



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 no later than Monday, August 30, to confirm your speaking slot.

Candidate name: Natasha D. Hoehn
Office sought: Member, Board of Education
Contact person: n/a
Mail address: P.O. Box 411211, San Francisco, CA 94141
Telephone: (415) 370-0552
Email address: natashaforschoolboard@gmail.com
Web address: www.natashaforschoolboard.org

Please write a brief response (≤ 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?

There is no more important issue for our future as a city than high quality public education to all our children. I have spent my career advancing public education and have been very active in helping to craft San Francisco education policy for some time. I am a former public school teacher with a strong education policy background and am running to serve on the Board of Education in order to bring fresh energy, progressive ideas, thoughtful and experienced leadership, and strategic focus to the School Board.

2. What are your qualifications for this position?

I am currently the Senior Partner of California Education Partners, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving public education in the state of California, especially for traditionally underserved populations of students and families. My experience as an

education policy leader and classroom teacher make me uniquely qualified to serve San Francisco as a school board member.

Community Activities and Experience

- Chair, San Francisco After School for All Council
- Volunteer and Education Policy Group Leader, Full Circle Fund
- Kitchen and Garden Volunteer, San Francisco Boys and Girls Club at Hunter's Point
- Board of Directors, San Francisco Girls Chorus
- Advisory Board, New Leaders for New Schools Bay Area
- Advisory Council, San Francisco School Alliance
- Community Volunteer, San Francisco Prop A 2006 and Prop A 2008
- Board of Directors, Future Leaders Institute (2006-2009)
- Member, Emerge California
- Community Fellow, Coro Center for Civic Leadership
- Corps Member, Teach for America
- B.A., Yale University

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

Top three challenges are 1. RAISING ACHIEVEMENT and CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP; 2. EMPOWERING PARENTS AND PARTNERS; and 3. IMPROVING FISCAL STEWARDSHIP.

- Expand access and choice so that all students have access to high quality early education
- Implement a high quality, engaging, intellectually demanding, relevant curriculum
- Completely implement the A-G policy so that all students have access to a rigorous, college and career ready course of study, including PreK-12 alignment and a strong safety net
- Make sure the best teachers, most effective teachers are teaching in schools most in need
- Provide students with wrap-around educational experiences, including mental and physical health, arts, sports, service, and college and career counseling, from preschool on through graduation
- Support parents with information; ensuring that parents are engaged in school site councils and PTAs to make decisions that are best for their own children
- Craft a data-driven culture so we can monitor progress over time and support success of all students- especially to ensure that the school board and superintendent are accountable to student achievement.

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

I am not an incumbent, but am very proud of the work I have done on behalf of public school children throughout my career. Some highlights include working to develop and pass Prop A 2008, which generate \$30 million dollars in additional revenue annually and put San Francisco on the forefront of the state for supporting teachers; and congratulating

my first class of eighth graders from the South Bronx after they successfully graduated from college.

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

1. Make sure we have an experienced, well-supported teacher in every classroom teaching a high quality, college-bound curriculum. 2. Expand access to high quality preschool and early learning experiences. 3. Ensure wrap around, enriching experiences for all students, including health, wellness and parental support.

7. What are your views on charter schools?

The bottom line is student success, and there is no “one size fits all” model for schools. I have seen examples of high quality charter school where students are thriving, and consider charter schools to be part of the public education system as long as they are doing right by students and families and help the system as a whole improve over time.

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

In my conversations with families, teachers, students, researchers, and board members, it is clear that we have three goals in the assignment system: neighborhood school; diversity; and choice. I am optimistic that the new policy work for more families along those three dimensions. We also need to work on improving quality in every school and all of our curriculum pathways from preschool to elementary to middle to high school.

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

We need an early warning system before a student becomes labeled a “truant” in order to provide early intervention and engagement strategies. Chronic absence is a problem beginning in kindergarten, and we need a comprehensive approach to identify the problem early

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 7th.