

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	Daniel Savala
Office Sought	Twin River School Dist (area 7)
FPPC ID	1421724
Occupation	Project Manager
Employer	Sunrise Orchards
Campaign Email	daniel@civicco.net
Campaign Phone	(916)294-5211
Campaign Website & Social Media	TBD
Campaign Manager or Contact Person	Daniel Savala
Campaign Consultants (list all)	N/A
Anticipated Budget & Funds Raised	\$10,000
Are you a dues-paying DPSC member?	No

Optional demographic questions:

Racial/Ethnic Identity	latino
Gender Identity/Pronouns	male
LGBTQ+?	no
Veteran?	no
Young Democrat (35 or under)?	no
Union Member?	no

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
Del Paso Blvd Partnership	board member	2013-2018
Mutual Assistance Network of DPH	board member	2014-2018
American Planning Association	member	2009-present

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?

Project Manager

5. What are your primary sources for fundraising? Please list your top three campaign contributors. As of 10/29/19

Los Rios College Federation of Teachers

Mitzu Miyagi/Agronomic Investments

Felix Lu, Second Green Holding Inc.

6. Do you voluntarily decline contributions from any particular contributor or class of contributors? If so, list who and why. Not at this time but I will limit contributions from charter schools or those affiliated with a charter school. my support for charter schools is limited to organizations that support oversight and accountability of charter schools. As a trustee, our public schools and keeping them open are my top priorities.

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. **No**

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? 7 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? I decided to run for this office based on the incumbents record of being accessible to her constituents and failure to address the basic needs of families with children in Area 7. I plan on making the Area 7 seat and the District accountable to families in Area 7. I will fight to keep schools open and make sure our facilities are maintained to the highest standard. In addition to the facilities, I will fight for reduced classroom sizes and an increase in supplemental learning programs for children.
13. What sets you apart from the other candidates for this office? The incumbent has been in office since 1971 and is completely out of touch with students and families she represents. I am accessible and place a high value on open communication and community based collaboration.
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? Having worked for the City of Sacramento, I was instrumental in engaging the communities of North Sac and through that outreach, helped secure more than 3 million dollars in capital improvements that improved student safety near schools. As a resident, I helped form the North Sac Youth Soccer Club and have coached little league baseball. I also helped "Del Paso Pony" secure funding to make improvements to their playing fields.

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 am not familiar with their budget and have limited access based on what they post online.
16. Does your district conduct its elections by-district (rather than at-large)? If not, would you support moving its elections to by-district? This is only the second "by district/area election for TRUSD. I am a strong supporter of district/area elections.
17. How will you work with educators, parents, and community advocates? What will you do to be accessible to community members and other stakeholders?

Community engagement is an important component to the successes I've had throughout my life and it will drive my campaign and how I serve my community. It starts with building good relationships and having a genuine desire to help solve problems. As the former president of the Bret Harte PTA, I leverged my relationships with the business community and local elected officials to help teachers and parents at Bret Harte improve sense of community on campus. In the past year, Superintendent Aguilar is now a regular visitor to our school.

18. What will you do to promote transparency and ethics at the school district? I will host regular meetings with parents and be vocal on social media on all issues concerning our students and families. I will also call for report on nepotism in the district.
19. What whistle-blower protections should there be for public employees and others who expose corruption, sexual harassment, or other illegal/unethical activity? I am unaware of any programs but I support the full protection and rights of whistleblowers.
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 most disadvantaged constituency in Area 7 are Latino and Hmong students and families in "Norlato". My first priority for this area is to keep their schools open and to work with the City of Sacramento to help improve student safety. I will also make sure we double down on our commitment to the "Hmong Saturday School" that is currently run by HIP, with limited financial support from the district. I will also make sure we have parent advocates and liaisons at each school site.

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? Education and an open/committed conversation with students and their families about the importance of supporting/preventing bullying and harassment of our LGBT students and families. I will make this a top priority of mine, as I do in my own home.

27. What will you do to end discrimination in access to, and the provision of, high quality education? There are a lot of things I can do, big and small. But the best answer to that question is knowing that I was once one of these students who had a number of barriers and challenges to obtaining a high quality education. I went to 9 different elementary schools. I lived in a low income home and my mother struggled, she could barely make it home in time to make dinner, let alone help me with my homework. I struggled early because of it and it took years for me to catch up. It was a cycle I got out of and I made it out for more than just one reason or program. It was a combination of support systems that pushed and pulled me through, all the way to Los Rio Community College and Cal State Northridge. I've seen a lot of great programs and I've seen some that weren't so great.

28.

29. What will you do to close the pay gap?

I would ask the district to track pay/equity and develop a policy that addresses any gender or other pay gaps. Right now I am unsure if the district has any policy.

30. What will you do to protect immigrant communities? Do you support the adoption of a safe haven school district policy? Yes I support safe haven schools and the adoption of a policy for TRUSD.

31. 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 do not support limits on free speech.

32. Is there a school-to-prison pipeline in your school district? If so, what will you do to close that pipeline? There is no "school to prison" pipeline in TRUSD but they

do have their own police department. I do not support having a full-time police force in our schools. Having police patrol our campuses has a negative impact on the relationships between residents of Del Paso Heights and law enforcement.

33. What are the issues affecting students of color in your district and will you do to address those issues? There are a number of issues that affect students of color, the most important thing we can do right away is make sure our classroom/teachers have the best tool available to help students succeed in the 21st century.
34. 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? Yes I support the hiring of SRO's, I am opposed to funding a full-time police department.
35. What will you do to ensure that special needs students receive the services they need to succeed? I will make sure that our budget support special education at service levels that are appropriate for students. I will make sure funding is meeting the needs of our students. That is a high priority.
36. What will you do to ensure that English Learner (EL) students receive the support they need to succeed? How will you ensure that non-English speaking parents are able to fully participate in their child's education (including participation at public meetings)? Through the hiring and training of our parent advocates and liaisons. Funding for before and after school programs that work and better recruitment for our ELAC advisory boards.

Section 4 – Healthcare

37. Do you support Medicare-for-All?

Yes/No YES

38. What is your position on parental notification prior to a minor terminating a pregnancy? As a parent, I would hope my daughter would come to me first. I want the first opportunity to be a parent and support her.
39. What measures would you support to ensure adequate mental health services for all? I would support increasing spending at the county level and advocate for reimbursement from the State's part of medical coverage/programs.
40. What will you do to help address high child mortality rates in the Black community in Sacramento County? Unknown at this time

41. What will you do to ensure that all students have access to nutritious meals at school and at home? Support free breakfast and lunch, as well as summer lunch and recreational programing. I would also support a program that allows students to take leftovers home.

Section 5 – Good Jobs for All

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

Yes/No YES

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

Yes/No NO

44. Describe your relationship with organized labor.

I do not have a relationship with organized labor.

45. 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?

Twin Rivers United Educators
I would like to have a close working relationship with TRUE. I hope to meet with teachers regularly to make sure I know what they need from their Area 7 Trustee.

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

47. What is the role of the office that you seek in promoting good jobs and economic development for our region? It is limited but we are providing the workforce of the future for the region. Students must be prepared for 4 years schools and vocation training. We must do everything we can to improve educational outcomes for students in this area.

48. 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? Cost and net benefit analysis of our admin spending and spending on our full-time police department. Two issues that are most important to improving educational outcomes; teachers having the tools they need to be successful and are we providing resources that put children in the best position to be successful once in the classroom. As we deal with budget shortfalls, this is what I'm protecting first.

49. Is income inequality an issue in your community? If so, what steps will you take to address it? Not an issues I deal with in this position but income inequality does have an impact on the schools I would represent.

Section 6 - Local Economy & Public Resources

50. Under what circumstances would you support raising revenues to support your school district by means of a bond or parcel tax measure? I would support a local bond.

51. Under what conditions would you support the privatization of public or natural resources (e.g., publicly-owned buildings, schools)? If the benefit served in the interest of the long term success of the district and is measurable.

52. What is your position on "public/private partnerships"? I support public private partnerships that improve the quality of education and our community in Area 7.

53. When is it appropriate to use public money or tax incentives to subsidize private business? When there is a direct, measurable benefit that couldn't be achieved without the private business.

54. What is your plan to support and encourage local small business development?

Section 7 – Environment

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

Yes/No Unknown

56. What will you do to address climate change and reduce our carbon footprint in your role? Support the sustainable growth a development policies of the district and be an advocate for the region.

Section 8 – Education

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

Yes/No No

58. Please explain LCFF and LCAP in three sentences or fewer. Have you read your district's LCAP?

LCFF is a new policy that allows more input and control of monies spent at your school site. It lets school decide what programs are funded at their site.

59. Do you support Restorative Justice and funding such programs?

Unknown at this time

60. What will you do to minimize bullying and promote tolerance in school?

Increase community engagement with parents and their children.

61. What role do you believe charter schools should play in public education?

Charter schools can be helpful in some areas but for TRUSD, they have had a negative impact. I would not support more charter schools in the District.

62. Do you support reforming teacher tenure, due process protections, or teacher salary and benefits? Please explain.

I am open to any reform that is open and constructive, and leads to better outcomes in the classroom.

63. Is there an achievement gap in your district? If so, what will you do to close it?

Yes there is an achievement gap in Area 7. One of the ways we can reduce it is by funding supplemental programs that work. This means social/emotional learning programs for kids, funding supplemental reading and math programs, and reducing our classroom sizes for our teachers.

64. Is your school district de facto segregated? If so, what will you do to end that?

No

65. Do you support ethnic studies? How would you implement ethnic studies in your school district?

Yes I support ethnic studies.

66. 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?

It starts with adopting the right hiring strategies and making sure we're recruiting diverse and culturally competent employees. We must also continue to train and support our existing employees.

67. 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?

As a trustee, I will do everything in my power to make sure any students who wants to participate in a special program can. I would hope that the special program is in the District but if it isn't, I would still support the student in any way I could.

Section 9 – Housing

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

Yes/No I support the idea of “rent stabilization” and other programs that support affordable housing options. I did not support the rent control ordinance as it was written in the City of Sacramento.

69. What is your plan to address student homelessness in your community?
As a city resident, I will support a sanctioned outdoor campsite and or a temporary shelter. (YIMBY)

Section 10 – Transportation and Public Transit

70. Would you support a local tax measure to fund transportation and public transit?
If so, which specific form of local taxation would you support? I would not support a tax measure for our current public transit system. I would support increased development of housing and office space near transit stops.

71. Do you support providing universal free transit passes to students in partnership with Regional Transit (or other local transit agencies)? Yes I support the universal transit pass for students K-12.

Signature:

Daniel Savala

Date: 10/30/19