



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

Please return this questionnaire electronically to 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: Dennis Yang
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Please write a brief response (≤ 200 words) to each question.

1. Please describe your qualifications for this office.

I was born and raised in San Francisco. I attended SF public schools my entire career. I first went to Spring Valley Elementary, then Marina Middle School, and finally Lowell High School. I then went on to UC Berkeley for my BA in Chinese language and literature and earned my MA in Chinese at SF State University. I started teaching at my alma mater, Lowell High School, in 2000. After budget cuts in 2003, I went on to teach at the Urban School of San Francisco, where I created and designed their Chinese language program. I am currently teaching Chinese at the Bay School of San Francisco.

I have been on the frontlines teaching at Lowell High School and I built excellent relationships with teachers, administrators, parents, and students. I am also a proud product of the SFUSD. I know what it takes to work effectively and harmoniously with all the different groups and stakeholders involved. I will use my relationship-building skills and form collaborative efforts with the other school board members to help resolve the various issues our district faces.

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

The first important issue would be to provide proper training and support for teachers in the implementation of Common Core curriculum. I will work with the other school board members to allocate the necessary funds to help train and support teachers in how best to teach Common Core. With proper training in Common Core, our teachers would be able to allow our students to achieve their maximum potential.

The second issue would be to raise teachers' salaries. I will work with the other school board members to allocate a portion of the budget to raising teachers' salaries. Teachers need to be able to afford to live in the city they work in.

The third issue is student assignment. I would balance student assignment with neighborhood schools. I will work with the other school board members to allow K-5th graders to attend their neighborhood schools. In this way, children can stay within their neighborhoods, close to home. Parents will not have to drive their children across town to attend school. This will help ease up the morning commute and congestion in San Francisco. Once students reach middle school and high school, then they can be assigned to schools based on student assignment to help promote school diversity. In this way, the School Board will be able to have both neighborhood schools and school diversity.

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

My fifth grade teacher, Ms. Judy Peart, had a very significant impact and influence on my life. She instilled in me a passion for learning and she really believed in my potential. Her caring and teaching truly inspired me to reach my full potential. Ms. Peart believed in my abilities and because of her I came to believe in myself.

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 9th.