



**West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education**  
Candidate Questionnaire, Policies and Issues

<b>Statement Level of Agreement (Rank from 1-4)</b>	<b>Madeline Kronenberg</b>	<b>Val Cuevas</b>	<b>Vanessa Calloway</b>	<b>Consuelo Lara</b>	<b>Liz Block</b>	<b>Stephanie Hernandez Jarvis</b>	<b>Carlos Taboada</b>	<b>Patricio Dujan</b>	<b>Anthony Caro</b>	<b>Tiffany Grimsley</b>
<b>College Readiness</b>										
We need to ensure that every student leaves our high schools prepared for college.	4	4	4	2	3	4	4	4	4	4
A WCCUSD high school diploma should mean that a student is eligible to apply for admission to University of California and California State University schools.	4	4	4	2	3	4	4	3	4	4
As a board member, I will prioritize partnership with community organizations to address barriers to college eligibility and readiness our students currently face.	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
<b>Data In Action</b>										
As a school board member, I will refuse to vote on items if I am not presented with adequate data, including student impact, financial impact, and intended outcomes and metrics.	3	4	4	2	3	4	4	3	4	4
The district website, school dashboards, board-level reports, and communication collateral must be regularly updated and reflect exemplary use of data.	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
If elected, I will ensure that WCCUSD increases their investment in their data staff and infrastructure in the 2019-20 budget.	4	4	3	2	2	2	4	4	3	3
<b>Talent/Partnership</b>										
Parent representatives should always have input in hiring the principals at their school sites.	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4



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Quality school leadership is essential for teacher retention and improved student outcomes.	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Coaching, mentoring, and evaluation of all school site and district office staff should be frequent, consistent, and monitored.	2	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4
As a board member, it is essential that I offer authentic partnership to the Superintendent.	4	4	3/4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4
<b>Finances</b>										
If elected, I will support making the West Contra Costa Unified budget and school site budgets fully transparent through an accessible, online portal.	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
I would give more funding to support students from high-poverty backgrounds, in excess of Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) supplemental and concentration grants.	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	3
<b>School Sites</b>										
I support a system for evaluating the quality of our schools that includes multiple measures such as student achievement data, indicators of school culture, and survey feedback from students, families, and educators.	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
In partnership with their community and staff, school sites should be able to create a unique theory of action based on their community's needs as well as their own budgets, hire new staff, select curriculum, and develop calendars.	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	2	4	3



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**Response (OPTIONAL):** In 250 words or fewer, expand on any of your responses to the statements above. You might use this section to add nuance to one of your positions or to provide additional context on your opinions. You may address as many statements from the above section as you would like, so long as your response falls within the 250-word limit.

<p><b>Madeline Kronenberg</b></p> <p>I agree with each of these statements:          I believe students need to be college – and career – ready. As a retired CareerTech teacher, I value the importance of both and believe students need to be prepared to reach their personal aspirations. We need to continue to grow partnerships in this work.          In order to achieve our goals for our students, we need data to be able to determine where we are and what our next instructional steps should be. Data provides the roadmap and it is our best tool to assess and support our achievement needs.          I believe it is critical that board members completely understand the financial impact and anticipated outcomes of every decision.          I believe education is a “family matter.” Parents are our children’s first and foremost teachers. As such, we need to continue to adapt and find new ways to deepen our relationships with our families.          Coaching, mentoring and evaluation are important support for all our staff. Everyone needs acknowledgement for success and genuine support in areas they can improve.          I believe the most effective way to understand any site requires multiple measures – reflecting both the academic and cultural aspects of the team serving the school and the families being served. This allows us to see the full picture and be able to celebrate our high achievers as well as see where we can match up areas where additional support is required.</p>	<p><b>Consuelo Lara</b></p> <p>I do not believe EVERY student will go to college or wants to go. But EVERY student must be prepared for a job. How are we preparing those students for the job-market?          Data is often used as a weapon against our schools, but it must be used as a tool to improve teaching and learning. How is this data collected and for what purpose?          I would support giving more funding to achieve equity in the district. Clarification of the Local Control Funding Formula for the community input is necessary.</p>
<p><b>Vanessa Calloway</b></p> <p>In the category of Talent/Partnership I need to know what you mean by “authentic partnership?” My position as a member of the governing board, is to be the steward of the welfare of our students and that will always be above all else. An authentic partnership must have that at its core. I believe that school sites need autonomy but I also believe that school sites need consistent standards based core curriculum. In addition, we must keep in mind that whenever new staff is hired the district union contracts that are in place must be honored.</p>	<p><b>Val Cuevas</b></p> <p>As School Board President and a member of the Board over the past 3 ½ years, I have worked hard on a number of the district and school improvement issues presented above. Whether hiring a new Superintendent focused on teaching and learning, working to send more funding directly to school sites or creating protocols so more parents and community organizations can seek membership to the District LCAP committee to forming authentic partnerships with local community members and organizations in support of students, I am proud to be a consistent voice for students, families, and schools. From pushing for a comprehensive Positive School Climate policy to introducing our sanctuary resolution in support of Undocumented Students to serving on the Board</p>



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	<p>sub-committee to name Greenwood Academy after beloved African-American teacher, principal and administrator in the West Contra Costa Unified School District Sylvester Greenwood so our kids can see themselves represented in their schools, I know we have made strides toward providing a quality education to all yet know we have so much more work to do together. We need to improve our district's data infrastructure and we need to ensure all of students are meeting A-G requirements as a condition of graduation.</p>
<p><b>Liz Block</b></p> <p>I do not believe that we need to spend more money in hiring data staff and improving data infrastructure. We need to train the staff we currently have on the use of data and require that data be used to measure progress of every student in every school. This improvement should not require new staff or new infrastructure.</p> <p>I said that I "Somewhat Disagreed" that WCCUSD increase their investment in data staff and infrastructure for 2019/20. I believe that data is essential for monitoring growth and helping inform teaching. We need to dramatically increase our use and sharing of data in the district. I do not, however, know if this change will require additional staff and infrastructure. I have worked in three districts that had impressive and easy to use data systems that could be used by administrators and teachers alike. This was done without a district level data team. I am not sure why WCCUSD has been unable to do this, despite the fact that we have added Data positions and infrastructure. If it turns out that we do, in fact, need additional staff and infrastructure to accomplish this, I strongly believe that we should do so.</p>	<p><b>Stephanie Hernandez Jarvis</b></p> <p>---</p>
<p><b>Carlos Taboada</b></p> <p>1. College readiness. Yes, every student leaving high school should be prepared for college AND with the skills necessary to meaningfully join the labor market. College readiness and career technical education are not opposites. "Do not trust an engineer that did not get his hands dirty in high school."</p> <p>2. Talent/partnership. Yes, parents should have input in hiring the principals at their school sites; AND so should teachers. Article 33 of the Contract between UTR and WCCUSD specifies the ways in which the WCCUSD will consult with the UTR on the definition of educational objectives, the content of courses and curriculum and the selection of textbooks.</p> <p>And article 47, Shared Decision-Making, specifies the formation of a District Site Agreement Coordinating Council to initiate the on-site Shared Decision-Making</p>	<p><b>Patricio Dujan</b></p> <p>Below are clarifications to the items that are below a 4:</p> <p>#2 – We need to have opportunities for all students, including those students that do not attend a UC or CSU school. A path to Community College or to a career can be a successful option for students. I would not want limit their opportunities by making a high school diploma dependent on UC or CSU requirements, but we absolutely need to raise the numbers of students that are UC and CSU eligible.</p> <p>#4 – Although I expect that every item include data, there may be a small number of decisions that this would not apply.</p> <p>#14 – This item needs deeper analysis, especially around the curriculum</p>



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<p>process.</p> <p>It is essential that board members and the superintendent work together and agree on a district-wide vision that supports public education. I would willingly partner with the superintendent on issues where there is common ground. Disagreement on specific tactics is to be expected and could result in productive outcomes. However, a basic agreement must exist on the strategic goal of supporting real public education.</p> <p>3. Finances. If elected, I will support making the West Contra Costa Unified budget and school site budgets fully transparent through an accessible, online portal; AND will demand that charter schools do the same. As an integral part of closing the skills gap I would give more funding to support students from high-poverty backgrounds, in excess of Local ...</p>	<p>component. As I think of students with high mobility between schools, there could be larger issues as a result of school leaders selecting their own curriculum. A student that moves and experiences multiple schools in the same year could have additional challenges. I welcome a deeper discussion about the district's and school's roles in these important matters.</p>
<p><b>Anthony Caro</b></p> <p>I want to address why I put a 3 instead of a 4 for the statement about investing in data staff. I feel that several organizations that do provide services in our district already provide great data. An example is the Mindful Life Project. That being said, I feel the district should hire one or two people to work exclusively on processing the district's data and data from such community partners. The reason why I feel this is a 3 and not a four is because I don't believe we need a whole department or a team greater than two people. The data's there, we just need one or two people to go through it all and present it in a transparent and easy to understand way.</p>	