



Candidate Name: Stephanie Hernandez Jarvis

1. As a member of the school board, what will you do to improve outcomes for the children of West Contra Costa? (200-word limit)

As a member of the school board, I will use my voice to advocate for programs that improve our schools and expand the educational opportunities of our children. I will use my position to support district policies that help to make our schools increasingly equitable learning spaces. I will support the expansion of deeply impactful learning experiences and resources, such as field trips, project-based learning (PBL), dual language immersion (DLI), and STEM beginning in the early years of education. I will support teachers and invite their continuous feedback on the types of curriculum, teaching methodologies, and professional development they identify as pivotal to improve the outcomes of our children.

2. How do you plan to gather feedback and input from students, families, educators, and community members when making important decisions? (200-word limit)

I plan to gather feedback and input on important matters by holding community forums that encourage a productive discussion of ideas and viewpoints by all the stakeholders. I plan to gather feedback and input through the use of online and printed surveys, through social media platforms, from public comments at weekly meetings, and by holding community gatherings that are less formal and structured more like a public community event that can be attended by all stakeholders, such as a movie day with childcare provided in order to give parents ample opportunities to connect with board members and district staff. Furthermore, I plan to do weekly school visits. These visits are very crucial in the work of a board member because they provide opportunities to connect with the children, listen to their interests, goals, and needs, and witness what is working great at each school as well as notice systemic patterns of what needs to be greatly improved.

3. How would you work to establish and maintain a healthy team culture among school board members? (150-word limit)

I would work to establish and maintain a healthy team culture among the school board members by setting a tone of shared productivity and urgency early on in our initial meetings as a team. On a basic level as a board member, I have a responsibility to ensure that we are there to serve in the best interests of the children in our community, and as a team member, I would be sure to voice this idea whenever we need to refocus on what our priorities are. I deeply believe in

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the power of getting to know who you work with, and in an effort to accomplish this, I would reach out to board members to invite them to participate in a team-building activity, such as taking a monthly hike together. I also believe in the power of professional development, and I think we would benefit from attending professional workshops...

4. What role does data play in your decision-making process? What would you expect of district staff, contractors, and school sites in terms of data use and how would you hold them accountable to data use in decision-making? (250-word limit)

Data is an integral part of decision-making at many levels. Fiscally, data is very important to identify the needs and guide the costs of implementing new school programs and expanding existing ones. Budgets rely on data to plan how much funding and resources will be available, and how those funds will be spent. Data that provides insight on the short-term and long-term impacts of school programs, and data that provides information on systemic patterns, such as suspension rates and classroom referrals to the office, enable stakeholders and board members to accurately identify areas of need. I believe that all decisions to be made at the school board level need to be guided by data, both quantitative and qualitative, with a focus on how this data will affect the educational opportunities for the children in our district. District staff, contractors, and school sites should be using data to support their different areas of expertise and guide their work. I do not believe in making highly important decisions at the school board level without first having a thorough look at the data presented by all stakeholders involved.

5. Currently in WCCUSD, only 49% of our graduates are eligible to apply for UCs and CSUs. How will you support efforts to close this achievement gap in college readiness and college eligibility rates within our district? (250-word limit)

First and foremost, I believe that all our children should be eligible to apply to a UC or CSU by the time they graduate one of our high schools. In order to close the opportunity gap in college readiness and college eligibility in our district, we need to ensure that students are on track to complete the A-G requirements, and we need to provide enough counselors for our students to have genuinely individualized attention in planning and sustaining coursework all throughout high school. Secondly, we need to establish long-term partnerships with community colleges and regional universities that can offer summer programs for our students, and we need to provide college and university field trips to our students and their families in order to make higher education a familiar space where they see themselves being successful. We also need to expand successful programs, such as Middle College,



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and integrate project-based learning (PBL) in the early years, since these activities encourage the development of academic and personal skills that support college and career readiness. For our children and families facing the most social and financial obstacles, we need to have a cradle-to-college program that ensures their children will have an equitable opportunity to pursue higher education, including providing university mentorship services beginning in elementary school, regular trips to universities, offering scholarships, and leading parent education workshops specifically for first-generation college families. Just as importantly, we need to provide these support programs and resources to our undocumented students (both DACA and AB 540...

6. What have you done to lay the foundation for a successful candidacy? Speak specifically to fundraising, campaign staff, field preparation, and key endorsements. (150-word limit, do not count key endorsements against your word limit)

As a new candidate, I am pursuing a successful candidacy by closely working with Leadership for Educational Equity, and using their professional services to shape my campaign. At the moment, I am seeking seed funding to run an effective campaign, and I am also seeking contributions from family and friends. I am leading my candidacy with the help of a colleague, who was also a teacher and is now a community organizer. I have yet to secure an official endorsement, and my goal is to be endorsed by at least five community organizations. I have been constantly in touch with leaders of local organizations, and I have a couple of scheduled meetings with them to discuss my ideas and goals as a board member. I attended the Labor Coalition Candidate Forum led by the United Teachers of Richmond last week, and I plan to attend all future candidate forums. I...