

Endorsement Consent Calendar – March 2018

● **Democratic Candidates for Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 2:**

Name:	Returned Questionnaire	Interviewed by DPSC Panel	Recommendation	DPSC Member/Donor
Patrick Kennedy (i)	X	X	X	X
Harold Fong	X	X		X

Panel members: Michelle Pariset (chair), Manuel Buenrostro, Maureen Craft, Shaun Dillon, Junior Goris, Earl Lagomarsino, Bruce Pomer, and Mike Whiteside.

Panel Report:

Mr. Fong and Mr. Kennedy have both demonstrated a strong and passionate support for progressive Democratic values in their questionnaires and interviews, and in their public service record.

Both candidates are experienced public servants with exceptional records, and they both stated the importance and urgency of addressing what they see as the most pressing issues of the day: homelessness and affordable housing.

The panel had a difficult decision but recommends endorsement of Mr. Kennedy since he has been quietly doing an exemplary job in improving Sacramento County’s services for the underserved, and that he would best be poised to make further improvements given his dedication, expertise, preparedness for the job.

The panel was in agreement that the DPSC keep an open dialogue with Mr. Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy mentioned his open door policy, and was enthusiastic about continuing a dialogue on issues relating to core Democratic values in the future.

Interview Panel Recommendation: Endorse Patrick Kennedy. (Ayes: 6; Noes: 0; Abstentions: 2)

Executive Board Recommendation:

Uphold the interview panel’s recommendation to endorse Patrick Kennedy. (Ayes: 6; Noes: 1)

● **Democratic Candidates for Sacramento County Board of Education, Area 1:**

Name:	Returned Questionnaire	Interviewed by DPSC Panel	Recommendation	DPSC Member/Donor
Bina Lefkovitz (i)	X	X	X	X

Panel Members: Michelle Pariset (chair), Manuel Buenrostro, Orlando Fuentes, and Andres Ramos.

Panel Report:

The panel was very impressed with Ms. Lefkovitz’s wealth of knowledge on education. Her answers, both in her questionnaire and in the interview, demonstrated deep understanding of a wide range of issues. Her top priorities—closing the achievement gap, providing whole child care, and civic education—are consistent with Democratic Party values.

Ms. Lefkovitz supports increased transparency at SCOE, and is open to innovative ideas for partnership with municipalities to support the construction of teacher housing. She stated that she generally supports by-district elections for school districts and as a member of the County Committee on School District Organization would prefer placing a ballot measure for by-district elections on the ballot rather than circumventing voters and the local school board by seeking an election waiver from the State Board of Education.

The panel is interested in hearing more from her about how SCOE can take an active role in ensuring that school districts are held accountable in fulfilling the goals laid out in their LCAPs. We believe that she would be a good partner with the DPSC in advocating for SCOE to hold districts accountable in fulfilling their LCAPs.

On charter schools, Ms. Lefkovitz stated that she supports increased accountability measures, and transparency measures such as requiring charter schools to be subject to the Brown Act, Public Records Act, Political Reform Act, and conflict-of-interest rules. She will do her due diligence to ensure that charter petitions meet the legally required elements. And to the extent permitted by law, she is open to adding additional accountability requirements. She stated that she will not proactively seek charter school money in her race, but that she would not turn it down if she had a competitive race against a well-financed opponent.

The panel believes that Ms. Lefkovitz is strongly qualified and would be a partner with the DPSC on a range of issues. Accordingly, the panel recommends endorsement of Bina Lefkovitz.

Interview Panel Recommendation: Endorse Bina Lefkovitz. (Ayes: 3; Noes: 0; Abstentions: 1)

Executive Board Recommendation:

Uphold the interview panel’s recommendation to endorse Bina Lefkovitz. (Ayes: 7; Noes: 0)

● **Democratic Candidates for Sacramento County Board of Education, Area 2:**

Name:	Returned Questionnaire	Interviewed by DPSC Panel	Recommendation	DPSC Member/Donor
Karina Talamantes	X	X	X	X
Nate Pelczar	X	X		X
Ray Green	X	X		

Panel Members: Michelle Pariset (chair), Orlando Fuentes, Junior Goris.

Panel Report:

Karina Talamantes, Nate Pelczar, and Ray Green were interviewed for the SCOE District 2 position.

Karina was comprehensive in her answers to our questionnaire, with not just the correct answers to Yes or No, but with detailed explanations for her answers. She has demonstrated that her positions are consistent with the progressive values of CDP and DPSC. She is active with multiple DPSC clubs including serving as Vice President of the Green Democrats and in Community Affairs, Sacramento County Young Dems, OWL, Latinx, and Natomas. She has worked with youth since 2007. On a personal level she is a first generation, working class person from a single parent household.

Nate has worked as an adult education teacher teaching computer skills, resume development and communication skills. I am not sure if he is credentialed. He is currently serving on a bond oversight committee in the Natomas USD. He has been through the Citizens Planning Academy for Sacramento. His questionnaire states: strong interest and experience in the areas of educational policy, government relations, budget and financial analysis, project management, policy development. Nate’s professional career is interesting and strong. What is lacking in his background is working with children, or in schools, or in other areas except for his service on a bond oversight committee.

Ray is the program director of the Black Child Legacy program and he serves on SCUSD’s LCAP advisory committee. He is also in a leadership program due to graduate in May with the Sierra Health Foundation. He has strong credentials in working with black and brown at-risk youth with My Brother’s Keeper, boys and men of color, has served two years on the SCUSD advisory board. He was weak on the answer for confidential services but we had a discussion on that and he explained that he responded with his personal values about the importance of students communicating with their parents. He did express an aversion to “political games” though was interviewing for a “political” position.

Overall, Karina Talamantes was the most impressive of all candidates. We recommend an endorsement for Karina.

Interview Panel Recommendation: Endorse Karina Talamantes. (Ayes: 3; Noes: 0)

Executive Board Recommendation:

Uphold the interview panel's recommendation to endorse Karina Talamantes. (Ayes: 7; Noes: 0)

● **Democratic Candidates for Sacramento County Board of Education, Area 3:**

Name:	Returned Questionnaire	Interviewed by DPSC Panel	Recommendation	DPSC Member/Donor
Rick Launey	X	X	X	

Panel Members: Michelle Pariset (chair), Kerri Asbury, Shaun Dillon, Orlando Fuentes, Junior Goris, Earl Lagomarsino, and Andres Ramos.

Panel Report:

It was a pleasure to interview Mr. Launey for a seat on the County Office of Education board.

Mr. Launey has served on the San Juan School Board for 8 years and served as board president for 4 of those years. He has spent his long career in education as an K-12 teacher, as an CSUS adjunct professor, and as a school board member. In addition, he is currently a producer of the educational series “Inside California Education” on the Public Broadcasting System.

Mr. Launey comes to the table with the kind of depth and breadth of experience that sets him apart as a senior education leader in our community. He can step into his role as a SCOE board member running. His positions as revealed on his questionnaire indicate that he is well-versed on the issues of the day and is consistent with the values of the Democratic Party, particularly DPSC.

We recommend an endorsement for Mr. Launey.

Interview Panel Recommendation: Endorse Rick Launey. (Ayes: 7; Noes: 0)

Executive Board Recommendation:

Uphold the interview panel's recommendation to endorse Rick Launey. (Ayes: 7; Noes: 0)