

Democratic Party of Sacramento County

Questionnaire: School Board Candidates

NOTE: The answers you provide on this questionnaire will be made available to DPSC members and will become public. Questions that are underlined are yes/no questions and do not require an explanation unless your response is “no.”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Candidate Name	Harold Fong
Office Sought	Sacramento County Board of Education, Area 7
FPPC ID	1347415
Occupation	AGPA
Employer	CA Dept. of Health Care Services
Campaign Email	Hfong95831@yahoo.com
Campaign Phone	916 541-3056
Campaign Website & Social Media	<u>FB-Harold Fong, Trustee Area 7 Sacramento County Board of Education</u>
Campaign Manager or Contact Person	Do not have at this time.
Campaign Consultants (list all)	Bill Wong
Anticipated Budget & Funds Raised	\$40,000 raised about \$2,500
Are you a dues-paying DPSC member?	yes

Optional demographic questions:

Racial/Ethnic Identity	API
Gender Identity/Pronouns	M/he
LGBTQ+?	no
Veteran?	no
Young Democrat (35 or under)?	no
Union Member?	yes

Please list all offices you have held or organizations to which you belong or in which you have held a leadership position, and what position you held:

Office/Organization	Position Held	Duration
CA Democratic Party (CDP)	Member, DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE	Over 15 years
Sacto. County Democratic Party	Elected Member	Over 15 years
API Caucus, CDP	Chair	3 years

You may attach your biography, a list of current endorsements, and any campaign literature as a single file. Please name your file: lastname/office sought.

ISSUE QUESTIONS

Section 1 – Viability & Campaign

1. Do you plan to purchase a ballot statement?

Yes

2. Will all your campaign materials be printed by a union printer?

Yes

3. Have you always been a registered Democrat? If no, please state what else you were registered as, when, for how long, and why.

No. Peace and Freedom Party. A couple of years. Opposed the Vietnam War.

4. What will your ballot designation be? Incumbent
5. What are your primary sources for fundraising? Please list your top three campaign contributors. Unions, Sacramento Democratic Party, and family members. Los Rios Faculty Association, California Teachers Association, and Sacramento Democratic Party.
6. Do you voluntarily decline contributions from any particular contributor or class of contributors? If so, list who and why. Charter school operators and their PACs. Oil, tobacco, and gun groups. These groups go against my core values.
7. Have you ever endorsed, contributed to, campaigned for, or otherwise supported a candidate for election or appointment to a partisan or nonpartisan office that was not a member of the Democratic Party? If so, list who, for which office, and why? Please be specific. When I was registered Peace and Freedom Party I probably voted for their candidates for some of the offices.
8. Have you ever been investigated (by a governmental agency or private entity) for allegations that you engaged in discrimination, harassment, abuse, or retaliation? If so, what was the result of the investigation? No

9. Is there anything in your history on the subject of discrimination, harassment, abuse, or retaliation, which, if revealed, would bring you, your proposed office, or the Democratic Party into disrepute? No
10. How long have you lived in the district and community you seek to represent? 28 years.
11. Out of the last five elections, how many have you voted in? all 5.
12. Why did you decide to run for this office and what do you plan to accomplish during your tenure? I'm seeking re-election to continue my work as an advocate for children and young people who have fallen through the cracks in society and the education system. There may be an opportunity to hire the next superintendent if Mr. Gordon retires.
13. What sets you apart from the other candidates for this office? My opponent support charter schools and I do not.
14. If you are an incumbent, what have you accomplished during your tenure? If you are a non-incumbent, what have you accomplished in the community prior to running? Balanced the budget every year. Hired a more diverse staff in both managements and teaching. Build a new community school and in the process of securing the funds to build a second community school. Continue to oppose the expansion of the segregated Fortune Charter School.

Section 2 - District & Governance

15. Are you familiar with your school district's budget? If so, how large is it, what are its principal revenue sources, and what are its largest expenditure categories? 103 million. State and Federal funding. Staff salaries and benefits.
16. Does your district conduct its elections by-district (rather than at-large)? If not, would you support moving its elections to by-district? Yes.
17. How will you work with educators, parents, and community advocates? What will you do to be accessible to community members and other stakeholders? I attend conference with educators to keep on top of emerging trends and touch base with our local SCOE teachers association to see how our programs are going. At our back to school nights and open house I talk to as many parents as I can to ask how their child is doing in our school. I attend community events and association meeting to provide a brief report on what SCOE is doing. I have attended Sacramento City USD board meetings and provide testimony and Elk Grove USD meetings.

18. What will you do to promote transparency and ethics at the school district? I have promoted televising our meetings, taking our meetings to the community, and holding joint school district meetings. I have requested a refresher course on the Brown Act for our board members.
19. What whistle-blower protections should there be for public employees and others who expose corruption, sexual harassment, or other illegal/unethical activity? No retaliation including negatively affects an employee's current or future employment status or work environment for exposing wrong doing.
20. What is the most disadvantaged area or constituency in your district? What is your plan for ensuring that that area or constituency receives the representation and services it needs? The Center Parkway/Meadowview area in closing the educational opportunities. After 5 years of trying to move our community school from the basement of an office building to a site that is looks and feel like a school, I finally got the votes on the board to force the superintendent to agree to support a new community school for the students expelled from their neighborhood school.

Section 3 – Civil Rights

21. Do you support a woman's right to comprehensive healthcare, including the right to choose and access contraception, and the right to obtain a medically safe, legal abortion?

Yes
22. Do you support giving undocumented immigrants living in the United States a path towards citizenship?

Yes
23. Do you believe that LGBTQ people should have equal rights (including, but not limited to, in employment, housing, education, and marriage)?

Yes
24. Do you support background checks for all firearm and ammunition sales?

Yes
25. Do you believe that capital punishment should be abolished?

Yes

26. What will you do to prevent bullying or harassment of LGBTQ students because of their real or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity? I have asked for prompt revisions and training of staff on updated legislation passed affecting LGBTQ students.
27. What will you do to end discrimination in access to, and the provision of, high quality education? I have advocated to provide every student an appealing school that they want to attend. We have build one new community school and in the process of building a second one. We have remodel the third one. Our juvenile hall has been completely changed to allow our students to attend class and use computerized learning programs. Before this they were given homework in their cell.
28. What will you do to close the pay gap? I have participated in my union (SEIU) and the local central labor council in the protest and marches that help pass the minimum wage to \$15. My union negotiated raising the wage of state workers to start at \$15 on July 1, 2020. I have advocated for SCOE contracts to go to union vendors and construction companies.
29. What will you do to protect immigrant communities? Do you support the adoption of a safe haven school district policy. I brought up the resolution to make SCOE a safe haven district but it got water down by the new board members. However the board approved policies to keep ICE off all our school sites and trained staff to protect our undocumented students.
30. Do you support placing limits on free speech or assembly by educators or students at school? If so, how would you decide what those limits should be? No. I support free speech and assembly for educators and students. There may be limits per the law. I would ensure that this is part of the training that management, educators, and students receive.
31. Is there a school-to-prison pipeline in your school district? If so, what will you do to close that pipeline? Yes. We have done the physical thing like schools that provide a learning environment, hire teachers and staff that really want to work with our student population, and implement data driven programs that meet the social, emotional, and educational needs of our students. The board has included in the superintendent's evaluation steps to work on reducing the school-to-prison pipeline. Our LCAP for our district address improving the educational choices for our students.
32. What are the issues affecting students of color in your district and will you do to address those issues? Homelessness, jobs, a safe home environment, and teachers that look like them. Educating the new board members that we are different from the normal K-12 school district. Molding 4 votes on the board to continue the data driven and research based programs that work with our students.

33. Do you support the hiring of student resource officers (SROs) in your school district? If so, what oversight will you put in place to hold SROs accountable, and what role would the community play in that? No. We should hire social workers and peer leaders who have turned their lives around to do the work of mentoring and motivating our students to want to come to school.
34. What will you do to ensure that special needs students receive the services they need to succeed? SCOE has a very good special education program that meets the needs of our students.
35. What will you do to ensure that English Learner (EL) students receive the support they need to succeed? Our English Learners and those behind several grade levels in their reading share the same problem, learning to read English. Our English Learner have the addition of learning to speak English. Our teachers are trained to work with both groups. We have grade appropriate reading books and computerized software to support their learning.

How will you ensure that non-English speaking parents are able to fully participate in their child's education (including participation at public meetings)? When the student enrolls into school, the primary language of the home is identify. When they are invited to parent/teacher sessions they are asked if they need an interpreter. One is provided.

Section 4 – Healthcare

36. Do you support Medicare-for-All?

Yes

37. What is your position on parental notification prior to a minor terminating a pregnancy? Oppose to it.
38. What measures would you support to ensure adequate mental health services for all? I would reallocate the funds for SRO officers for hiring clinical social workers and nurses.
39. What will you do to help address high child mortality rates in the Black community in Sacramento County? I will ask our board to pass a resolution for Sacto. County Board of Supervisors to continue the funding of the Black Child Legacy Campaign. I will attend board of supervisor's meeting to speak in support of it.
40. What will you do to ensure that all students have access to nutritious meals at school and at home? We conducted focus groups with our students on the food we serve on campus. Many of them count on the breakfast and lunch we provide them. They made suggestions on type of food they want and we tried to provide

them if it meets the nutrition standards. We also provide bag dinners from the left over lunch for those who may want it.

Section 5 – Good Jobs for All

41. Do you support the right of workers to unionize by card check?

Yes

42. Have you attended the Sacramento Central Labor Council Candidate Academy?

Yes

43. Describe your relationship with organized labor. I am a dues paying member of SEIU Local 1000, President of district labor council of SEIU 1000, member of the board of directors of SEIU 1000.

44. Which labor unions will you be interacting with in your role? What is your plan for building collaborative relationships with both union and nonunion employees? California School Employees Association Chapter 480 and Sacramento County Office of Education Teachers Association. I have tried to attend one meeting of each union yearly to tell them how much I appreciate their work for our students. The Board passes its yearly resolution honoring their work.

45. Will you support the adoption of project labor agreements or community workforce training agreements for your school district? Yes.

46. What is the role of the office that you seek in promoting good jobs and economic development for our region? The people that work for SCOE are paid well and treated with dignity and respect. In the building of the new science center and new community school, I have advocated for good union jobs and to hire skilled workers from the community.

47. What solutions would you propose to solve budget shortfalls and how would you prioritize the needs of your constituents in deciding what to cut first? I would propose a “rainy day fund” that would cushion a budget shortfall due to a slow down in the economy. I would prioritize reducing management staff, maintenance of buildings, and nonessential programs like sports before teachers and other staff.

48. Is income inequality an issue in your community? If so, what steps will you take to address it? Yes. I support making it easier for workers to form unions with card check. I support the minimum wage to \$15 sooner.

Section 6 - Local Economy & Public Resources

49. Under what circumstances would you support raising revenues to support your school district by means of a bond or parcel tax measure? County office of education are not allowed to levy parcel taxes. We can sell bonds for construction of schools. I would support bonds for that purpose only. I would be oppose to use bonds for equipment like chromebooks or iPads.
50. Under what conditions would you support the privatization of public or natural resources (e.g., publicly-owned buildings, schools)? Never.
51. What is your position on "public/private partnerships"? I am generally oppose to them. Especially when private funds are used to develop public infrastructure like toll roads and bridges.
52. When is it appropriate to use public money or tax incentives to subsidize private business? When they create good union jobs.
53. What is your plan to support and encourage local small business development? I would like to expand our purchasing of good to more local small business run by women, veterans, and minority own business.

Section 7 – Environment

54. Do you support the construction of the Delta tunnels?

No

55. What will you do to address climate change and reduce our carbon footprint in your role? I drive an electric car. I tried to get solar on our administration building, and new community school.

Section 8 – Education

56. Do you believe that public adult education, colleges, and universities should be tuition free? Yes.

57. Please explain LCFF and LCAP in three sentences or fewer. Have you read your district's LCAP? Yes. The Local Control Funding Formula and the Local Control Accountability Plan gives a strong parent voice on how to education their kids and hold the school accountable.

58. Do you support Restorative Justice and funding such programs? Yes

59. What will you do to minimize bullying and promote tolerance in school? I would provide the programs that are data driven and researched based and train staff and student peer leader on it.

60. What role do you believe charter schools should play in public education? To develop innovative education programs and scale them up in the public schools.
61. Do you support reforming teacher tenure, due process protections, or teacher salary and benefits? Please explain. No. Teacher tenure and due process works fine. Do not want to weaken the protections provided. Teachers need to be paid better and include benefits like housing. School districts should build teacher housing on property where they are closing schools.
62. Is there an achievement gap in your district? If so, what will you do to close it? Yes. The county superintendent approves the district's LCAP. He or she should focus using the LCAP to close the achievement gap by making sure that the programs are research base and data driven to endure students read at grade level when they reach the 3rd grade. Every child can attend a quality preschool. Every school have a parent involvement program. Every district impliment AVID program to increase graduation rates.
63. Is your school district de facto segregated? If so, what will you do to end that? Planning commission and city and county government can help integrate our schools by regulating the building of mix housing in their housing projects to include affordable housing and low income housing. Not to allow them to build it off site.
64. Do you support ethnic studies? How would you implement ethnic studies in your school district? Yes. I think it should be integrated in history, government, and English classes.
65. What will you do to ensure that school district staff (administrative, certificated, and classified staff) are culturally competent and reflect the diversity of your district? Start with hiring more teachers and staff from these diverse communities
66. How will you ensure that students have equal access to any school that offers a unique academic program (e.g., magnet school, academy, etc.) in your district? Locate these schools in challenging communities where it is their neighborhood school and they have priority to enroll to provide equal access.

Section 9 – Housing

67. Do you support the adoption of rent control and just cause eviction protection?

Yes

68. What is your plan to address student homelessness in your community?
I have asked staff to look into allowing homeless students to stay in our gym.

Done focus groups with our students to understand the cause and ask for their suggestions on what we could do.

Section 10 – Transportation and Public Transit

69. Would you support a local tax measure to fund transportation and public transit? If so, which specific form of local taxation would you support? Only as a last resort. It would be on a sliding scale based on how much you make. I would prefer that Federal and State taxes provide the funding for this.

70. Do you support providing universal free transit passes to students in partnership with Regional Transit (or other local transit agencies)? Yes.

Signature: Harold Fong (signed)

Date: 9-26-2019