



**Candidate questionnaire for  
San Francisco Board of Education  
General Election, November 4, 2014**

Please return this questionnaire electronically to [contact\\_us@phdemclub.org](mailto:contact_us@phdemclub.org) **no later than Saturday, August 30**. Candidates who do not return the questionnaire by the due date will not be invited to participate in the September 9th forum. Questionnaires will be made available to our members online.

Candidate name: Emily Murase, PhD  
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Please write a brief response ( $\leq 200$  words) to each question.

1. Please describe your qualifications for this office.

Currently, I serve as **Vice President of the San Francisco Board of Education** and I am running for a second term. The school board is such an important policy body as it determines the direction of a system that aims to ensure a high quality education for 55,000 public school students in San Francisco. Public schools are the foundation of our communities. As a proud **graduate of SFUSD**, and a **public school parent** of a high schooler and a middle schooler, I am deeply committed to this work.

While on the school board, I:

- Created a new partnership with CommonSense Media to implement the first, now annual, **Internet Safety Day** for all students.
- Authored a resolution to promote the **Affordable Care Act among public school families** by using high school Wellness Centers for enrollment activities.
- Facilitated a working group to explore the feasibility of a **housing subsidy for educators** who live in San Francisco.

Prior school-related experience:

- Rosa Parks Elementary School Site Council
- Japanese Bilingual Bicultural Program Community Advisory Board
- Chair, SFUSD Parent Advisory Council
- Lowell Alumni Association Board of Directors

2. What are the top three issues facing SFUSD, and what will you do about those issues?

Here is my ABC agenda.

### **A = Academic Achievement**

Despite budget cuts of up to 25% of our operating budget, San Francisco remains one of the **top performing urban school districts in the state**, with several California Distinguished Schools and National Blue Ribbon Schools. At the same time, we still face a serious opportunity gap for underperforming students. I have been a strong supporter of the annual **African American Honor Roll Program** as one strategy. We need to keep our focus on high academic achievement for all our students.

### **B = Bullying**

I authored a resolution to recommit the district to addressing bullying in school, something our family experienced and overcame. I partnered with CommonSense Media to bring **\$40,000 in resources to launch an annual Internet Safety Day** which covered cyberbullying for all students. We need to ensure that our schools are safe places for learning.

### **C = College & Career Ready Graduates**

I have been an advocate of **high school pathways to connect students to future career options**. Galileo Academy of Science & Technology, for example, offers 6 different pathways: digital arts, environmental science, hospitality, computer programming, biotech, and health. We need to continue to give options to our high school students.

3. Please tell us about one teacher who had a significant influence on your life.

**Joan-Marie Shelley**, former President of the United Educators of San Francisco, has had a profound influence on my life. She was my French teacher at Lowell High School. She recognized something in me and encouraged me to fully participate in student government where I was elected to office all 4 years. Later, she nominated me to receive a scholarship from UESF and other civic organizations. We stayed in touch over the years and she recommended me for a position on the Fort Mason Foundation board that she was vacating. She has been an advisor, mentor, and supporter of my campaign for school board and my work as a school board member. I can honestly say

that her guidance changed the course of my life, beginning in high school.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to public service. We look forward to seeing you at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House on September 9<sup>th</sup>.