



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

For each of the following statements, please rank your level of agreement on the following scale:

Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4

**NOTE: These statements do not necessarily align with the policy positions of GO Public Schools Advocates West Contra Costa and should not be represented as such. In fact, some statements are in direct contradiction to the values and opinions of our network.** This exercise will help our network better understand your positions on a wide range of issues.

Statement	Alleyne, Fatima	DePaz, Estela	Panas, Tom	Reck, Kelly	Williams, Audra	Wysinger, Carolyn
<b>College Readiness</b>						
Every student that graduates from a West Contra Costa public high school should be prepared for college.	4	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	2	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.	4	4	3	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.	4	4	4	4	4	4

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Alleyne, Fatima</b>	<b>DePaz, Estela</b>	<b>Panas, Tom</b>	<b>Reck, Kelly</b>	<b>Williams, Audra</b>	<b>Wysinger, Carolyn</b>
The district website, school dashboards, board-level reports, and communication collateral must be regularly updated and reflect exemplary use of data.	4	4	4	4	4	4
<b>Talent/Partnership</b>						
Parent representatives should always have input in hiring the principals at their school sites.	4	4	4	4	4	4
Quality school leadership is essential for teacher retention and improved student outcomes.	4	4	4	4	4	4
Coaching, mentoring, and evaluation of all school site and district office staff should be frequent, consistent, and monitored.	4	4	4	4	4	4
As a board member, it is essential that I offer authentic partnership to the Superintendent.	4	4	4	4	4	3
<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.	3	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	4	4	4
When budget cuts need to be made, we should try to reduce spending at the central office before we cut spending at school sites.	4	4	4	4	4	4
Budget transparency, even when it doesn't always reflect well on the district or district leadership, is essential to building and maintaining community trust.	4	4	4	4	4	3
To increase state education funding, I support the Schools and Communities First Act and believe that Proposition 13 should be modified to tax commercial and industrial property owners at their properties' current market rates.	4	4	4	4	4	4

Statement	Alleyne, Fatima	DePaz, Estela	Panas, Tom	Reck, Kelly	Williams, Audra	Wysinger, Carolyn
<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
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	2	4	4	3
<b>COVID-19</b>						
As a board member, I would commit to collecting information from students and families about how they are experiencing distance learning and how our current practices can be improved.	4	4	4	4	4	4
When we consider plans to return to in-person schooling, we should prioritize the education needs of students most likely to experience learning loss (low-income students, English learners, and students identifying as BIPOC) with both time and resources.	4	4	4	4	4	2
I believe that administering diagnostic academic assessments to students is an important component of any plan to reopen schools.	4	4	3	4	4	2

**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.

**Alleyne, Fatima** - I believe that our public education system as a whole has not served students well, particularly some of our most vulnerable and disenfranchised students. It is our responsibility as elected officials to be held accountable and hold the system accountable for the lack of prioritization for high quality education for ALL to close the achievement gap. There is a demand for high quality education and it is our responsibility, as elected officials, to supply parents, students, and teachers with access to schools that meet this demand.

Additionally, equality and equity are lacking in the way we allocate, fund, and provide access to resources, experienced teachers, and facilities. All funds should be allocated such that it is apparent how local control funding formula (LCFF) funds are leveraged to support students who generate additional funds e.g. socio-economically disadvantaged, special education, foster youth, and English learners. Experienced teachers should be equally distributed amongst all schools to leverage their expertise, provide coaching to younger teachers, and promote equitable budgets across all schools. All students served in our public schools should have equal access to adequate facilities and funding for such facilities regardless of the location of the school or student demographics. However, this has not come to fruition in this community and it is my hope that my advocacy for equity and equality will bring us steps closer to make this a reality.

**DePaz, Estela** - Let me explain my "somewhat disagree" response in the College Readiness section.

Being a Special Education parent taught me that mental processing can be as unique as our fingerprints. We all learn in different ways and in a sense, we are all differentiated learners. Honoring that diversity means accepting that not all students will be or will want to be UC and CSU ready upon graduation. There are those who would prefer to go to junior college, trade school, and/or take a "gap year". I believe these are valid choices that our schools must support and anticipate.

Also, I wish to point out three items which makes me a strong candidate:

The district is in crisis and crisis management is a subset of my training as a project manager. Working with stakeholders to devise a plan, doing the necessary work breakdown to clearly define an execution path, devising a communication plan to ensure transparency, and promoting stakeholder buy-in are all part of what is necessary for crisis management.

I have served on a number of boards that have promoted the creation of, and adherence to, decision making and goal setting processes. I am well versed in Robert's Rules and the specific qualities and tone that a board should have.

I am applying to this position because I want to continue my service to the community as I've done in many capacities in the past. Being on the school board is the next progression of that service.

**Reck, Kelly** - I am really new to this fight. I have a deep desire to be a part of solutions but have had some reticence about running for school board because I am worried that I don't yet know enough. I have such reverence for the task and want the best person in the job. In a short time, I have talked to current board members and other members of the community, which have provided incredible insight. With each conversation, I feel more certain that this is the fight I want to be in.

In my professional life, I am known as a jill-of-all-trades. I excel at understanding people and how to build effective teams. I am a creative thinker and find solutions that aren't immediately clear otherwise. I am quick to understand new concepts and a good judge of whose advice I should be seeking. These skills and the passion I know I will bring to the job are why I know I would make an excellent board member. I know I have a lot to catch up on and am not able to answer as clearly and specifically as needed right now but I committed to continuing to ask questions, dig for information and always, always, put kids first.