

CCE COPE Questionnaire for Candidates for the PCCD Board of Trustees

1. Please summarize your background and describe how it has prepared you to effectively serve as a Community College Trustee. What motivates you to run for this Board seat?

As the Chief of Facilities Planning and Construction for San Diego Unified School District, my mission is to create teaching and learning environments that foster education. I have been working with educators, classified staff, students, parents and community members to build and renovate school facilities for over 18 years. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aerospace Engineering and a Master of Degree in Computer Information Systems. I have successfully worked with all stakeholders to design, build and modernize schools that better support education. Our project planning and design staff who are classified employees, incorporate the perspectives of a variety of classified employees performing various school functions to ensure that our schools are safer and easier to operate and maintain.

During my career at San Diego Unified, I have been a classified employee member of CSEA OTBS Chapter 788. My experience as a classified employee helps me to fully appreciate, understand and support classified employees. Classified employees provide essential functions that keep our colleges and schools operating. At San Diego Unified, classified employees provide: food services, security, office and clerical work, school maintenance and operations, academic assistance, library and media assistance, computer services and much more. Classified employees are the engine that keeps our schools operating and safely supporting our students and teachers.

As a former classified employee now a manager, I have great working relationship with the team of classified staff in my organization and OTBS Chapter 788 union representatives. I have successfully led efforts to increase funding for facilities renovation and construction at San Diego Unified. I have increased the number of classified staff in our facilities organization from 93 positions to 130 positions during the past 5-years.

My candidacy for Palomar Board has been endorsed by the Palomar Faculty Federation AFT 6161 and the San Diego and Imperial County Labor Council. If you are interested in speaking to a union leader about my work at San Diego Unified, please feel free to contact Debora Beaver, CESA Chief Union Steward, OTBS Chapter 788 and State Education Committee Chair P: 619-278-6721 or C:619-997-0349. I can provide additional union references from the Labor Council and local building trades if you need them.

I am running for Palomar Community College Board because I believe that Palomar College has an abundance of unrealized potential that can be unlocked to benefit the students and community. Community Colleges play a very important role in our society preparing students for higher education, and workforce training. I enrolled in classes at a community college that I couldn't get at SDSU. My sister became a registered nurse at Palomar

Community College and my daughter takes classes at Palomar. Palomar is a good school with the potential to serve more students. As the population of the District has grown Palomar Community College enrollment has stagnated. I want to help Palomar College achieve its full potential.

2. What role do you feel Classified Staff should play in carrying out the educational mission of a community college District?

Classified staff are essential and integral to Palomar Community College providing a quality education. Palomar College for its students. Without classified staff Palomar Community College would not function and serve its educational mission. Classified staff provide a wide range of essential services: custodial, landscaping, security, accounting, finance, student services, human resources, computer systems, food service and building maintenance. Classified staff are the engine that keeps Palomar Community College moving.

3. Given the current State budget deficit forecast, what would be some of the guiding principles you would direct management to follow if we indeed do end up having to cut the District's budget even further?

My primary goal is to grow enrollment, serve more students and increase the overall budget revenue. If budget future budget cuts were required then I would insist that Palomar Community College management first analyze and reduce purchase of materials, supplies and contracted services. If after all reductions or elimination of contracted services and materials have been realized and if further budget reductions were needed then our College should reduce or consolidate management positions. Reductions to staff and faculty should be a last resort because staff and faculty most directly serve the needs of students. Staff and faculty are essential to the core mission of Palomar Community College.

4. Under what circumstances do you think it is important for you to consult with the Classified Executive Council before making a decision as trustee?

I would like to meet regularly with Classified Executive Council, if we plan to grow and improve Palomar Community College to reach its full potential then we need to work together. I believe that classified staff have many ideas and perspectives that will benefit the College. Staff ideas should help drive the vision and direction of Palomar College. I would like to help facilitate a collaborative dialog between all campus stakeholders.

5. Would you commit to hearing our point of view before committing your vote in any issue concerning Classified staff? Yes

Items that are placed on the Board agenda should be made known to the public including the Classified Executive Council. Important agenda items should be made public well in advance of any decisions or votes. For example: important decision items can be made public by placing them on the agenda as “information only” no voting then at a subsequent meeting the can be placed on the agenda for “action” trustee vote. This approach gives all

staff and stakeholders time to discuss and consider the item. I am open to meeting with Classified Executive Council to regarding all decisions and issues in advance of any vote.

6. Please tell us why you think the Classified COPE Committee should endorse you for election?

I will listen to your ideas and perspectives on issues that will benefit our Community College. Together we can advance the important role Palomar Community College plays in providing access to educational and economic opportunities for our community. I will work diligently with you as a partner to improve Palomar College to better support our students and community.

I appreciate your consideration. I would be honored to serve as your Trustee