

1. Do you have prior experience serving on a governing board, including a school district board? Please list your prior board experience

My sole experience on a governing board was as a member with my late wife Christina, as members of a Coachella Valley HOA which Chris had inherited from her parents. After several years as HOA Board members- neither of us played golf- we resigned. I found the entire experience repugnant as a cabal of top officers were completely adverse to ameliorative ideas and accountability. As a pre-doctoral candidate at UC Berkeley, my duties as an employee of the Survey Research Center, included interviewing over a span of a dozen years, 28 school board members, including school board presidents. Attendance at scores of school board meetings and interviews with successive school board members and several superintendents and school districts, continued past receiving my Ph.D. Dr. Allen Wilson, Professor of Education at UC, was my doctoral advisor and principal investigator for the US Office of Education and i.e.: funding my doctoral research and evaluation of several projects designed to enhance the life chances of disadvantaged minority students. Appendix B, two of these studies: one, entitled Overcoming the Problems of the Handicapped Pupil: a Training-Research Model for the Inner City Elementary School- The Mainstreaming of Special Education Kids. Two, The Flying Classroom: Educational Revolution for Inner City Youth with the Cessna 150. NIE, Washington, DC (1973)

2. Have you worked on any school committees or participated in any school activities recently? Please list them

My sole recent experience some years ago was as a volunteer tutor at the Berkeley Unified School District.

3. Describe any other community or business activities in which you have participated. describe your role, and whether your work was volunteer or employment-related

I have been a member of a Baltimore,MD-based string quartet, blending this experience with my years of engagement in school board governance, I believe that the truly successful school districts worked where the school board functioned like a symphony orchestra; and their superintendent conducted his expertise-skills-experience as a nuanced conductor...comprehending the extent to which risk-innovation-socio-educational change was possible, risky, perilous.

4. Why do you want to be a school board member?

Because, having witnessed a near lifetime of proven/feasible, innovative, published, education enhancing projects, by myself and other dedicated individuals, be washed aside and forgotten

once the government soft money disappeared. I visualize a short gig with Alameda Unified School District as an opportunity to bring solitary projects to the attention of the board...especially ensuring the success of the forthcoming highly innovative curricula on Afro-American Studies.

5. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools?

I will quote individuals from my educational philosophy:

- i. "The unexamined life is not a life worth living" -Socrates
- ii. "Only a Republic based on men of knowledge and wisdom can survive"- Plato of Athens
- iii. "If it is necessary to instruct my classes in Evolution, one last time...knowing I will be arrested for teaching science...the truth. I am willing" -John Scopes, High School teacher, Dayton, Tennessee, 1924
- iv. " As I have instructed my five sons...several who have died in the effort, if my life is surefit in the cause of freedom from slavery, In the name of our common God, I go willingly."- John Brown. On trial for insurrection at Harper's Ferry, Maryland, 1859
- v. "I received, fortunately, my real education in two places. The first, was at the dinner table in Munich from two impoverished medical students, provided free room and board by my parents. The second, was in the Canton of Berne, at a farm-ranch school, following the outdoor, hands-on methodology of the education philosopher Enrico Pestalozzi." -Hans Albert Einstein(son of Albert Einstein), Ph.D, Professor of Hydrology, UC Berkeley as repeated to myself, Lee Conway.

6. What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?

Please see above. I believe the role of the school board is to enhance the lives chances of all students while simultaneously sounding and listening responsibly to the entire community; and, of course relying on the superintendents' experience... because as Machiavelli's The Prince stated, "you cannot hope to please everybody".

7. How does the board's role differ from that of the superintendent?

The Board is composed of the duly elected representatives of the people. It is their job to hire a competent, educational leader. Finally, as part-timers, they must depend upon the superintendent most of the time. But, the board is the final/legal judge of the superintendent's performance.

8. What should be the relationship between the board members and the administration in the handling of school concerns?

In order to fulfill my research/evaluation duties, for UC Berkeley and the US Federal agencies, I had to promise all of my school district contacts complete/total confidentiality. My doctoral sponsor, Professor Wilson, on behalf of UC Survey Research Center, also committed me and UC to total confidentiality. So, I would be happy to be interviewed by The board members should they require further response to this question.

9. Briefly describe how you believe you will contribute to the educational process.

Were I to be selected, I plan to keep my mouth shut unless invited by the board, specifically for my input. I would plan to learn the critical issues facing the school district. E.g., obtaining increased funding from governmental sources, replacing losses in state level funding. Having had decades writing successful grants. I may be helpful in the forthcoming effort to augment school resources. My first graduate work experience was at The University Of Hawaii, attempting to determine the mechanism/dynamics of diverse, multi-ethnic, bigotry-free society. Research, travel, academics in the area of egalitarianism has, from my military experience at The Military Intelligence Language school being a constant theme. The major area, where I believe I might make an informative input is in the area comprising the forthcoming Advanced Placement course in African-American studies. Should the director of equity, ~~Shirley~~^{Shirley} Edwards, believe I have something to offer.... That would be great. (See attachment Article from The New York Times) on The abuse of African-American students fraudulently destroying their future by enticing them into huge college and university debts with The promise of professional careers. Financial Education and The History of asset theft from African-Americans in The form of slavery (stolen labor) land and property theft (share-cropping) land seizure, loan-sharking etc. San Francisco Chronicle December 1st, 2023 highlighted Student abuse in California schools. I believe that The number one problem in The United States public schools is a notable absence of accountability. From my brief volunteer work in charter schools and review of state wide evaluation data ... I believe that with rare exceptions that charter schools have evolved into a rip-off of monies from established Public School districts ... Unfairly plundering public school coffers, with no demonstrable improvement in teacher, nor the student outcomes. I firmly believe that by demonstrating that The public school can be structurally and administratively designed so as to eliminate all violence and bullying and school-yard fights, stigmatizing speech, school absenteeism ...e.g., pathology and abuse..The public will regain The whole hearted confidence that made The United States Public Education The greatest institution since The Athenian gymnasias of 500 B.C..... Lasting until circa 1960. The school community worker project, published by U.C. Berkeley survey research center. In 1969 required nearly five years of research, data collection, and evaluation. Subject. Of my doctoral dissertation The federal education authorities hailed The publication, The training and deployment of school community workers at six elementary schools totally eliminated All of The aforementioned pathology. Violence: Zero. Brawls and Spats were instantly stopped and the protagonists departed shaking hands Absenteeism: Zero. The student that fails to show up by nine a.m., The school community worker quickly travels to The absentees home. Either The absentee is sick in bed... Or in one memorable incident Floyd Macgee. The school community worker at Neestrom school, was absent for two days The parents of the two missing absentee students still at home, crying their parents were in a Sacramento hospital, having survived an auto-crash on The way back from Reno. Accountability. In The case of public education is more a function of symbiotic responsiveness at The Elemental level. Not an algorithmic Artificial Intelligence.

10. What do you see as the strengths of the school district?

I believe that The AUSD eminently functions like an accomplished symphony orchestra... Harmony, tonality sensitive reflective collegial to The board Is fortunate , being led by An unusually competent superintendent . Unusual, because his former school-district , Is highly reputed...probably The most innovative school district In The state. And, being Berkely , for sure the most challenging.

11. What do you see as the area(s) most needing improvement in the school district?

At The risk of repeating myself, I believe that The most pressing need Is to alert All Alamedans about all The Good things that are going on, to ensure, especially In these times. That they must for the sake of their children and our democracy to continuously provide first rate education. " If you believe education is expensive, just try ignorance. (Thomas Jefferson 1805) " democracy , without a well educated citizenry is an illusion. " (Thomas Jefferson, 1806) The school board should broadcast its mission and its accomplishments, its innovations prominently. I have seen The publication and wide dissemination of high school newspapers of high quality high school newspapers contribute to the foregoing.

12. What other pertinent information would you like the board to

consider? With The exception of my military experience in anthropological and sociological research In Mexico and Guatemala, Japan and Hawaii I have been a life-long Alamedan. I believe that In these times only The public schools can, and must provide and administer In The below listed crucial areas, 1. Hygiene and Information The educational curriculum must early on, educate on The suicidality of rugs in any, however minuscule quantity 2. Nutrition The Berkeley Unified school district and The Salinas school district have astounding food services . The Berkeley Cafeteria at Martin Luther King Junior High , and The garden designed by Alice Waters IS Phenomenal. 3. Athletics at Alameda high school there were at least twelve types of athletics and free coaching available. Track and field , alone features sixteen track and field events every one of us, participating In Athletics and sports, seven days a week, all year long. We All made the team. We were unknowingly, totally integrated. Our Nisei classmates were amazing basketball and baseball players, until They disappeared in January of 1942. We all cried . Again, In a lifetime of athletic engagement , I have never encountered a drug addict nor a future suicidal candidate amongst Olymic category athletics. Of course, today huge numbers of athletes are on steroids. 4. Finally, less stress , and less emphasis on University and college degrees . Great stress on technical trades, craft , entrepreneurial , artistic, skills. Albert Einstein, according to his son, was kicked out of his Munich junior high... His parents were told " Take him home. He;s lazy, impudent, he refuses to memorize lists, he must have a mental problem. Take him home. Today, That very same junior high Is named after Albert Einstein. It's now a famous student that was pushed out of the school. A long list of high school dropouts includes Wilbur Wright. Thomas Edison, Steve jobs, Bill Gates, and of course our greatest President, who never got to a formal school, and Sacajawea, who never got to an informal school but Is memorialized by more statues than any human being, In North America.