

In the Sequoia Union High School District, the Post recommends

Martinez, Weiner, Du Bois for school board

Growing enrollment. School boundary changes. An achievement gap. Questions about new speciality schools.

Those are some of the thorny issues the Sequoia Union High School District's board has faced over the past few years and will continue to grapple with in the years ahead.

The district operates four major high schools — Menlo-Atherton, Woodside, Sequoia and Carlmont — as well as a charter school and a continuation school.

Three of the five seats on the board are up for grabs in the Nov. 3 all-mail election. Of the five candidates, we're recommending three that have a combination of skills and philosophies that should serve the district well.

LAURA MARTINEZ, a former councilwoman and mayor of East Palo Alto, was appointed to the board earlier this year to replace Olivia Martinez (no relation), who moved to Texas.

She grew up in East Palo Alto and graduated from Palo Alto High School and Whittier College. She was the first member of her family to graduate from a four-year college, and she's fluent in Spanish. She is employed as the after school program director and family college resource center coordinator at East Palo Alto Phoenix Academy. She's the only candidate who works with school-age children, which gives



MARTINEZ



WEINER



DU BOIS

her an excellent perspective as a board member about the needs of students.

The important thing Martinez adds to the board is that she wants the district to have high expectations of all students, and not let kids slide because they come from disadvantaged backgrounds. She understands that a good education is the way to break the cycle of poverty.

ALLEN WEINER, a Menlo Park resident who is seeking re-election after one term on the board, shares the belief that a good education will lift people out of poverty. The child of immigrants, he attended diverse working-class public schools in his hometown of Denver, Colo., and through hard work became an honors graduate from Harvard University and Stanford Law School, where he now teaches.

In addition to his service on the Sequoia Union High School board, he is also on the board of the Immigrant

Legal Resource Center.

On the school board, he has supported policies to reduce the achievement gap for socio-economically disadvantaged students.

While he says there is no overnight solution, more Latino students are completing the college preparatory ("A-G") curriculum than before. And there has been an increase in enrollment of minority students in advance placement and International Baccalaureate courses.

If re-elected, one of his goals is to improve the delivery of mental health services to students.

CARRIE DU BOIS, a San Carlos resident who is seeking re-election after one term, has been the contrarian on the board, and we mean that as a compliment. She's not somebody who will rubber stamp every proposal that the superintendent brings to the board.

She asks hard questions, and that sometimes upsets her fellow board members. In fact, the other board members decided to punish Du Bois by refusing to elect her as either president or vice president of the five-member board.

Despite this snub, she remains pos-

itive and energetic, ready for a second term.

In her first four years, she emphasized several things, such as improving the transition between eighth grade and high school by getting the district to work with students' parents, particularly parents who are immigrants and might not understand the school system.

She pushed for a strategic long-range plan for a district that often seems to be reacting to problems rather than looking ahead.

Du Bois pushed for a full-day program at the Redwood High School continuation school. It has a half-day program before.

She has been a strong advocate for closing the achievement gap. And she has been the strongest voice on the board for improving the communications between the district and parents.

Martinez, Weiner and Du Bois are the best qualified candidates for the Sequoia Union High School District board and the Post is pleased to recommend them.

PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

BURLINGAME CITY COUNCIL — Emily Beach and Donna Colson

REDWOOD CITY COUNCIL — Alicia Aguirre, Ian Bain, Janet Borgens and Rosanne Foust