



**Questionnaire for candidates for the office of SFUSD School Board  
General Election, November 2, 2010**

*Please return this questionnaire electronically to [contact\\_us@phdemclub.org](mailto:contact_us@phdemclub.org) no later than **Monday, August 30**, to confirm your speaking slot.*

Candidate name: Bill Barnes
Office sought: Member, Board of Education
Contact person:
Mail address: 522 Utah Street, San Francisco, CA 94110
Telephone: 415-990-4702
Email address: <a href="mailto:barnestorm@gmail.com">barnestorm@gmail.com</a>
Web address:

Please write a brief response ( $\leq 150$  words) to each question. We will make these questionnaires available to our members before the endorsement meeting.

1. Why are you running for office?

I am running for Board of Education to ensure that every student enters school ready to learn, that all our schools are safe for all students, and that our facilities are top notch.

2. What are your qualifications for this position?

As a former Chief of Staff to an Assemblymember, I am familiar with the process in Sacramento, and the methods to bring resources back to our local school district. As a former Youth Commissioner, I've worked with students across San Francisco.

4. What are the top three challenges facing public education in San Francisco? What will you do to meet these challenges?

Cuts in state funding are the most significant problem, in my view. With my experience in Sacramento, I will fight to bring needed resources back into the community.

Safety at schools is also a crucial priority, and we must work to improve school safety by coordinating with the community, San Francisco Police Department, parents and students.

The percentage of families who opt out of our public schools is another crucial challenge. We cannot accept de facto segregation and must work diligently to bring these families back into the district.

5. If you are an incumbent, please describe your major accomplishments while in office.

N/A

6. How do you propose lessening the achievement gap between students of different backgrounds?

The opportunity gap that exists among students in SFUSD is astounding. I believe we must face the fact that students of color, English Language Learners and students with special needs are too often left out or left behind. I will focus needed resources to help ensure all students have equal opportunity.

7. What are your views on charter schools?

When focused on students who otherwise would not attend public schools, I think charter schools are a fine idea. For example, the Sheriff has a charter school so people convicted of crimes can complete their high school education.

I am skeptical of charter schools when they take students and resources out of our public schools. While some charters are excellent, the overall data show no measurable difference in student performance, and therefore approving additional charters is not an approach I support.

8. What are your views on the current school assignment system?

I am excited to see the impact of the new school assignment system next year. When we are able to provide meaningful choice to parents, quality schools in every neighborhood and a rational process, I believe we will begin to bring families back to the district, a goal everyone shares.

9. How would you address the problem of truancy among high school students?

Truancy is often a symptom of a problem in a child's home life, and I believe we must be aggressive at supporting parents to help improve their child's educational outcomes.

Do you support or oppose the following Propositions on the November ballot?

Proposition 19     support     oppose

Proposition 23     support     oppose

Proposition 26     support     oppose

Thank you for your time, and your commitment to the children of San Francisco. We look forward to seeing you on September 7<sup>th</sup>.