staff and students and their families.
5. Labor negotiations — as an educator myself, I have a healthy relationship with UESF, which allowed us to get an agreement within the first month of my presidency.

Q2: What do you wish had gone differently during your time on the Board of Education?

I am extremely proud of my work on the Board of Education. I ran to serve Latinx and immigrant families and in many ways, this recall is proof that I have succeeded in centering those very groups.

Q3: What will your top priorities be if you are allowed to complete your term on the Board of Education?

I have been honored to serve as the youngest Board president this past year, and was especially honored that the Student Advisory Committee nominated me. I look forward to participating in the selection of our next superintendent, our ongoing COVID response, and continuing to uplift student voices.

Q4: What is your assessment of the top challenges facing SFUSD? What will it take to address them?

The pandemic exposed what communities like the Mission already knew: that our poorest kids, kids of working parents, and Black, Brown, and Indigenous kids have never had everything they need to succeed. The district's budget stabilization plan further cuts programs for those kids, like credit recovery and college readiness programs. SFUSD can't live up to our core values if we continue letting politics come before students.

Q5: What path do you see for SFUSD to get out of the current budget crisis?

Commissioners Sanchez and Alexander wrote an alternative budget stabilization proposal based around Long Beach Unified's budget, which has a similar student body and budget to SFUSD but a much smaller central office. Their proposal uses SFUSD's core values and makes fewer cuts to student services than the proposal from the administration.