

**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 William 'Willie' YAHIRO

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Occupation and Employer Self Employed - Willie YAHIRO Insurance

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Campaign Name Committee To Re-Elect Willie YAHIRO, ^{PULSED} BOARD

Address 801-B EAST LAKE, WATSONVILLE, CA ^{AREA 4}

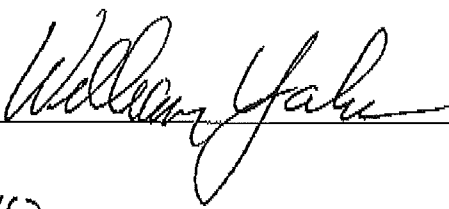
Campaign Manager JOANNE YAHIRO Campaign Tres. BLANCA MEDRANO

ID Number PENDING

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

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

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

Candidate Signature 

Date 9-8-10

1. Our son Jeff: Mintie White, E.A. Hall, Watsonville High class of 1988, Cal State Long Beach, B.A. degree, Fitness director, Warner Bros. Studio.

Our daughter Joy: Mintie White, E.A. Hall, Watsonville High class of 1990, graduate of UC Irvine, teaching credential at Cal State Los Angeles, Joy taught in Anaheim and is now a homemaker.

2. When my wife and I worked with other parents to organize the first Senior grad night party, we noticed that about half of the original Freshman class made it to their senior year. What happened to the kids? Did they move, transfer to another school, give up and drop out?

Because I taught in the district, I thought I could make a contribution on the board. In 20 years on the board, I have been involved in two budget Crisis, year round education, building schools, passing a major Construction bond, and changing curriculum for improved test scores.

3. When I visit a parent meeting for the first time, I try to remember to say What a board member is not: we are not administrators, cannot fire anyone, including the principal, teachers, etc. The board sets policy, establishes the Budget, and with the Superintendent, sets goals for the district. The board hires the Superintendent to administer the district and move the district to accomplish the goals.

Board members also serve as voices for the public. I enjoy hearing from the parents and helping them contact the proper district office person that can address their concern. (example: transportation problems, special education questions,)

- 4 .I have not signed any pledges or made any promises to any groups. My endorsements to this date have been individuals.
5. Our top priorities should center around the academic achievement development of our students. The board/superintendent is establishing a budget/facilities Committee to talk about priorities of the budget. We know that we will need to cut approximately 4 million dollars now to be balanced in three years. In addition, we do not know what the State legislature/Governor's budget will produce. The budget committee is advisory to the board.
6. I believe that the Race to the Top is an extension of "NO Child Left Behind". Race to the Top puts in remedies to change schools that are not on par. I believe that we will continue to improve our local schools to a point that the negative Effects of Race to the Top will not be a factor.

7. I am very pleased that so many people came together to produce the English Language Master Plan. I believe that it gives us a guide for our English Language learners.
8. In light of the our program improvement status, it is important not to panic. I see signs everywhere that progress is being made. What is most impressive is to attend site council meetings and hear and see the "buy-in" of parents and teachers.

What is great to see are the "data teams" at each site that are taking the test results apart, and working with fellow teachers to find weaknesses and strengths in their academic presentations.

9. PVUSD has taken correct steps to help students that may drop out, and more can be done. Realizing that not all students are comfortable in the large high school setting, several alternative schools have been established: Renaissance High, Pacific Coast Charter, AVCI, New School, Ceiba Charter School, Summer School, are examples of schools we have Created for students.

In my judgment, we must now begin to identify students that may drop out of school, and encourage that student to attend an alternative school. This process should, start earlier. An example, Mintie White runs a before (6:30am) school computer/math class that is well attended by first graders.

10. I am totally against school vouchers. I was an early supporter of Charter schools and continue to support the schools we now have (6). The Charters require the district to provide facilities, which we are hard pressed to do, and I am not encouraging more charters at this time. When the Charter School comes up for renewal, the Board must take a critical eye to see if the details of the charter are being met.
11. When I coached athletic teams at Watsonville High, I noticed that Cultural conflicts disappeared, and team spirit took over. That is one of the great lessons of reducing the athletic budgets. Extra curricular activities are important to build this team (school) spirit.
12. Very difficult to recruit and retain experienced staff because of our Salary schedule. I have been in favor of including the cost of benefits on the salary schedule (as other districts have) to illustrate to the potential teacher

the entire salary package. My vision for schools in Watsonville is to have at least one to earn the honor of California Distinguished School. This is one way to attract experienced staff.

13. Over the years, I have developed a good network of certificated and Classified employees that I may call before a board meeting to get Their input on an agenda item. I also attend many site council meetings, and parent meetings to get different opinions.
14. In the next 4 years, I see the following 3 most important issues:
 1. Budget concerns on all public education in the state.
 2. Facilities-----with the city plans to build over 600 units,
We could be heading back to year round education with adequate planning.
 3. Maintaining the momentum of academic achievement in light of Budget and facilities constraints.
15. I pushed for the zone management system after hearing presentations at the annual conference of school board trustees some time ago. When we implemented the system, the south area schools received the attention we richly deserved and needed. Parent participation across the district greatly improved, and communication with parents was dramatic. Student achievement was the number one priority, and teachers and staff were being held accountable for results.
16. One of best ways to best protect and preserve the physical, mental, and Environmental health of our students and staff is to have a strict enforcement of The safety and discipline rules that now exist. We have seen a rash of student/teacher harassment, and the start of student on student physical attacks. The board must be diligent in the enforcement of safety rules for all staff and students.
17. Recently, one of our schools asked to change the lunch food prepared by our Central kitchen to a private food vendor. My comments: If the district food service is so bad, let's change it for all students, we don't need to contract out, And will not contract out. I was pleased that the board adopted my views.
18. The form of support I seek is not for me. In the natural course of elections, it is easy to emphasize the negative and attack the district. I believe this does a Disservice to the many, many hardworking teachers and staff that allows the District to operate. In spite of massive budget cuts, we still survive to do the very best we can for the 19,000 students in our care.

19. In my 20 years on the board, we have added 17 schools to the district, received about \$130 million dollars for new construction and modernization projects from the state. When the state ran out of money, we turned to the public, and the voters passed a 54 million dollar bond that was used correctly for completed Aptos High and the facilities at Watsonville High, E.A. Hall, and Mintie White.

Working conditions at these sites were greatly improved and appreciated. I believe that we need to explore another bond to complete PV High, Watsonville High, E.A. Hall, and other middle school facilities.

We also need to explore a parcel tax that can only be used for stated purposes, such as music, librarians, athletics, teacher supplies, etc.

20. The PVUSD budget is about 94% salaries and benefits. Of that number, our health insurance plan is \$30 million per year. Health insurance is estimated to increase 10% per year, or about 3 million dollars. If each child brings in about \$4,900 per year (ADA), 31% of that amount goes to health insurance-----it never reaches the classroom. If the state revenue does not increase 10% per year, we cannot sustain the present health insurance plan we now enjoy.

The only commitment anyone can make regarding health insurance benefits is that we meet and study the issue as the national health reform comes to life. perhaps it will bring some relief.

21. At this time, no groups have endorsed me. The individuals that have will remain undisclosed until the filing of required government forms.

22. While we have supported adult education, the inadequate funding by the State of California, and the provision that allows districts to "sweep" funds into the General fund, has created the need to prioritize programs against programs. For instance, what is more important, the special needs program at Duncan Holbert School or an art class at Adult Education?