

Candidate name: Dr. James M. Calloway

Office sought: San Francisco Board of Education

Contact person: Dr. James M. Calloway

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Anticipated budget: \$5,000 to \$6,000

Funds raised to date: I have had no fundraisers but I will have one next month

General Questions

1. Why are you running? Why should we vote for you?

I am running for the San Francisco Board of Education because I would like to make a positive difference in the lives of the students and youth of the San Francisco Unified School district (SFUSD).

I have been professionally affiliated with the SFUSD for 30+ years and have dedicated over half of my life working on behalf of the students of San Francisco. I was employed by the SFUSD for over 20+ years, starting out as a teacher's assistant, then teacher, counselor, head counselor/dean, assistant principal and principal.

I have taught grades K-12, and during my career I have worked with regular students, bilingual educations, special education, gifted, counseling, career planning and adult education. I was a college instructor for City College of San Francisco, San Francisco State University, University of California and Canada College. Over the years I have worked with students, teachers, staff, parents and community members from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. I am also sensitive to the issues surrounding sexual orientation.

2. What sets you apart from your opponents?

I hold the following degrees and credentials: AA, BA, MA and Doctor of Education, Community College Instructor Credential, Education Administration and Standard Teaching Credentials.

**3. What are the top three issues facing San Francisco's school?
What will you do about those issues?**

#1 priority – The San Francisco Unified School District is to provide every student with a specified and excellent educational program that meets their particular needs, albeit regular, bilingual, special education or gifted education, etc., etc.

Provide all of our students with a well-rounded education, including both basic skills and enrichment programs. Provide an environment, which has high expectations and encourages every student to work at her/his maximum capabilities and potentials.

I will work hard on the “Achievement Gap” for our African-American, Hispanic, Samoan, Bilingual, Special Education, Low Socio-Economic students. Increase the number of unrepresented and under represented students into our Advance Placement and Gifted Programs.

#2 priority – Provide an excellent educational leader at every school site. Provide an excellent and certificated teacher in her/his field of expertise in every classroom. Provide excellent paraprofessionals and classified staff at every school site. Last but not least, provide the money, resources and supplies to meet the individual needs of every student at every school site.

4. Would you describe yourself as fiscally responsible?

Yes. I believe your expenditures should never exceed your revenue.

5. Would you describe yourself as socially progressive?

Yes. I tend to lean left in my views.

Issues Questions

1. **Given the very real probability of reduced state funding for San Francisco schools in the coming years; what combination of budget cuts and tax increases would you suggest to address budgetary shortfalls?**

As a school board member, I would always make cuts as far away from the classroom as humanly possible. Funds from Proposition H-2004 and Proposition A (Parcel Tax)-2008 must be spent in the best interest of our students, teachers and paraprofessionals.

2. **Absent radical changes, state and federal mandates (like 8th grade algebra and No Child Left Behind) have laid out difficult goals for our schools to meet. What steps do you think the San Francisco schools should take to meet those achievement goals?**

We must continue to lobby for more funding from the state and federal governments. They are responsible for putting these mandates in place, so they should be responsible for giving resources and funding for those mandates. Staff development would be a good idea for developing strategies to deal with these mandates. We must collectively put our heads together, if we want to achieve our goals.

3. **While San Francisco's dropout rate of 21% is not as bad as the state average of 24% it is far from ideal. How should San Francisco schools improve enrollment, recruitment and retention?**

As previously stated, the San Francisco schools must provide an excellent educational program that must meet the individual needs of each student.

4. **How should the San Francisco schools address the achievement gaps correlated with race, class and special needs students? How should we address the long-standing gaps between east and west side schools?**

A committee that I worked with this spring developed a 6 Step Action Plan to help deal with the "Achievement Gap":

1. Identify and locate the failing students by name and school at elementary, middle and high school levels (Note: truancy is a big problem for failing students)

2. Assign a Caring Adult to individuals or groups (Note: This Caring Adult meets with students or groups either daily or at least once a week)
3. Prescribe to the individual needs of the students by having an educational plan SST, I.E.P. and I.E.P reviews have goals and objectives and high expectations for the students
4. Implementation of the educational plan
5. Monitor and evaluate the educational plan regularly.
Give awards and special recognition for students' accomplishments

5. How should the San Francisco school assignment process work given our goals of race and class diversity (and our current shortcomings in that area) the difficulties parents have dealing with a complex system and questions of constitutionality arising from the recent Supreme Court decision?

Over the last 20-30 years, the student assignment process has raised some serious questions and issues. I believe that there must be a balance between neighborhood schools and choices for school out of your neighborhood. The 60-40 percentage has been mentioned as a formula. The present student assignment gives students, parents and guardians 8 choices, but many times they don't get any of their choices. The minimum the SFUSD should be able to guarantee that the student, parent or guardian get one of their 8 choices.

6. Do you support a voluntary system of Clean Elections full public financing of candidates for citywide officers? Would you participate in such a system if it were available?

Yes and Yes

7. Do you support or oppose the following propositions on the November ballot? Please explain why or why not.

- San Francisco Declaration of Policy in support of San Francisco public high school students participating in JROTC. I support the JROTC, because many of the students support it. I have taken a poll of students in my classrooms (I am a substitute teacher.) and all of the polls have been in favor of the JROTC. Some of the present school board members stated two years ago they would come up with an alternative program. Many students feel that until the alternative program is presented, they should leave the JROTC alone.

- CA Proposition 4: amends California Constitution to prohibit abortion for a non-emancipated minor until 48 hours after physician notifies minor's parent, legal guardian or, if parental abuse is reported an adult family member. If I understand the proposition correctly, I oppose this amendment.
- CA Proposition 5: provides rehabilitation as an alternative to prison for non-violent drug offenders. I support this proposition, many drug offenders need help and prison, in many cases, is not the answer. They need alternative programs.
- CA Proposition 6: requires increased penalties for youth convicted of gang-related crimes, including the possibility that 14 years olds will be tries as adults; increases spending for prison and parole operations, which would come from California's General Fund. I oppose this proposition; this is just another way to target people of color.