

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	Christine Jefferson
Office Sought	Twin Rivers School Board – Area 3
FPPC ID	1431338
Occupation	Retired
Employer	Twin Rivers Unified School District
Campaign Email	Cjphotography14@gmail.com
Campaign Phone	(916) 548-8095
Campaign Website & Social Media	Under Construction
Campaign Manager or Contact Person	Gregory Jefferson
Campaign Consultants (list all)	None
Anticipated Budget & Funds Raised	\$10,000 – Raised \$3,000.00
Are you a dues-paying DPSC member?	No

Optional demographic questions:

Racial/Ethnic Identity	Black/African American
Gender Identity/Pronouns	Female
LGBTQ+?	
Veteran?	
Young Democrat (35 or under)?	
Union Member?	Yes when I worked for the district

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
United College Action Network	Board Member	20 years
L’Soar – Foster Youth	Board Member	4 years
Del Paso Community Association	Secretary	5 years
TLC Soup Kitchen	Public Relations Person	20 years
Redevelopment Agency Committee	Committee Member	2 years
Grant Little League	Board Member	4 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/No - Yes

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

Yes/No - 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.

Yes/No - Yes

4. What will your ballot designation be? ***Democrat***

5. What are your primary sources for fundraising? *Self Finances* Please list your top three campaign contributors. ***Christine Jefferson; Greg Jefferson; Annette Emery.***

6. Do you voluntarily decline contributions from any particular contributor or class of contributors? ***No*** If so, list who and why. ***I will not accept funds from Charter Schools***

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? ***No*** If so, list who, for which office, and why?

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?

52 Years

11. Out of the last five elections, how many have you voted in? 5

12. Why did you decide to run for this office and what do you plan to accomplish during your tenure?

For too long I have watched people get elected to a School Board seat and other elected offices and then become a voice for the administration instead of the voice of the people that elected them.

My platform includes school closures of which I am against. Currently Twin Rivers is making hasty decisions to close school in the lowest economic areas with no transparency to parents or to the stakeholders.

For the past three years I have mentored girls at Martin Luther King Jr. in an afterschool program called the Sisterhood and my plan is to continue that work as well as to expand the program to other schools in the district.

I will endeavor to make sure that the all employees of the district have a voice on the board. Finally I endeavor to make sure that the voters/taxpayers of the district have an accurate accounting of their tax dollars.

13. What sets you apart from the other candidates for this office? *For years I worked at Grant and Twin Rivers as the Chief Job Steward. I understand the needs of classified people. I was one of two trained mediators for Grant District. The district had to do something to keep the law suits down at the time. I held mediations for classified employees as well as Certificate employees. I saved the district thousands of dollars by helping employees' problem solve as opposed to suing the district.*

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? *I am a non-incumbent. I have worked as a community advocate for parents with special needs children. I went to their IEP's and helped them understand their rights as parents. I helped Del Paso Heights have a voice by establishing the Del Paso Heights Community Association in 2011. We hosted community events for the residents; we fought for social justice when necessary. We also started a non-profit for our Association to get funding for those community events. I am currently mentoring 26 girls at Martin Luther King Jr. High School. I ministers to the inmates at Folsom Prison alongside my husband. There were a lot of our children at Folsom that fell through the cracks from lack of education. That was one of my driving forces in seeking this seat. I am currently fighting to save our schools in our Community.*

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? ***I have attended school board meetings where the budget is discussed and am concerned about the lack of transparency and involvement of community members. School budgets are based upon student enrollment and Twin Rivers District has recorded reduced enrollment for the past decade without much discussion as to why this is happening. The largest expenditure is for staff. Reduced enrollment results in reduced staff.***
16. Does your district conduct its elections by-district (rather than at-large)? ***Elections are by districts or Area.*** If not, would you support moving its elections to by-district?
17. How will you work with educators, parents, and community advocates? ***I will meet with each group to find out their concerns. I will research the issues and get back to them as soon as possible.*** What will you do to be accessible to community members and other stakeholders? ***I will keep in touch with them via phone; meetings if necessary; email and in person to resolve issues. I am retired so I have a very flexible schedule.***
18. What will you do to promote transparency and ethics at the school district? ***I will encourage my fellow Board members to be open and transparent as well as providing accurate information to the public. I will encourage ethics at all times as a school board trustee.***
19. What whistle-blower protections should there be for public employees and others who expose corruption, sexual harassment, or other illegal/unethical activity? ***I will support the rights of whistle-blowers to the fullest extent of the law! As a former Chief Job Steward for this District I will ensure that unethical practices are not tolerated during my tenure on the school board.***
20. What is the most disadvantaged area or constituency in your district? ***Del Paso Heights; Strawberry Manors; North Sacramento*** What is your plan for ensuring that that area or constituency receives the representation and services it needs? ***I will be advocating for parity of the districts assets and funding for the disadvantaged areas. I will use my vote to represent those underrepresented schools in the district and make sure they get the same resources that other schools in the district have.***

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/No Yes

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

Yes/No Yes

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

Yes/No Yes

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

Yes/No Yes

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

Yes/No 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 will support them by having programs for them. I currently have LGBTQ students in my Sisterhood program. We promote inclusion of everyone.***

27. What will you do to end discrimination in access to, and the provision of, high quality education? ***I will ensure there is parity in the distribution of all the districts equipment and resources. I will make sure that the same treatment of students at one school is not different from the lower achieving schools.***

28. What will you do to close the pay gap? ***I would do a comparable job search from different districts and bring our district up to those pay grades. This will ensure keeping our employees.***

29. What will you do to protect immigrant communities? ***I will support the sanctuary laws signed by the Governor.*** Do you support the adoption of a safe haven school district policy? ***Yes***

30. Do you support placing limits on free speech or assembly by educators or students at school? *No* If so, how would you decide what those limits should be?
31. Is there a school-to-prison pipeline in your school district? *Yes. I volunteered with my husband for two years at Folsom State Prison where he was a chaplain and I saw the children from our community that fell through the cracks at the prison.* If so, what will you do to close that pipeline? *Ensure that schools support marginalized and homeless students with programs that identify and address their needs. Give them that extra help with school work; provide them with social skills and tools to help them to be successful. Work with families to support these children.*
32. What are the issues affecting students of color in your district and will you do to address those issues? *Currently there is a push to close eight schools in Twin Rivers that have mostly minority students. I have been attending rallies with the teachers and speaking out at the School Board Meetings in a effort to stop what is in my opinion a discriminatory plan that will hurt children of color.*
33. Do you support the hiring of student resource officers (SROs) in your school district? *Yes* If so, what oversight will you put in place to hold SROs accountable, and what role would the community play in that? *I would direct the Superintendent to provide a chain of command and make sure there is a vehicle in place for complaints and concerns from the community. There needs to be a partnership established between the community, students and the SRO's*
34. What will you do to ensure that special needs students receive the services they need to succeed? *As an advocate for parents of special needs students I will make sure the district gives them the help that they need as well as educate parents of their rights to reasonable accommodations and other resources that they need to be successful!*
35. What will you do to ensure that English Learner (EL) students receive the support they need to succeed? *By making sure there are classes available to them in the District and by providing support for their families to help their children.* How will you ensure that non-English speaking parents are able to fully participate in their child's education (including participation at public meetings)? *I would ensure there are translators or translation machines would be available for parents at meetings. I would make sure there are translators on each campus for parents. Notices would be sent home in the language of the students.*

Section 4 – Healthcare

36. Do you support Medicare-for-All?

Yes/No *Yes*

37. What is your position on parental notification prior to a minor terminating a pregnancy? ***I would follow whatever the law states.***
38. What measures would you support to ensure adequate mental health services for all? ***Mental health is a big issue for me; I would do whatever the law states to help students. I would like to see the district partner with local mental health clinics.***
39. What will you do to help address high child mortality rates in the Black community in Sacramento County? ***Support community programs that address this issue.***
40. What will you do to ensure that all students have access to nutritious meals at school and at home? ***Send notices to parents on how to access programs that provide food sources. Currently Twin Rivers has a free meal for all students; the students are given a light meal after school as well.***

Section 5 – Good Jobs for All

41. Do you support the right of workers to unionize by card check?
Yes/No Yes
42. Have you attended the Sacramento Central Labor Council Candidate Academy?
Yes/No Yes, when I ran in 2012
43. Describe your relationship with organized labor. ***I am a champion for unions, when I worked for the district I was Chief Job Steward for CSEA and I won a lot of cases for employees.***
44. Which labor unions will you be interacting with in your role? ***I will be working with CSEA (Classified Employees) and TRUE (Teachers Union)*** What is your plan for building collaborative relationships with both union and nonunion employees? ***I want to build cohesive relationships with both union and nonunion employees. Working with these groups will only make the district a better place to work and a better place to our students and their parents.***
45. Will you support the adoption of project labor agreements or community workforce training agreements for your school district? ***I would only support this for short periods of time with an MOU. From my experience the district would never hire full time employees if allowed to have project labor agreement.***

46. What is the role of the office that you seek in promoting good jobs and economic development for our region? *As a board member I would make sure that the jobs in our district are comparable to other districts. I would work with our City Council to steer development projects to our communities.*
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 examine the budget and determine what line item would cause the least affect on the students or education. I would prioritize the needs of my constituents by determining how to least impact students first. I would start at the administrative level.*
48. Is income inequality an issue in your community? *Yes* If so, what steps will you take to address it? *I would stress education as I always do. I would support programs that help students and families gain employment.*

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? *I would only support a bond if there were strict accountability on how the monies will be spent. Our Community is currently paying for a bond that was grossly mismanaged by the district.*
50. Under what conditions would you support the privatization of public or natural resources (e.g., publicly-owned buildings, schools)? *I would support this only if the buildings were run down or blight to the community. I will investigate the need for any new or old charter school Twin Rivers.*
51. What is your position on "public/private partnerships"? *This practice is popular but it will ultimately hurt unions. I'm not in agreement with this practice.*
52. When is it appropriate to use public money or tax incentives to subsidize private business? *When city government tries to attract businesses to communities they provide tax incentives. This helps to keep them in the community and gets them to expand their operations.*
53. What is your plan to support and encourage local small business development? *I would promote entrepreneurship. Small businesses unite the community by creating local jobs. I would offer classes at local schools and community centers on how to start up small businesses.*

Section 7 – Environment

54. Do you support the construction of the Delta tunnels? *No We have spent way too much money on the Delta tunnels while diverting our water source.*

Yes/No

55. What will you do to address climate change and reduce our carbon footprint in your role? *I would like to see the district partner with businesses like Green Tech who trains high school for green jobs. This is the sort of partnership that can improve the environment.*

Section 8 – Education

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

Yes/No Yes

57. Please explain LCFF and LCAP in three sentences or fewer. Have you read your district's LCAP? *Yes LCFF is local control funding formula. It is a way for schools to focus on student success. LCAP is a tool for local educational agencies to set goals, plan actions, and leverage resources to meet those goals to improve student outcomes.*
58. Do you support Restorative Justice and funding such programs? *Yes We have programs in our community and they are helping people get a second chance.*
59. What will you do to minimize bullying and promote tolerance in school? *I would establish and enforce no bullying rules and policies that clearly describe how students are expected to treat each other. This rule would also apply for promoting tolerance in schools as well!*
60. What role do you believe charter schools should play in public education? *Charter Schools should only be an option if they offer unique programs not offered in public schools.*
61. Do you support reforming teacher tenure, due process protections, or teacher salary and benefits? Please explain. *I believe tenure for teachers is a form of protection that I would not want to see them loose. I believe in due process Protections and will support teacher salary and benefits.*
62. Is there an achievement gap in your district? *Yes* If so, what will you do to close it? *Develop programs that focus on improving learning for all students, maintain a “No” excuses attitude, use research and data to improve practice, involve everyone in improvement processes, persist through difficulties and setbacks, and celebrate accomplishments.*
63. Is your school district de facto segregated? *Yes* If so, what will you do to end that? *I would create opportunities at other school campuses in the district that*

might attract students to attend different programs and create opportunities for them to succeed in the program. I would make sure transportation was available to the students as well.

64. Do you support ethnic studies? *Yes* How would you implement ethnic studies in your school district? *I would implement ethnic studies in the curriculum at all school sites.*

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? *I would mandate the Superintendent to have hiring practices that reflect the makeup of the population of the schools. That would include staff administrative and classified staff.*

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? *I would mandate that transportation be provided for students interested in these unique academic programs.*

Section 9 – Housing

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

Yes/No I'm for the adoption of rent control

68. What is your plan to address student homelessness in your community? *I would work alongside our City Leaders to provide funding to help the student homeless population. I would also make sure there were resources for homeless students at all school sites.*

Section 10 – Transportation and Public Transit

69. Would you support a local tax measure to fund transportation and public transit? *Yes* If so, which specific form of local taxation would you support? *I'm not familiar yet with the recent tax measures for public transportation.*

70. Do you support providing universal free transit passes to students in partnership with Regional Transit (or other local transit agencies)? *Yes We currently have free Regional Transit passes for all students in Twin Rivers School District.*

Signature: Christine Jefferson

Date: 10/30/2019

Christine Jefferson

Twin Rivers School Board Area 3

About Christine Jefferson?

Christine Jefferson is a wife, mother and god mother; she is a native of Sacramento. She is committed to the community and to public education.

After graduating from Grant Union High School in 1972; Christine retained her commitment by remaining as an employee from 1972 - 2009 when she retired as The Audio Visual Materials Technician for Grant Joint Union High School District/Twin Rivers Unified School District. Christine spent four years working part time for the City Of Sacramento as Community Public Relations Representative, where she developed newsletters for two communities.

Christine worked along side her husband Gregory as youth ministers for 20 years. She also ministered to inmates at Folsom State Prison for two years along side her husband who was a Chaplain at the time.

Christine became the secretary of the Del Paso Heights Community Association on November 5, 2011. She is currently mentoring Jr. High School girls at Martin Luther King Jr. High; she has been a mentor at Martin Luther King Jr. High for three years. Christine is best known for being the community photographer, she has taken thousands of photos of community events and shared them for free with the community families on social media.

Why Should You Vote For Christine?



"I can make a difference for the children of our district."

"I will serve to be fully accountable for what our school provides doesn't provide."

"I will Serve to be the voice in my community."

"I will serve because I want to see my district not only survive but thrive in these hard economic times."

"I will serve to shape the lives of our future."

"I will serve, not only for the children, but for the taxpayers and the community, Good schools lead to good jobs and a secure community."

I will serve because I like the challenge of finding ways to save money for our district."

