



School Board Candidate Questionnaire

1. Do you have children? No

2. Please indicate your three (3) priorities once in office and explain why:

- A. **Student achievement** by reducing the class size across subjects will ensure the academic success of our students and will increase the quality time spend on each child.
- B. **Teacher empowerment.** Support new teachers with professional development and coaches to monitor the success in the classroom. Provide opportunities for professional growth to experiences teachers (Master programs, National Board Certification, PhD programs paid by district).
- C. **Parent and community involvement.** Empower parents by creating systems of support in our schools. Have parental trainings in how best to support and educate their children, computer literacy, job related trainings to improve the life of the family as a whole, health and fitness services at the school site, employment and unemployment services, immigration and housing services all these services can be provided by establishing clinics with non-profit organizations.

3. Quality instruction, reducing class size, adequate funding, school choice and access to quality data have all been cited as policies that impact student achievement. Please rank your opinion of these conditions with 1 being the most impactful and 5 being the least.

Quality Instruction: Rank ____3__
Adequate Funding: Rank ____1____
School Choice Rank ____5__
Reducing Class Size Rank ____2____
Access to Quality Data Rank ____4____

Comments:

Class size reduction depends on funding. To have a quality instruction our students need to spend more time with teachers in one on one basis.

4. How would you as a school board member increase parent and community engagement in schools? What have you done thus far to support your vision?

Empower parents by creating systems of support in our schools. Have parental trainings in how best to support and educate their children, computer literacy, job related trainings to improve the life of the family as a whole, health and fitness services at the school site, employment and unemployment

services, immigration and housing services all these services can be provided by establishing clinics with non-profit organizations. By talking to our community organizations, colleges and universities we can create partnerships.

5. What, in your opinion, is the pathway toward adequately funding the district? Do you believe the funding structure needs to be overhauled?

Now that proposition 30 pass we need to make sure we have a system in place of transparency and accountability (we need to open the budgets to the public and have an independent audit/auditor to look at the district budgets and decide how best to use the resources and support our public schools based on their specific needs).

6. Should LAUSD have a goal of bringing more students back into public education from private and home schools? If so, how would you suggest going about this?

Class size reduction and support our experiences teachers with trainings that are meaningful to their professional growth will make a big impact and will help to bring students into our public schools. To have a high quality education/instruction our students need to spend more time with teachers in one on one support.

7. What steps need to be taken to continue to challenge high achieving students? Are we doing enough to support these students?

Class size reduction and support our experiences teachers with trainings that are meaningful to their professional growth will make a big impact and will help our students. To have a high quality education/instruction our students need to spend more time with teachers in one on one basis. We need to create enrichment programs after school and support these programs.

8. What role will you have in addressing the resource and opportunity gaps for low-income students?

I will empower parents to be active in schools by creating systems of support. Have parental trainings in how best to support and educate their children, computer literacy, job related trainings to improve the life of the family as a whole, health and fitness services at the school site, employment and unemployment services, immigration and housing services all these services can be provided by establishing clinics with non-profit organizations. By talking to our community organizations, colleges and universities we can create partnerships. These will ensure the economic success and stability that our students need in their life. By support the whole child we increase the success of our schools. I will be an advocate for class size reduction and support our experiences teachers with trainings that are meaningful to their professional growth. To have a high quality education/instruction our students need to spend more time with teachers in one on one during class time.

9. What do you think of the teacher evaluation agreement reached between the District and LAUSD labor partners? Explain it and share your thoughts on it.

Evaluating teachers needs to be a holistic approach. The system mainly deals with making teachers accountable for the performance of the students in standardized testing. Educational researches have proven that the data collected from these tests are not meaningful and do not reflect what is

happening in the classroom. What we need to create is an environment of support by providing educational growth and resources to our teachers. We need to establish a program that supports our new teachers to stay in schools longer than 3 years and partnership with non-profit organizations and Universities to offer and promote professional growth to our experienced teachers like National Board Certification, Master programs, and Doctoral degrees as incentives to continue in the teaching profession free of charges/No pay first and then pay you back tricks. This is what we need as an agreement between district and LAUSD.

10. What is your position on school choice for parents and families?

Public choice was an opportunity for our local public schools to receive the needed support to address the academic success of our students, empower teachers and increase parent and community participation. However, Public choice was used to deny access, support and resources needed to our students and local public schools. Public choice open the door to the giveaway of our new public schools and resources to for profit organizations that have done very little to support the academic success of our students and their graduation rate. The district went in 2009 from 72% graduation rate to 61% now. Parents were misled and misinformed, our public schools were reconstituted, dismantled in some cases and the entire school district destabilized and undermined for the benefit of the privatizers.

11. What is your opinion on charter school growth within the district? Should we limit or promote charter school growth?

Charter schools were an opportunity for our community to ask and demand the district for the support needed in our public schools and communities initially. However, Charter schools have been used to deny access to our most needed students, to take away the support and resources from our local public schools with almost no accountability and to ashamed and humiliated our teachers for the lack of support and mismanagement of the district. Public choice and Charter schools open the door to the giveaway of our new public schools and resources to for profit organizations that have done very little to support the academic success of our students and their graduation rate. The district went in 2009 from 72% graduation rate to 61% now. Parents were misled and misinformed, our public schools were reconstituted, dismantled in some cases and the entire school district destabilized and undermined for the benefit of the privatizers.

12. How will you engage the community to inform your policy positions and understand the implications of board decisions on the educational experiences of the families and students you serve?

I will always go to the community and have bi-weekly town hall meetings to engage and inform our parents and community of policies and decisions that can support and ensure the academic success of our students. By engaging and informing parents and community before decisions are made I will establish the support and transparency before decisions at district level are made.

13. How will you work with other members of the board, the administration and members of the community to ensure EL students are reclassifying and gaining access to A-G courses?

I will have weekly meetings and work with members of the board, the administration and community to ensure the success of our EL students. I will ask members of the board to establish systems of support for our local public schools to monitor constantly the programs and services offer to our EL

students. I will ask the board to provide enrichment programs (like the arts, music, theater and dance) to support the learning of our EL students too. I will work with board members, administration and community to provide after school tutoring and intervention programs to ensure the academic success of our EL students. I will lobby in Sacramento to get more support and resources to our public schools to support our EL students.

14. Do you support Superintendent John Deasy and would you fight to keep him in office? *

I'm glad Ms. Garcia brought up the graduation rate. When the Superintendent was hired, he came under the assumption that he would improve our graduation rate. In 2009, our students were graduating at 72 percent, now our students are graduating at 61 percent. When Deasy took over the District two years ago, our students were graduating at 68%, now it's 61 percent. And, what does the Board do? Raise his salary to 350,000 dollars. For what? For failing our students? For failing our schools? For me to hire someone, I will need to look at the data. Since we are data-driven let's look at the numbers, and based on those numbers I will make the decision whether to keep him or not. And, not only that, he has ashamed our teachers. I'm a high school teacher, and I respect my teachers. And, what he has done, is unacceptable.

Abelardo Diaz Candidate for School Board district 2

***Please note: This question was added from the Candidate Forum video.**



School Board Candidate Questionnaire

1. Do you have children? No

2. Please indicate your three (3) priorities once in office and explain why:

- A. Increase graduation and college-going rates. The primary function of any school district to graduate every child prepared for college, careers and civic participation.
- B. Increase accountability at all levels. Throughout the system we must address performance and quality. LAUSD must be an organization of high expectations, aggressive recruitment of talent, and evaluations of every employee including the use of student data.
- C. Safe schools – Children, parents, and school employees need to feel safe when on campus. We need to create healthy environments that support learning and have the mechanisms in place to prevent and quickly respond to incidents of violence and abuse.

3. Quality instruction, reducing class size, adequate funding, school choice and access to quality data have all been cited as policies that impact student achievement. Please rank your opinion of these conditions with 1 being the most impactful and 5 being the least.

Quality Instruction:	Rank 2
Adequate Funding:	Rank 1
School Choice	Rank 3
Reducing Class Size	Rank 4
Access to Quality Data	Rank 5
Comments:	

4. How would you as a school board member increase parent and community engagement in schools? What have you done thus far to support your vision

During my time on the Board I have worked directly and in coalition with community based organizations to empower parents in advocating for their child and contributing to the culture in school and our district. I supported the establishment of a parent center on every school campus and the inclusion of family engagement as an indicator for measuring school effectiveness. I worked with parent organizations to improve the quality of our School Report Cards and include parent surveys. I supported hiring Maria Casillas to create trainings and empowerment models for our parents. I created Families Matter and La Familia Importa, KLCS shows dedicated to promoting communication and awareness of initiatives and critical issues such as attendance and reclassification. I have spent thousands of hours meeting with parents throughout the district, making myself available for conversations regarding our challenges and impacts on our students. I have also been explicit

with Superintendent and Senior Management about the need to continually improve strategies to achieve Board Goal #4, Engaged Parents and Communities.

5. What, in your opinion, is the pathway toward adequately funding the district? Do you believe the funding structure needs to be overhauled?

Yes we need a system overhaul including how we distribute money. The funding structure for education in California is archaic and severely undermines our goal to provide every child in the State with a high quality education. We must 1) Require a complete, on time budget from the State of California prior to June 30. 2) Support a weighted funding formula that follows the child. 3) Reward and incentivize reform. 4) Reduce local funding initiatives to 55% instead of 66%.

We need a concerted effort to change existing laws and funding structures so that we may raise education funding to a level that allows us to provide every child with the school they deserve. I will work with voters and our State legislature to raise revenue for education and increase accountability to ensure dollars are spent properly and our schools are academically successful.

6. Should LAUSD have a goal of bringing more students back into public education from private and home schools? If so, how would you suggest going about this?

LAUSD will become the district of choice when we increase our academic performance across all schools. We must provide quality education to all students in the system today. In District two, eliminating the drop-out/push-out rate is the best way to increase enrollment. In some communities of the Westside and Valley, we have opportunities to be more aggressive about attracting families that have chosen private or home school. LAUSD must replicate successful schools, and develop high demand programs such as dual language, linked learning and span schools. Priority groups would be families who request permits and families on waiting lists for charters.

Public School Choice has demonstrated that if parents have the quality and accountability of smaller, teacher-led, locally controlled schools that partner with parents and communities those parents would choose public schools. We need to replicate these environments and strategies so we can recruit more private school students.

7. What steps need to be taken to continue to challenge high achieving students? Are we doing enough to support these students?

We always can do more to support students, high achieving or otherwise. We have invested in strategies of personalization and differentiation to allow each student to grow academically each year. To challenge our high achieving students, teachers must have flexibility to create and tailor lessons and curriculum. I support all students being assessed for gifted programs. I support relationships with external partners to enrich what LAUSD can offer. Additionally, we must increase the use of technology as it offers more opportunities for individualized learning.

8. What role will you have in addressing the resource and opportunity gaps for low-income students?

My role is to be a leader, an advocate and a convener to increase wrap around services and reduce obstacles for care. I will continue partnering to create opportunities for our students.

I have worked to establish and expand school clinics and involve more community partners to address the social-emotional needs of students and their families. During my time on the Board we allocated 34 million to open 15 clinics on schools to bring health services directly to our students. We have worked with the Youth Policy Institute to open over 25 computer labs. We have also used our building program

to create community benefits such as Vista Hermosa Park, RFK Inspiration Park, Joint-use at district pools and fields, auditoriums and gymnasiums.

I have served as Chair of the Los Angeles Education Coordinating Council, a collaborative that includes the LAECO, Department of Child Family Services, the Department of Mental Health, LAUSD, the City of Los Angeles, the Sheriff's Department, Probation and the Court system, among others. In the last five years the ECC has focused on developing support for foster and probationary youth with much success. We have created information/database sharing; worked to change discipline laws and municipal code re citations for tardiness, shared best practices and created a forum for practitioners to interact with government.

Through the formation of the LA Compact, we have built relationships with the business, labor, higher education and elected and civic leadership to focus on collective efforts to support student success. Today we have partnerships with LMU, UCLA, USC, CSULA and Community Colleges to increase opportunities for students and staff.

9. What do you think of the teacher evaluation agreement reached between the District and LAUSD labor partners? Explain it and share your thoughts on it.

I am glad that we finally reached an agreement that fully complies with the Stull Act, and significantly advances the work and process of teacher evaluation.

We've reached a historic agreement with UTLA and AALA that will improve the way we undertake certificated evaluations and honors their core purpose: to improve the practices of teaching and to assure accountability in meeting standards of the teaching profession.

Two-thirds of UTLA members voted to approve the agreement on teacher evaluation. This agreement stands as testament that working together, LAUSD and UTLA can resolve difficult professional issues, while providing models for the state and the nation on any number of necessary transformative practices.

It is the responsibility of the District to commit to support the implementation and hold administration accountable for the execution or a quality process.

10. What is your position on school choice for parents and families?

School choice is necessary for the continued transformation of LAUSD. As parents make selections, we are informed about preference and assessments. Today we have more choices: traditional campuses, magnet schools, pilot schools, small schools, linked-learning schools, small learning communities, blended learning schools, schools with an external operator and charter schools.

I am proud of the development of each of these efforts but in particular the of the Pilot School Network. By creating reform options within the district, teachers and families have embraced local control and accountability.

Curriculum is no longer dictated by the district's central office, but is in the hands of capable educators who are tailoring rigorous coursework according to the needs of the communities they serve.

Empowerment contracts and flexible per pupil spending allow teachers and parents to design schools from the bottom up, ensuring the alignment of expectations, instructional strategies and school infrastructure. With increased flexibility comes increased accountability. Schools are being held to higher expectations.

11. What is your opinion on charter school growth within the district? Should we limit or promote charter school growth?

Charter schools are a permanent partner in the transformation of the LAUSD. My focus is on providing every student and family a high quality school experience. I believe we will experience more academic growth over time, eliminate our drop-out/push-out crisis and will be challenged to house all the students of LAUSD. The LAUSD and Charter community will work together to plan and manage the need and the available seats to avoid overcrowding in the future. Charters are one option of the LAUSD portfolio of school options. Until LAUSD transforms its high need program improvement schools, we cannot limit options for families.

12. How will you engage the community to inform your policy positions and understand the implications of board decisions on the educational experiences of the families and students you serve?

Over the last 6 years, my office has maintained our policy focus around increasing graduation, A-G completion and reclassification rates. We have included strategies of increasing support for the Pilot School Network, Teacher Evaluation and Per-Pupil funding. We have consistently communicated information and initiatives through meetings, newsletters and KLCS. We will continue to have community briefings featuring district leadership for direct communication as well as host stakeholder meetings ie principals, charters, labor, strategic partners. We will continue to visit schools, seek feedback from all stakeholders and use the district 2 office to access resources and responses for our communities.

13. How will you work with other members of the board, the administration and members of the community to ensure EL students are reclassifying and gaining access to A-G courses?

English Language Learners make up nearly one third of the student population in LAUSD, and used to be an afterthought when the district adopted new instructional strategies. This is why I led the district in the re-write of the Master Plan for EL students that aim to reclassify every EL student before they reach middle school. The plan calls for more parent involvement in the reclassification process, better professional development for teachers and principals, and encourages them to work with local community based organizations to support the reclassification process. I worked with the Superintendent and the Board to create a settlement with the Office of Civil Rights with respect to EL students. Last summer this district went through training and today EL are doing better on periodic assessments.

In 2011, I worked with Senator Alex Padilla to pass legislation that moved the CELDT test from the Fall to the Spring to better align English Language Development progress with the California Standards Test. This will help increase reclassification and ultimately make students eligible for A-G classes. In terms of access to A-G, the district is more transparent about access, completion and intervention. We also have increased communication to parents about A-G and the preparation needed.

14. Do you support Superintendent John Deasy and would you fight to keep him in office? *

The hiring of a superintendent is a very difficult job. And, I can tell you, when we looked to see who would lead the LAUSD we looked far and wide. And, we were very clear about what we wanted. This community showed up demanding A-G. This community invested in billions of dollars. This community was crying for change in a district that was really struggling to serve the needs of 91% kids of color 80% kids of poverty, and understanding that when we get it right, we change lives. So, yes, I am proud that hired John Deasy. I'm proud that he understands we need a partner in the Superintendent. I'm proud that he has committed to building leaders inside the LAUSD, and I'm proud that inside or outside, he knows, we are on the kids' side. And, so, yes, I have to tell you that I remind him that his work is valuable to us because every year we have increased in graduation, every year.

*** Please note: This question was added from the Candidate Forum Video.**



School Board Candidate Questionnaire

1. Do you have children? Yes / **No**

2. Please indicate your three (3) priorities once in office and explain why:

A. INCREASING FUNDING DIRECTLY TO CLASSROOMS (by restructuring funding structure from the State or by redirecting funds to classrooms within the District). This will in turn give teachers and their schools more resources and discretion to successfully implement curriculum and to invest in the tools and programs, which will ensure academic success with their respective students.

B. INCREASING/IMPROVING SAFETY (on campus and school routes/from violent crimes and crimes against children). A student cannot learn if they do not feel safe.

C. INCREASE MEANINGFUL AND AUTHENTIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT. There must be a diligent effort to form a partnership with parents and schools to ensure student achievement and academic success. Parents are our most important allies when it comes to our students succeeding.

3. Quality instruction, reducing class size, adequate funding, school choice and access to quality data have all been cited as policies that impact student achievement. Please rank your opinion of these conditions with 1 being the most impactful and 5 being the least.

Quality Instruction:	Rank <u> 2 </u>
Adequate Funding:	Rank <u> 1 </u>
School Choice	Rank <u> 5 </u>
Reducing Class Size	Rank <u> 3 </u>
Access to Quality Data	Rank <u> 4 </u>

Comments:

Adequate funding will give us resources to improve in other areas.

4. How would you as a school board member increase parent and community engagement in schools? What have you done thus far to support your vision?

Schools should survey their “parents and community” to help identify ways that will increase parent/community engagement. LAUSD is very diverse; therefore our outreach should be diverse as well and in response to the needs of our school communities. I have worked diligently to increase the offerings of classes and programs, which educate parents about their rights and responsibilities in our educational system. I have fostered an open and friendly environment on the campuses and in the classes I have worked to ensure parents are welcome and an integral part of instruction.

5. What, in your opinion, is the pathway toward adequately funding the district? Do you believe the funding structure needs to be overhauled?

Funding structure definitely needs to be restructured. Governor Brown proposed a new mechanism that provides more funding to schools with greater need. However, we must keep “equity and fairness” in mind in order to not take from one group to give to another. All schools have a fundamental right to adequate funding for public education, however, schools with greater needs should receive more funding to properly address their student population.

6. Should LAUSD have a goal of bringing more students back into public education from private and home schools? If so, how would you suggest going about this?

Definitely, and LAUSD currently has policy in place to increase the amount of magnet programs offered to our communities. A second major element is safety. Our schools need to be safe and the community must BELIEVE that they are safe in order to get more students back from private and home schools. 2 of the main reasons I have heard parents identify for not sending their children to public schools is 1) quality of educational programs and 2) safety.

7. What steps need to be taken to continue to challenge high achieving students? Are we doing enough to support these students?

Magnet and academically-enriched programs are key for not only bringing back more students to public education, but also to continually challenge our high achieving students. We are losing some of our most high achieving students to Charter Schools. Many parents who have opted for Charter Schools have expressed their belief that Charter Schools will provide a more challenging academic environment. This should NOT be the case! Our traditional schools should be able to provide various types of programs to serve the diverse students in our communities. It’s vital to provide programs for Special Ed and EL students, and I find it also VERY important to provide academic programs that will challenge those high achieving students throughout our District. LAUSD has the brightest students in the nation! We need to encourage and support our students’ thirst for knowledge!

8. What role will you have in addressing the resource and opportunity gaps for low-income students?

My role as a board member is 1) advocating for funding, 2) collaborating with our community and business partners and 3) soliciting and supporting schools to identify ways in which their particular school community needs can be addressed. Again, our District is very diverse; the schools know better than anyone what resources they need for their students to perform at their highest potential! The District cannot continue to operate with “blanket policies”- what may work for one school may hinder another. Our policies need to be as diverse and innovative as our communities.

9. What do you think of the teacher evaluation agreement reached between the District and LAUSD labor partners? Explain it and share your thoughts on it.

It is a move in the right direction. Data, when used appropriately, can help us strengthen what is working well as well as identify where more resources and development is needed. The same can be done with teaching... data can help us identify who is doing well so we can learn from those individuals as well as identify who needs more resources and professional development.

10. What is your position on school choice for parents and families?

Every family should have options, a choice, especially in a District as diverse as ours. My only concern is when families are looking for another “choice” because they believe that 1) their child won’t receive a quality education or 2) their child will not be safe in their neighborhood school. I want to change that perception and fear and allow parents to exercise their choices or options because they want their child to participate in a specialized, innovative program and NOT because of the fear of an inadequate education or unsafe environment.

11. What is your opinion on charter school growth within the district? Should we limit or promote charter school growth?

Charter schools began as a great concept and help us as a District to provide more diverse educational programs to our communities. However, charter school growth should be limited to our “oversight” capabilities. When we approve a charter for a school, we are telling our communities that we believe that these organizations are capable of providing high quality programs to our students. Our communities trust the organizations that we allow into our neighborhoods, it is our responsibility as a District to ensure that the charter schools are keeping up with their promise to provide that high quality program.

12. How will you engage the community to inform your policy positions and understand the implications of board decisions on the educational experiences of the families and students you serve?

Through a series of regularly scheduled community forums, where my staff and I would share with the community and stakeholders recent board policies and their implications in the local schools. I would also use this as an opportunity to engage the community in discussions about upcoming board items and issues where they will be able to share their perspectives, ideas, and concerns. This will allow me to be a true voice for the community and stay in touch with their needs.

13. How will you work with other members of the board, the administration and members of the community to ensure EL students are reclassifying and gaining access to A-G courses?

This topic is of great importance to the entire District, which would warrant the establishment of a Board Committee with other members of the Board who have an interest and background in the topic. This would allow for collaborative discussions and the identification of experts and best practices, which can be shared throughout the District. Successful implementation of the Master Plan would serve to assist students in optimal linguistic and academic success.

14. Do you support Superintendent John Deasy and would you fight to keep him in office? *

“Well, I can say, I have never personally met our Superintendent. Even though, he probably is my boss and I should have. But, having said that, I have read many articles about him, both good and bad, and it would be unfair for me to say that I would not take the opportunity to try to work with him. I understand that working in a district our size there has to be collaboration, and until I am able to have that interaction with him, to understand what his ideas are, and to really work together to forge forward in what is important for our students, I would not be able to make that judgment. So, like I said, I wouldn’t want to be judged that way. I wouldn’t want someone to read a newspaper article about me and say I am for this person or against. So, I would offer him that opportunity. I would stand forth and I would be willing to work together with him. If things were not to be as I want, or I felt his values and my values were different, then that would have to be addressed.”

*** Please note: This question was added from the Candidate Forum Video.**



School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Mr Skeels did not participate in the Candidate Forum.

1. Do you have children? Yes / No No

If so, what schools (private or public) have they attended and when?

School name: My wife currently attends Evans Adult School within the LAUSD system.

When: Presently

2. Please indicate your three (3) priorities once in office and explain why:

A. Force the charter school industry to stop discriminating against children disabilities and special needs, children who are English language learners, children with disciplinary problems, and children who are homeless or in poverty. Schools taking public money must be obligated to educate every child.

B. Restoring a broad curricula for critical thinking and educating the whole student.

C. Celebrating cultures with ethnic studies and heritage/dual language programs.

3. Quality instruction, reducing class size, adequate funding, school choice and access to quality data have all been cited as policies that impact student achievement. Please rank your opinion of these conditions with 1 being the most impactful and 5 being the least.

Quality Instruction: Rank _____3

Adequate Funding: Rank _____1

School Choice	Rank _____	5
Reducing Class Size	Rank _____	1
Access to Quality Data	Rank _____	5

Comments: I'm curious to know the sources being "cited" on these "policies" as the questions are quite biased.

4. How would you as a school board member increase parent and community engagement in schools? What have you done thus far to support your vision? True parental and community engagement comes from immersion in said community, and in mutual struggle to improve material conditions. As an education and immigrant rights activist who has organized for nearly two decades in my community, I've developed longstanding relations of trust and communications with the community. As a community we've organized effective resistance to the budget cuts, PSC corporate giveaways, Prop 39 colocations, the zero budgets for Early Childhood Education, K-12 Arts, School Readiness Language Development Program, Adult Education and much more. All of these struggles further united and engaged parents and community members with educators. Further, as a Board member I will fight to have public meetings in the evening when working class parents can attend, and on a quarterly basis rotate the meetings to the various geographic regions comprising the district.

5. What, in your opinion, is the pathway toward adequately funding the district? Do you believe the funding structure needs to be overhauled? We would need to work with politicians in Sacramento to demand tax equity, remove corporations from Prop 13, and begin exploring revenue sources like an Oil Extraction Tax. More important is how we spend the money. Squandering hundreds of millions on unproven and/or discredited programs like DIBELS, VAM/AGT, CCSS, and others is an abject failure in budget priorities. Those funds should be used in the classroom, school libraries, classroom libraries, and hiring of essential personnel including counselors, nurses, assistant principals and more classroom teachers.

6. Should LAUSD have a goal of bringing more students back into public education from private and home schools? If so, how would you suggest going about this? In the absence of a progressive tax structure, the idea that wealthy private school parents are also subsidizing public schools gets closer to a more equitable tax structure. Moreover, parents utilizing private schools and home "schools" often are guilty of self-segregating their children from the rest of

society based on class, race, or ideological reasons. Public schools exist first and foremost to provide educational equity to all students, we should insist that they stay that way and be open to all.

7. What steps need to be taken to continue to challenge high achieving students? Are we doing enough to support these students? Providing young people means to mentor and assist their fellow students is an excellent way to further challenge these students. Rather than creating a hyper-competitive environment pitting students against each other, we want to foster cooperation, collaboration, mutual respect, and collectivity.

8. What role will you have in addressing the resource and opportunity gaps for low-income students? The former is the solution to that latter. Until we address widespread poverty, inequality, segregation, and inequity in the system, we continue to condemn countless students. Professor Stephen Krashen and many other top education researchers have repeatedly demonstrated that poverty is the underlying cause of the so-called opportunity and achievement gaps. As a board member I will constantly work to educate the community and advocate for systemic changes to address poverty. Collectively as a community we all have to join in the struggle for a more equitable and progressive tax structure that will meet the needs of the community as a whole, not just those at the top of the income scale.

9. What do you think of the teacher evaluation agreement reached between the District and LAUSD labor partners? Explain it and share your thoughts on it. Attempts of using test scores to evaluate teachers (VAM/AGT/etc.) have been shown time and time again to be an unreliable and unstable methodology (cf. National Education Policy Center, FairTest, or Professor Bruce Baker at Rutgers), and exist only as tools for union busting, removing older (read more expensive) teachers, and targeting activist teachers who advocate for their students and communities. More to the point, these discredited pseudosciences further entrench high-stakes standardized tests which harm students. In a word, testing is NOT teaching. Standardized tests do nothing to help students, but instead are used to categorize and segregate them, narrow curriculum, and make school an even less inviting place to be.

10. What is your position on school choice for parents and families? There's authentic school choice and then there's the type proffered by corporate reformers. For the latter, both the phrase and the concept of "school choice" came from the segregationists of the 1960's. Decades later right-wing economist Milton Freidman added free-market elements like competition to the

notion of “school choice,” resulting in a classist component on top of an already racist idea that forms the foundation of today’s voucher and charter projects. The opposite of the kind of choice proffered in modern “school choice” is equity. I stand for equity in education. I stand for authentic choices and equity within a public school system (Public, ESBMM, Magnets) that never discriminates on any basis.

11. What is your opinion on charter school growth within the district? Should we limit or promote charter school growth?

Privately managed charter corporations have repeatedly discriminated against special needs students, English language learner students, and students with disciplinary problems. They have also been shown in studies by UCLA and UNC to exacerbate segregation. Meanwhile, they are syphoning off vital resources from our public school system, which is obligated to educate every child. Because of the charter industry's ideologically charged billionaire backers and unprecedented political clout, all attempts to require charters to educate every child have been thwarted. If we forced the charter school sector to follow the entire education code, and to stop discriminating, segregating, and dumping low "performing" students, most charters would voluntarily allow themselves to be folded back into the public school system. This would ensure a return to equity, oversight, and go a small way towards combating inequality.

12. How will you engage the community to inform your policy positions and understand the implications of board decisions on the educational experiences of the families and students you serve?

For years I've advocated moving the board meetings to the evening--when working class families and community members are able to attend, which would be a step in this direction. Periodically holding board meetings in alternating areas of the district would also help. I would also make a practice of visiting all the school sites in the district on a rotating basis. I would also continue writing about education policy, there isn't anyone who is more published than I am in this regard. True engagement won't come with the board telling the community what they are doing. It will come with providing school site mechanisms that provide the community and families with greater agency and authentic input into the process. Creating spaces for more bottom up, rather than the current top down, structure is critical in this regard.

13. How will you work with other members of the board, the administration and members of the community to ensure EL students are reclassifying and gaining access to A-G courses?

The curricula narrowing A-G Sequence push has recently been exposed as being based on both faulty data and premises. Our English language learner (ELL) programs should not just be considered a means for dropping core courses taught in heritage languages. Members of the Nonprofit Industrial Complex were overheard using phrases like "fast track to reclassification"

when the new master plan was being crafted. This is wrongheaded. We want to provide resources for students to learn academic topics in their heritage languages concurrently while they are in the process of English language acquisition. There are those that would substitute ELL programs for highly successful dual language immersion and academic courses being taught in heritage languages, instead we should discourage that practice by advocating for heritage and dual language programs as well as equal access to ELL.

response to the previous question, implementation of the Common Core standards provides an opportunity to have the discussion.

4. How would you as a school board member increase parent and community engagement in schools? What have you done thus far to support your vision?

I have a history of reaching out to parents and diverse communities in my 28 years with LAUSD so rather than listing what I have done, I will comment on what I have learned. Parents engage when they are welcome and respected. I have learned that as valuable as my priorities and ideas are to me, I have to listen and respond to the views and priorities of the parents and families I am here to serve.

As a board member, I would propose a review of the role and function of the Parent Community Services Branch. As currently structured, it appears that PCSB has become a vehicle to control, limit and in some cases silence parents who may not agree with the current District leadership. The Parent Collaborative and District Advisory Councils were disbanded. Why? Parent Community Facilitators with vast knowledge and understanding of community needs and parental involvement were laid off and in some cases replaced with novice employees under a different job category. Why? What kind of support do school administrators need to support parental engagement at the school level? How are parent centers funded and staffed? Who provides support and professional development and guidance so that parent centers thrive and support positive parental engagement from the classroom to the boardroom?

5. What, in your opinion, is the pathway toward adequately funding the district? Do you believe the funding structure needs to be overhauled?

As the largest school district in California, LAUSD has a moral obligation to lead the fight to change funding priorities in Sacramento. In the last four years, we have seen serious problems become worse with catastrophic consequences for the students of LAUSD. Passage of Proposition 30 brings optimism and much needed relief but does NOT provide a long-term solution to the structural underfunding of our public schools. The time is ripe to work on long term solutions through a pro-active legislative agenda that mobilizes all sectors of the education and broader community.

6. Recently there has been a number of child abuse allegations brought against LAUSD. How would you help protect students from LAUSD employees who may seek to harm students?

Recent events, as reported in the media, involve situations in which abuse went unreported at the local school level and in which employees allegedly did not follow established policy in reporting allegations of abuse. I would ensure the Superintendent makes student safety his/her first priority. School sites require adequate staffing and resources with clear, well thought policies that are consistently enforced, reviewed, and monitored. Students cannot thrive if they are not safe. The culture of the District has to be such that student safety, not student test scores, is everyone's top priority.

7. Should LAUSD have a goal of bringing more students back into public education from private and home schools? If so, how would you suggest going about this?

As a Board Member, I will first focus on students currently attending LAUSD schools, those at risk of dropping out, and those who have dropped out already.

For currently enrolled students, I will support restoration of instructional and support services and staff reduced due to budget cuts. For students at risk of dropping out and those who have left our schools, I support funding and expansion of programs such as the Division of Adult and Career Education

Alternative Education and Work Centers, Continuation Schools, Independent Studies, paid work experience, and adult education for those who may have already reached adult hood but have not graduated. I would also revisit the District's A-G policy so that students who otherwise meet State of California graduation requirements are not denied a high school diploma.

Those students who leave LAUSD schools to attend private, parochial or home schools, as sometimes happens when students transition out of elementary schools, are in the LAUSD data system and can easily be reached through LAUSD's communication system or sent Choices Brochures for their consideration.

8. What steps need to be taken to continue to challenge high achieving students? Are we doing enough to support these students?

Like other categorical funds, GATE funds are under flexibility and the school board has determined how to allocate these funds. Differentiated instruction and opportunities for enrichment and specialized studies, such as those provided by magnet schools, support all students, including high achieving students. Increased class size, elimination of extra-curricular activities, and reductions of elective courses have negatively affected all students, including high achieving students. I believe more can be done to nurture under achieving students that are not performing to their potential. Without funds or resources, this becomes more difficult to achieve.

9. What role will you have in addressing the resource and opportunity gaps for low-income students?

As a school board member, I will review and approve a budget that ensures low-income students are provided the support systems they need at the local school level. I believe funds should follow the students to the classroom. Decisions regarding allocation of funds should be made as close to the classroom as possible.

I will also support a budget that funds adult education and job training to reflect the needs of our community. Employment training gives parents an opportunity to get jobs or a better jobs so they can provide for their families and earn a living wage. When LAUSD parents improve their language and academic skills they are better able to support their children's learning and advocate on their behalf

10. What do you think of the teacher evaluation agreement reached between the District and LAUSD labor partners? Explain it and share your thoughts on it.

I believe that it is an indication that agreement is possible but never easy. Its success will depend on the willingness of all parties to be inclusive, exercise mutual respect, and work through the details of implementation in good faith. This will require patience, teamwork, inclusion of parents and community in the discussion, transparency, on-going dialog, and trust building.

12. What is your position on school choice for parents and families?

I believe all students have a right to attend a fully funded neighborhood school that does not require them to apply, compete, or enter into a lottery to enroll.

I also believe that parents and families should have equal access to other choices as a matter of policy and practice. I oppose "choice" that excludes English learners, students with special needs or that forces

students out of their neighborhood schools.

13. What is your opinion on charter school growth within the district? Should we limit or promote charter school growth?

The District has no plan. The absence of a plan has led to abuse of the charter school approval process, animosity that is tearing neighborhoods and communities apart, lack of transparency and accountability, and exclusionary enrollment policies that potentially infringe the rights of English learners and students with special needs to equal access. The District needs a plan.

14. How will you engage the community to inform your policy positions and understand the implications of board decisions on the educational experiences of the families and students you serve?

I have found that a great number of residents in Board District 2 are not familiar with the Board of Education and its role in setting policy and budget priorities. I will connect directly with community members, parents and residents.

I believe it is my responsibility to listen to the voices of all parents, including those who may disagree with me on matters of policy and priorities.

I have ample experience working with parents throughout LAUSD and know that parents respond when their input is valued, respected and incorporated into the decision-making process.

I support changing school board meeting, at least on an alternate basis, so that working parents and community members, are able to attend and participate if they so choose. I will reach out directly to parents through local school parent centers.

15. How will you work with other members of the board, the administration and members of the community to ensure EL students are reclassifying and gaining access to A-G courses?

I am a bilingual teacher. I support school-based and school driven initiatives to provide bilingual, heritage, and/or dual language programs. I do not believe the District is doing enough to support neighborhood schools interested in offering such programs.

With my colleagues on the Board, and with input from site administrators and staff, I will support a budget that prioritizes restoration of support personnel and resources to the local school and classroom, including teacher assistants, site coordinators, school librarians and library aides, community representatives, opportunities for parental involvement and comprehensive professional development opportunities.

14. Do you support Superintendent John Deasy and would you fight to keep him in office? *

So, I respect Superintendent Deasy's sense of urgency in addressing the needs of students, but I am also concerned, and in disagreement with the fact, that in a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce he stated that preschool and adult education were nice things to do, but not part of the core mission of the District. That means he does not understand Los Angeles. In Los Angeles, pre-K through adult are core missions, as are music and art. So, based on what I know now, I would wait until the contract expires, and then I would consider hiring a different Superintendent. That's based on what I know now, and what I believe should be the priorities of this district. I understand that it's not easy, that you can't just rid of something,

and I would ask also that he identify the priorities based on what the parents, teachers, and the administrators need in a unified way to move things forward. But, I would hesitate to remove somebody and replace them with somebody who is an Angeleno, who knows this District and respects the community that we live in.

***Please note: This question was added from the Candidate Forum video.**