



**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.

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— **MARK** —

**MURPHY**

FOR SCHOOL BOARD

A portrait of Mark Murphy, a man with short grey hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a light-colored shirt, and a patterned tie. He is smiling and standing in what appears to be an office or a hallway with patterned wallpaper.

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Candidate name: Mark Murphy

Contact person: Mark Murphy

Email address: [mark4sfusd@gmail.com](mailto:mark4sfusd@gmail.com)

Phone number: 415-577-3095

Web site: [www.mark4sfusd.com](http://www.mark4sfusd.com)

Please write a brief response ( $\leq 200$  words) to each question.

1. Please describe your qualifications for this office.

My years of advocating for children:

- 2012-now: San Francisco's Prop H (Public Education Enrichment Fund) Community Advisory Committee providing oversight and feedback on \$50 million budget within SFUSD supporting 17 programs including Sports, Libraries, Arts, and Music, mentoring, Peer

Resource, A-G credit recovery, STEM, and translation services and numerous other programs

- 2000-now: work with SFUSD school site PTO/PTAs
- 2013-14: Mayor and Superintendent's "Our Children Our City" Stakeholder Committee advocating for reauthorization of Prop H.
- 2013-14: SFUSD Vision 2025 Initiative
- 2007-2012: Served on Human Rights Commission's LGBT Advisory Committee focusing on LGBT youth (passing legislation with the School Board)

I understand and appreciate our SFUSD from many aspects, including, my husband of 19 years is a 16-year National Board Certified SFUSD elementary school teacher.

Focusing on the educational success of children in the City and County of San Francisco is a moral imperative, and one I believe demands the greatest of attention and resources.

I am running for the San Francisco Unified School Board to continue advocating for children as I believe they must be provided every public education opportunity supported by the entirety of San Francisco. They are all our children.

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

- Closing The Achievement Gap And Common Core:  
Implementing the new Common Core standards and Smarter Balance assessments are the biggest change our schools have experienced in a generation. I will address language and technology equity for all students, and greater levels of professional development and preparation time for teachers and administrators in this multi-year project.
- Improving Communications With Parents  
Parents across San Francisco are asking for better communications. I will work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop policies and tools to support this most important request, paramount for our children's success. No easy task, but San Franciscans who want a better future for their children demand it.
- Ensuring A Healthy And Diverse Student Body  
I will engage in "whole child" conversations, addressing our children coming to school healthy and ready to learn (teeth, eyes, food...), are provided talent and resources during the school day so richly available in San Francisco, and seamlessly and effectively are served after school further enriching their academic, social, physical, and emotional selves. As an LGBT member of the school board, I will continue my previous advocacy to support the school district's anti-discrimination program, creating a healthier learning environment for LGBTQ students.

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

My family grew up with all the teachers in our school district, so many were like a second family to me. The one teacher who probably had the greatest impact, while I didn't know it at the time, was my 11<sup>th</sup> grade composition teacher. My Junior Year in high school was especially traumatic with my parents undergoing a divorce, my mother suffering severe episodes of paranoid schizophrenia, me struggling (internally) with my sexual identity, and for two years I had been the victim of numerous incidents of sexual abuse.

Having to write a composition each week, my teacher didn't shy away from my stories and challenged me each and every week to continue privately sharing the pain and anger and sadness in my life. He taught me not only to be a great writer, but allow myself to tell him things I was unable to tell others. I often say, he possibly saved my life.

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>.