

Potrero Hill Democratic Club
Questionnaire for Board of Education candidates
General Election, November 4, 2008

Candidate/Campaign Information:

Candidate name: Omar Khalif

Office sought: Board of Education

Contact person: Omar Khalif

Mail address: 1279 Palou Ave

Telephone: 415-994-3227

Email address: omarkhalifn08@gmail.com

Web address: www.omarkhalifn08.blogspot.com

Anticipated Budget:

Funds raised to date: \$600

Percentage of donations under \$50:

General Questions: Please write a brief response (less than 150 words) to each question. Please return this questionnaire electronically to contactus@phdemclub.org We will make these questionnaires available to our members before the endorsement meeting.

1. Why are you running? I have different ideas of how we can address issues and Why should we vote for you? You should vote for me if we have things in common or we can work together. Your voting of me should be based upon my response to your questionnaire and the things we have in common, even though, we may not agree on all points and positions.

2. What sets you apart from your opponents?

I'm the only person in the race who has children from middle school to college, that all attended SFUSD public and charter schools from the Southeast sector of town. I'm also the only person in the race with children attending charter schools and not seeking the UESF endorsement because I think that that is the greatest conflict of interest for a board candidate. I'm also the only one not promoting the closing of the achievement gap, but would rather focus on closing the Opportunity GAP and

CLASS GAP. Once we focus on these gaps the other will take care of its' self. I'm the only candidate has spent an entire professional career working as a community organizer, and as an advocate for at risk youth and families

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

There's a myriad of issues facing the schools right now and the first one we must address is the opportunity gap: this will include student assignment.

4. Would you describe yourself as fiscally responsible? Please give an example to support your answer.

I'm a parent that lives in San Francisco with four daughters and I'm not leaving anytime soon. If I can do that then that's all the proof I have at this time.

5. Would you describe yourself as socially progressive? Please give an example to support your answer.

No. I would rather describe myself as a concerned citizen and parent who cares about the future of our children.

Issue Questions:

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

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 SF schools should take to meet those achievement goals?

3. No more social promotions of our students and focus on teaching to a child talents and abilities.

3. While SF's dropout rate of 21% is not as bad as the state average of 24%, it is far from ideal. How should the SF schools improve enrollment, recruitment, and retention? **Do a better job for the community, and reestablish trust.**

4. How should the SF schools address the achievement gaps correlated with race, class, and special needs students? How should we address the long-standing gaps between East side and West side schools?

There are none this would be an easier question if we were competing against another school district however, there's only one district. We must eliminated the this side vs. that side.

5.. How should the SF 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? **Parent choice.**

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

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

- SF Declaration of Policy in support of SF public high school students participating in JROTC (Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps)

Support X Oppose ____ Reason: **When it comes to programs within the schools it's the students' decision to participate in JROTC or not last I checked it wasn't a mandatory program. I know students that didn't participate in JROTC and joined the Armed Forces and students that participated either went to college or was in line for employment.**

- 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 reported, an adult family member

Support ____ Oppose ____ Reason: No position

- CA Proposition 5: Provides rehabilitation as an alternative to prison for nonviolent drug offenders

Support N Oppose ____ Reason:

- CA Proposition 6: Requires increased penalties for youths convicted of gang-related crimes, including the possibility that 14-year-olds will be tried as adults; increases spending for prison and parole operations, which would come from California's General Fund.

Support N Oppose ____ Reason: