



Pajaro Valley Federation of Teachers, AFT 1936

School Board Candidate Questionnaire for November 2018 Election

*Please complete and return the questionnaire no later than August 28, 2018, to the
Pajaro Valley Federation of Teachers, AFT 1936
734 East Lake Ave Ste. 14, Watsonville, CA 95076. Fax (831) 722-3009.*

Candidate's Name _____ Jennifer Schacher

Home Address _____ 93 Pelican Dr Watsonville

Phone Numbers _____ 734-622-0600

Email Address _____ jenschacher@gmail.com

Occupation and Employer _____ self-employed

Work Address _____

Phone Numbers _____

Email Address _____

Campaign Name _____ Jennifer Schacher for PVUSD 2018

Address _____ same as above

Campaign Manager N/A Campaign Treasurer Heidi Schacher

ID Number Do not have yet

see attached sheets

1. Why are you interested in serving on the board of Trustees? What is your understanding of your role and responsibilities as a board member? _____

2. How long have you lived in the school district? Do you have children in the district or children who have graduated from the district? If so, which schools do/did they attend? _____

3. Have you previously held any public elected or appointed positions, including school district committees? If so, please explain? _____

4. Please list all of the community groups in which you are involved and what role you have played. _____
5. Have you signed any pledges or made any promises to any group(s)? If so, what are these? _____
6. What are your top priorities for use of school funding in our district? How should the district prioritize in response to funding shortfalls? _____
7. How can the district best serve our English Language Learners, both students and their parents? _____
8. How do you suggest the district incorporate the Common Core standards to better serve our students? _____
9. In light of PVUSD's underperforming schools, how would you suggest these schools better serve students? _____
10. What can the district do to decrease the dropout rate? _____
11. What do you think the district policy should be about parent school choice regarding underperforming schools? _____
12. What is your stance on charter schools? _____
13. What is your approach to minimizing cultural conflicts while honoring the diversity of our student population? _____
14. How can we recruit and retain experienced, competent staff given the high cost of living and less competitive salaries? _____
15. How will you obtain input from faculty, staff and others in developing policies and making decisions? _____

16. Do you have a special area of interest that you would like to incorporate into your work as a school board member? _____

17. What is your experience and knowledge of collective bargaining? _____

18. How can our district best protect and preserve the physical, mental and environmental health of our students and staff? _____

19. Given our inadequate education funding, how would you prioritize PVUSD money for Adult Education? _____

20. Do you support Project Labor Agreements? Please state your reasons. _____

21. List the groups and individuals that have endorsed your campaign. _____

22. How much will you spend on the election? How much will be your own money? How much time will you commit to the campaign? _____

23. Do you seek the support of PVFT? If yes, what form of support do you desire? _____

Candidate Signature Jennifer Schacher

Date 8/27/18

PVFT Questionnaire for November 2018 Election

1. As a mom with two young children, I have an active interest in children's education. I think our goals as parents and teachers are for all children to succeed. We need to be team players for successful education to commence. I would like to bridge the gap between the school boards, parents, students, teachers, Classified Employees, and the community to build a solid educational foundation. I will take my responsibilities as a Board Member to heart to ensure proper education for all students, building a more dynamic curriculum and retaining and recruiting qualified teachers and staff.

2. I have lived in the district for over the past ten years. I have two daughters, one of which attends Watsonville Charter School of the Arts and one who is three years old and will be starting in two years.

3. No, I have not.

4. I have been involved with the following Community and philanthropic groups:

- Watsonville Police Activities League- Teaching STEAM classes for children.
- WCSA- Active Parent and Committee member, volunteer of the month.
- Operation Holiday Cheer- Collecting items for families in need during the holiday season.
- Sling and baby carrier drive for refugees
- Collection and drop off for California Wildfire victims.

5. No, I have not made any pledges or promises to any group(s). I come to this election as a fair and open-minded parent in the PVUSD. My commitment is to the Children of this District and it's Teachers who create magical places to learn and deliver the curriculum that each child needs in their class.

6. Funding is a complex issue for school districts – especially ours. With a focus on social justice and equity, we must make funding priorities focused on the following:

- Curriculum and tools to help students excel and teachers to succeed. We need to reduce constant changes to the curriculum since this wastes valuable resources.
- Paying teachers a real living wage that will allow them to live in the communities that they teach in. We need to keep comparable salaries to surrounding districts to retain and attract qualified teachers.

7. In order to serve our English learners the district needs to provide additional writer/reader workshops for teachers, so that teachers will have the ability to help children progress.

The district needs to promote more curriculum that will help students achieve success at their own differentiated levels.

We need to continue to offer additional support to classrooms in the following ways:

- Academic afterschool programs across the District.
- Outreach to parents and families to also give them the tools to succeed at home.
- Support for no combination classes and smaller class sizes for all schools and all grade levels in the District.

8. PVUSD should have done a much better job rolling out Common Core than they did. From my conversations with Teachers, the District left them to their own devices for the first few years of Common Core. Teachers were told to focus on Common Core and create their own curriculum. What was Administration thinking? Teachers don't have enough time to teach, plan and give feedback now let alone research and create their own curriculum!

The same Common Core Curriculum needs to be available to all teachers. Curriculum Committees consisting of Teachers from the various grade levels should be convened, curriculum piloted and discussions held in regards to the rigor. The training of teachers to incorporate this Common Core Curriculum should be in the

classrooms through teacher seminars, videos and supporting materials. An outreach program for parents to enable them to better understand Common Core and implement at home would also be excellent.

9. To help underperforming schools succeed and to better serve students it is necessary:

- Schools need to encourage more parental involvement.
- Interpreters need to be readily available for parent/teacher meetings.
- Smaller class sizes for children to learn and be encouraged to succeed at their own level.
- After school programs such as reading/math/science clubs available for K-6.
- Paying teachers to help run and implement these programs.
- Multiple family nights to encourage family involvement.
- Utilize community resources such as library programs.
- Supporting teachers through reading/writing workshops.
- Look at low performing students and provide tools for them to excel.

10. It takes a village to raise a child, and this is true when trying to decrease drop out rates.

We need to have readily available after school programs and in classroom help for low-performing students in K-8. This will engage students and instill a love of learning.

We need Kid Power training to decrease bullying and increase empathy for others. We need to promote a positive re-enforcement in class rooms through team environments. This can be aided by having family nights with fun activities such as coding nights, game nights, etc. to encourage students' interest and parental involvement.

With older students we need to show them the reality and the depressing statistics of what their future could be if they dropped out. We need to reach out to the Community at large and get more community involvement. Providing older students with a positive place to be, just like the younger ones, is important. Additionally, we must focus on not only academics but vocational and technical training as well. Providing additional multiple pathways to graduation through technology and/or alternative schooling is important.

11. From a parent's perspective I understand the dilemma, yet coming from a family of teachers I see both sides. We as parents and teachers want what is best for "our children and students." No child should be left behind. In under performing schools we need all types of students since students can benefit from their peers, but this shouldn't come through sacrificing education. Smaller class sizes, tutoring support, encouragement and parental involvement need to be a priority to raise performance at these schools.

12. My daughter attends Watsonville Charter School of The Arts, and we are very happy with her progress. Not all children learn the same. We have fine examples of Charter Schools in our District. If a Charter school offers something that other schools do not, and has widespread support within our District then I am in favor of it. As we all know, our children are not cookie cutter learners and we, as parents and teachers should move forward to give opportunities to all modalities of learners.

13. One such suggestion would be that schools might promote *Kid Power* training starting in kindergarten. It needs to be part of the curriculum on a daily basis with one longer session per week. This will instill confidence and empathy in kids and help prevent bullying. Using classroom curriculum to promote diversity and provide multi-cultural activities is invaluable. Such activities as ongoing multi-cultural days/nights at schools, inviting community participation, would be a joyous and constructive way in which to share the diversity of our neighborhoods.

14. There's really no other answer in order to recruit/retain staff- but to make salaries in line with the cost of living here in Santa Cruz County. The district needs to work with the community and city council to make affordable housing available. The district needs to provide hiring bonuses to recruit qualified teachers, and higher degrees of education need the benefit of higher pay.

15. To obtain input I will invite teachers and Classified Employees, and community members to submit ideas/concerns through emails, letters, and welcoming their attendance and voice at Board Meetings.

Trustees should be able to freely visit area schools for collaboration and information gathering.

16. I want to encourage more parental involvement in our schools. Have the district provide anti-bullying training and curriculum district wide for teachers, students, and parents. I would also like to aide in expanding and incorporating more hands-on learning activities and STEAM into the district's curriculum.

17. Collective bargaining is a tool that working people through their unions negotiate contracts with their employers to determine pay, benefits hours, leave and policies.

I grew up in a union family. My mom was the editor for her local union paper. My dad was very active in the union. He started off as a committeeman at his auto plant and eventually became President of his Local 140, Autoworkers. I was even able to intern at the auto plant when I was in college.

18. Once again I feel that anti-bullying training is crucial starting in kindergarten to prevent bullying and instill confidence in our children. Counselors/Psychologists need to be available starting in Kindergarten for children and their families as well as teachers, staff and administration.

Schools need to provide nutritious options such as vegan and organic/non GMO foods. Groundkeepers need to minimize use of or eliminate the use of toxic chemicals and poisons.

19. Adult education is important, particularly now for PVUSD as the district is providing all the adult education county wide. Adult education is a tool to lift adults and children from poverty. It provides an increase in income to families and instills pride in gaining an education. It has, no doubt, help change the very fabric of our Community.

20. Yes, I support project labor agreements. Growing up in a union family I understand that unions are formed to protect members and help raise work standards.

21. None as of yet. I just started campaigning. I do have the support of my wonderful mother in law Heidi Schacher who just retired in

2017 from PVUSD. I also have the support of family, friends and neighbors and I hope that I will have the support of PVFT.

22. I am at the start of campaigning. I am not a professional politician. I am running because I want to make an impact on our childrens' education and help retain qualified teachers.

23. Yes, I seek the support of PVFT. I would love for you to help spread the word, come out and vote and do whatever you can to support your candidate of choice. I would also request that you support my campaign financially as well with a donation. I thank all of you for your time and consideration of me as your candidate of choice.

*** Receive Results ***

Receive job successful.

Job No.	5270
Address	8317223696
Name	
Start Time	08/28 12:14 PM
Call Length	01'37
Sheets	9
Result	OK