



CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

Please fill out and return by April 20, 2016 (12:00 p.m. deadline) to the School Services Building at 510 G Street, Antioch, CA 94509. Attention: Superintendent's Office

Date: April 14, 2016

Hask (Last Name), Gary (First Name), D. (Initial)

Business Address: Phone:

Home Address: Phone:

Occupation: Retired No. of Years Residing in District: 47

Do you have children in the district's schools? Yes No [X] Ordained Deacon

If yes, please list ages and schools:

Have you worked on any school committees or participated in any school activities recently? Please list them. See #1

Other community or business activities? See #2

Why do you feel you want to be a school board member? See #3

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

see #4

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

see #5

What could be done to help improve communications and relationships among the board, staff, students, parents, and community?

see #6

What should be the relationships between the board members and the administration in the handling of school concerns?

see #7

In what area of function as a board member would you have a particular interest or skill (i.e., public relations, budget, negotiations, evaluation, long-range planning, facilities, policy, etc.)?

see #8

What do you see as the strengths of the Antioch Unified School District?

see #9

What do you see as the areas of most needing improvement in the school district?

see #10

#1 Have you worked on any school committees or participated in any school activities recently?

After 46 years of consecutive AUSD full-time employment in different capacities ... and after about 17 years attending school board meetings almost 100% of the time (including 4 years as an elected member of the board) ... I chose a year ago December to take a "sabbatical", as it were, from consistent physical on-going involvement in the AUSD (even though I went to a number of school events during that time - including the 50th anniversary of Sutter School's beginning (where I taught), the W.H.O. (We Honor Ours) lunch and the AUSD Retirement Dinner. My sabbatical has now ended.

#2 Other community or business activities?

After retiring from the AUSD and as an independent small business owner in Antioch, I spent 4 years as a school board member doing all that is involved as part of that journey and commitment. For the past 12 years, I have been an ordained deacon in the Diocese of Oakland - assigned to St. Ignatius of Antioch (my home parish) - directing and participating in any number of ministries within the community of Antioch and the east county as a whole.

#3 Why do you feel you want to be a school member?

As a long-time educator, I have the perspective, background and understanding that education is a human-driven business ... on all levels. Been there - done that. The bottom line to me is this: as school board members, our primary responsibility must be to educated kids in the best way we can ... using and allocating any resources necessary to make that happen. As an individual with experience - personally and professionally - in the arena, I would hope to be a continuing asset in making that happen. Great responsibility; awesome opportunity.

#4 What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools?

The mandate of public education is to make a difference in the lives of each and every child that walks through "that door" - as it were - by educating them in any way we appropriately can. Knowing that approximately 20% of Antioch's population is either employed by the AUSD in some manner or are in our AUSD classrooms on any given workday, makes that mandate even more imperative, important, appropriate and necessary to take that responsibility seriously. I look forward to having

the opportunity to continue serving both the employees and the young people in Antioch.

#5 What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that promise?

The role of the School Board is to provide oversight and direction to the Superintendent so he might direct cabinet and other district employees - philosophically, educationally, financially, and directionally ... in 5 basic and principal directions: (1) to hire and retain qualified personnel; (2) to insure adequate training and education within the district as well as in the community; (3) to prioritize/allocate/and supply necessary materials, resources, facilities and personnel top make all happen, (4) to monitor what is happening in the district and how that affects the community on a consistent basis, and (5) to adjust all of the above on a consistent basis when necessary.

#6 What could be done to improve communications and relationships among the board, staff, students, parents and community?

Many efforts have been made by the district to address those concerns over the past 5-6 years - both personally and professionally. My understanding is that those efforts continue. An obvious suggestion is that they be enhanced by ongoing efforts to encourage members of the community to access what is available to them in whatever manner possible. Obviously - accuracy, timeliness, transparency and transformative information is the goal on an on-going basis with regard the both communication and the relationships established as a result of it.

#7 What should be the relationships between the board members and the administration in the handling of school concerns?

Board members are seen as the “identity” of the school district. While that is true, the Board’s employee is the Superintendent. Communication often flows in many different directions - between the board, employees, students and the community. But, “professional” direction is given by the Board to the Superintendent to address and accomplish “whatever” needs to be put in place throughout the District.

#8 In what area of function as a board member would you have a particular interest or skill (ie public relations, budget, negotiations, evaluation, long-range planning, facilities, policy, etc)?

Based on my experiences during both my years of service in the AUSD and in being an ordained deacon, I would think that my personality and approach to “issues” is best defined as “consistent” and “low-key” (as in willing to “work “together” toward a solution”) preferring to work in the “background” - certainly not in abrasive or egotistical ways. Specifically, from the list suggested ... public relations, negotiations, evaluation and policy would be my strengths.

#9 What do you see as the strengths of the Antioch Unified School District?

In an increasingly diverse community, I believe that there is a consistent professional and personal caring - at all levels in the AUSD - to address the needs of the community ,, being open to whatever options and directions needed to help all students and their families to be successful to their level of commitment for success.

#10 What do you see as the areas of most needing improvement in the school district?

Not necessarily defined as “needing improvement”, but priorities may well be: to continue working through LCFF priorities ... continuing to implement Common Core appropriately ... to fully fund and continue to enhance “linked learning” options ... to hire a new Superintendent and CBO in a timely manner ... to address effectively staffing issues - including new hires, retirements, and ”temporary subs” ... to continue working with employee groups ... continuing to have open communication with effected employees and the community as whole.