

Gary Joralemon

Candidate for Lucia Mar Unified School District Area 5

"MERIT-FAIRNESS-EQUALITY"

Candidate's Platform

- Returning to a more "*parent and student centered*" decision making process.
- Strengthen partnerships with our law enforcement agencies, including *full* support for School Resource Officers.
- Moving away from *political partisanship* toward more centrist and *non-partisan* decision making.
- Students must be protected. This is our most vital duty. Millions of dollars have been paid out in settlements to the families of students who have been sexually assaulted or alleged to have been sexually assaulted by District faculty and staff. We need to address deficiencies in our risk management practices by improving how we screen perspective employees, and train site administrators to be more vigilant in monitoring for warning signs that harmful activity may be occurring. Allow me to be completely clear on this point. We have a *sacred* duty to keep our students safe and free from any abuse, harassment and/or inappropriate contact. This is our most vital mission.
- Full support for athletics and the arts. A significant number of our students struggle academically but excel in these areas. For these students, artistic and/or athletic activity may be their primary motivator for coming to school.

- Full support for physical education. According to the National Center for Disease Control, child and adolescent obesity has reached *epidemic* levels and impacts approximately 14.4 million youngsters. This is especially prevalent in children of color and those from low-income homes.
- Full support for STEM curriculum (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math).
- Additional Evidence Based Drug Education (with a particular focus on the fentanyl crisis).
- The District has lost approximately 8% of our students since the Covid-19 school closures. When a teacher leaves for another job an *exit interview* is conducted to identify the reasons why they are leaving. This information is invaluable in *retaining* good teachers. I believe that any time a parent(s) pulls their child out of school we should conduct an exit interview for the same reasons. We should be ***fighting*** to keep each departing student in LMUSD schools, and not just passively allow them to go.
- One of my top priorities, as the nationwide teacher shortage reaches crisis, is to hire and retain ***the very best*** teachers. LMUSD must commit to mentoring and supporting its teachers by reducing untenable workloads, valuing their input, getting administrators back into classrooms, and rebuilding the concept of team in dealing with student interventions.
- Curriculum for any LMUSD course should be provided upon request to any parent within two business days.