

Berkeley School Board Elections

Presented to Wellstone Democratic Club

Our Recommendations for Endorsements

3 seats open



Ka'Dijah Brown Incumbent



Strengths:

- She is a teacher
- Raises in authentic way equity issues
- She currently plays a strong role on the Board
- She has a track record of working well with the BUSD budget. Her strengths and familiarity with fiscal issues and she has an emphasis on ensuring equitable funding for the students with greatest needs
- SPED she has been researching the impact of Special Ed on Black and Brown students
- Although she works for a charter, she was adamant in her opposition to any charters in Berkeley. She understands the issue of privatization and will not accept any \$\$ from Charter organizations.
- She is endorsed by the CFT.

Weaknesses

- SPED although she is aware of the issues of disproportionate numbers of Blk and Brwn students, she does not currently have a strong analysis of the issues but she is interested pursuing with the new Superintendent.

Recommendation:

We recommend endorsement

Jennifer Shanoski



Strengths:

- Both a teacher of Chemistry and President of the Teachers' union at Peralta Community Colleges.
- She has an emphasis on early learning as an important way of countering over emphasis on SPED for Blk & Brown students.
- She wants to strengthen the relationship of HS and community College to facilitate the acquisition of A- G requirements.
- She is familiar and capable of analyzing budgets to ensure priority of LCAP goals.
- She is absolutely opposed to charter school and privatization and will not accept Charter \$\$.
- She is single with children in District schools
- She is endorsed by the CFT and Kate Harrison.

Weaknesses

- She has no obvious weaknesses.

Recommendation:

We recommend endorsement

Mike Chang



Strengths:

- He is extremely knowledgeable about education. He works in the Federal Dept of Civil Rights. He is a parent at BUSD, active in the PTA and lecturer of ethnic studies at UC Berkeley. Equity for all students is a high priority
- He is endorsed by CFT
- He is opposed to charters and will not accept charter \$\$
- He is a strong policy person and has worked on policy development with several Districts.
- He also has experience working with Restorative Justice

Weakness:

- His ideas about specific changes to District structure and functioning could be an asset, but his strong views may cause some tension with the administration.

Recommendation:

We recommend endorsement

Reichi Lee



Strengths:

- She is an active parent at BUSD
- She is interested in a stronger profile and access to resources by the Asian population.
- She is an attorney and has worked with children in foster care and is aware of their special needs.
- She is an active part of the PTA.
- She is currently involved in proposed name change at Hastings to reflect our Indigenous heritage.

Weaknesses

- No clarity on opposition or support for Charter Schools.
- She bumped up against the CFT on reopening schools after pandemic closures.

Recommendation:

No endorsement

Tatiana Guerrero Ramos



Strengths:

- Parent with children at BUSD
- She has a child with intellectual deficits and has experience and knowledge of the SPED program.
- She has a Masters in Learning Differences
- She had the most indepth description of why there were so many Blk and Brwn students in the program.
- She described her analysis on references for children of color were for mental health and acting out issues rather than providing necessary academic assistance.
- Therefore their achievement needs were not being met.
- She runs "Classroom Matters " a tutorial program.
- She identifies problems with District support Autistic children.

Weaknesses

- Potential conflict with the District re: "Classroom Matters," which she runs, but pon questioning felt was a non-issue.
- Excessively negative about District functioning.

Recommendation:

No endorsement

Mara Kolesas



Strengths:

- She's an immigrant from Argentina and is an active parent and sees herself as a strong advocate for Latinx and bilingual students.
- She's interested in Expanded day programs
- she's interested in expanding literacy programs.
- She is opposed to charter schools and privatization and will not accept \$\$ from Charter organizations

Weaknesses

- She had good ideas however was somewhat scattered in her presentations.
- Concerned about the opening plan being negotiated by the District and the Union.

Recommendation:

No endorsement