

**Pajaro Valley Federation of Teachers
and the
California School Employees Association**

School Board Questionnaire for November 2010 Election

Please complete and return the questionnaire by September 5, 2010, to the Pajaro Valley Federation of Teachers, 90-A Mariposa Ave, Watsonville, 95076. Fax (831) 722-3009.

Background and Expectations

Candidate's Name Francisco Diaz

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Occupation and Employer Part-time Day Care Assistant

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Campaign Name Francisco for PVUSD

Address _____

Campaign Manager Derrick Seaver Campaign Tres. _____

ID Number _____

1. Do you have children in the district or children who have graduated from the district? If so, please explain:

No, I do not have children in the district or children that have graduated from the district, but I have a younger brother in the district.

2. Explain what motivated you to seek office and what qualifications and experience you bring to the position?

I want to ensure that my younger brother and other students are provided the necessary resources to academically succeed. I am a recent Pajaro Valley graduate, college graduate and active member of the community.

3. Explain the duties of a school board trustee:

The duties of a school board trustee are essentially divided in to three categories: budgetary, curriculum, and rules or policy.

4. Have you signed any pledges or made any promises to any group(s)? If so, what are these? Please list your endorsements:

I have not signed any pledges or made any promises. I have received an endorsement from the Senior Coalition.

5. What are your top priorities for use of school funding in our district? How should the district prioritize in response to funding cuts?

I believe the top priorities for use of school funding are to be in providing resources that help propel children's education. The district needs to act decisively and always maintain the student's needs in mind.

6. What is your understanding of the impact of "Race To The Top" on PVUSD students and teachers?

The major source of conflict from "Race To The Top" continues to be the interference from the federal government.

7. What is your understanding/opinion of the District's English Language Master Plan?

The English Language Master Plan provides the guidelines for preliminary testing, which determine children's English proficiency level and parental language enrollment options.

8. In light of the PVUSD's program improvement status, what would you do to turn the situation around?

I am committed to increasing parental involvement in all forms and to sharing resources between the many groups and organizations working toward the goal of developing parent-school-community partnership that help kids thrive.

9. PVUSD's drop out rate is higher than the state average. How should this be addressed?

Trustees should help provide the resources to engage dropouts and those at risk of dropping out.

10. What is your position on school vouchers and charter schools?

Parents have the ultimate decision and choice to their children's education. Both School vouchers and charter schools offer a refreshing approach to education.

11. What is your approach to minimizing cultural conflicts while honoring the diversity of our student population?

Policies are to be founded on a view that supporting and respecting our cultural diversity will realize benefits for all students. I am committed to ensuring that all students enjoy equal access to government services and are provided with the opportunity to participate fully as members of the community.

12. How can we recruit and retain experienced, competent staff given the high cost of living in our area?

One of the most important strategies to increase student achievement is to have a highly qualified teacher in every classroom. To recruit highly qualified teachers we need to be creative and comprehensive in communication efforts.

13. How will you obtain input from certificated and classified staff in developing policies and making decisions?

In order to build effective working relationships, we must be able to engage with others, beginning our relationships in a positive and productive way. And foster a give-and-take dialogue by seeking and building on the ideas of others while contributing their own ideas to the issue at hand

14. What do you view as the 3 most important issues that the school board will face during the next 4 years?

The three most important issues that the school board will face during the next four years are the budgetary conflicts, lack of parental involvement, and achievement gap between students of different ethnicities.

15. Would you support moving from the three-zone administrative structure to a more traditional administrative structure? Explain:

I do not have the adequate understanding of the administrative structure to make an official or knowledgeable decision.

16. How can our district best protect and preserve the physical, mental and environmental health of our students and staff?

Schools have a legal, ethical, and moral obligation to provide equal access to education and equal protection under the law for all students. Through school-based interventions and educational training for school staff members, schools can create a safe, supportive, and nondiscriminatory environment.

17. What is your position on contracting out school services such as cafeteria, custodial, maintenance services, etc?

A cost/benefit analysis for all services contracted out should be done before considering contracting and before existing contracts are renewed. Contracting out services, however, offers cost advantages over government production because of high public sector labor costs, potential scale economies, and the willingness to sometimes subsidize public efforts.

18. Why do you seek the support of PVFT & CSEA? What form of support do you desire?

In order to build a long-lasting union of collaboration. I am open to all forms of support that you are willing to provide.

19. How would your trustee work result in improved working conditions for CSEA and PVFT members?

The first step in building better work relationships is to become aware of the differences among people-and to be willing to accept these differences as a positive force within an organization.

20. Given the fact that the state is in a budget deficit, what commitments can you make to protect health benefits?"

I am committed to working with different groups or organizations to maintain reasonable health benefits.

21. List the groups and individuals that have endorsed your campaign?

The Senior Coalition.

22. Given our inadequate education funding, how would you prioritize PVUSD money for Adult Education?

Emphasis on continuing education and the trend toward life-long learning necessitate that adjustment is made in funding for educational programs for adults.

Candidate Signature *Francisco J. Díaz-López*

Date