

Trustee – Area 6

Tyrone Navarro

1. Why are you running for Trustee and what are your biggest priorities.

I have spent a lifetime in public service as an analyst and manager, and I recently retired. I still have a lot that I would like to contribute to the community. My mother passed away this year. She was a retired Special Education bilingual teacher for nearly 40 years who believed strongly in and advocated highly for public education. As an educator, she demonstrated to me that public education is essential to a healthy society and democracy. My mother often connected her work with students and families, many of whom were immigrants, and taught me that the foundations of reading, writing and mathematics create a pathway to success in life.

Serving as an NVUSD Trustee would allow me to contribute to our community's future while honoring and continuing my mother's life's work.

The governing role of a School Board Trustee involves many responsibilities. I would begin by focusing on results in three areas:

- Literacy: foundational reading, writing, mathematics, critical thinking and communication.
- Access: language access, programs, technology, supportive resources, uplifting opportunities.
- Life & Career Readiness: four-year college, community college, CTE, apprenticeships, workforce, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning.

We should first teach students to learn, think and communicate. Take these basic skills and show them how to use emerging tools responsibly for the common good and our community's future.

2. What do you believe are the biggest challenges facing public education, particularly NVUSD, in the next four years? What specific actions or programs would you advocate?

I believe some of the biggest challenges facing public education, and particularly NVUSD, over the next four years will be enrollment and its relationship to funding and long-term planning, student engagement and chronic absenteeism, educator recruitment and retention, and the impact of AI and changing workforce expectations.

Enrollment affects both financial resources and long-term planning. Student engagement affects attendance, achievement and ultimately whether students are prepared for their next step. At the same time, recruiting and retaining excellent teachers and classified employees is essential to everything the district seeks to accomplish. AI and rapidly changing workforce expectations also require us to think carefully about how we prepare students for the world they will enter.

NVUSD has established an ambitious plan with 15 areas of work that strategically address many of these challenges. I would not want to create another layer of initiatives simply for the sake of doing something new. I would focus on effective implementation, accountability and continuous improvement of the current plan.

My public-sector management philosophy is that priorities should drive resources, not the other way around. As a trustee, I will monitor indicators of success, whether priorities are appropriately resourced, and whether outcomes are being consistently measured, and advocate for adjustments when the evidence shows that something is not working.

I believe the Board's role is to inquire and advocate: Are our priorities clear? Are we investing accordingly? Are students benefiting? And, if the results are not what we expect, what should we change?

3. How do you see the use of school vouchers and the development of charter schools affecting NVUSD? What actions should NVUSD take to ensure its schools meet any unmet needs that vouchers and charter schools may provide?

I would not want to prejudge the issue without understanding its implications for students, families and NVUSD. Charter schools and school voucher policies can affect enrollment, funding, educational options and the district's ability to plan for the students it serves.

As a trustee, I would examine factors including student access, educational quality, unmet student needs, accountability, and the financial sustainability and educational resources of NVUSD. I would want to understand whether families are seeking alternatives because of needs that our existing schools are not adequately meeting.

Regardless of the policies adopted at the state level, my responsibility as a trustee would be to ensure that NVUSD provides strong public-school options that meet the needs of students and families. Where unmet needs are identified, I would advocate for the district to address them through effective programs, resources and partnerships while maintaining responsible stewardship of public funds.

4. If elected, how will you ensure that students have access to libraries and curricula that are diverse, bias-free, and historically accurate? How will you respond to challenges to books and or curriculum?

I will ask good questions and monitor key information about our library resources, curriculum and student access. I will look for educational resources that are age-appropriate, factually grounded, historically accurate, legally compliant, academically sound and respectful of diverse perspectives.

I believe challenges to books or curriculum should be handled through established district policies and professional review processes, rather than individual political pressure. As a trustee, I would monitor whether those processes are applied consistently and whether students have appropriate access to educational resources.

I will listen carefully to concerns brought to the Board and look at indicators of success regarding access, student outcomes and program effectiveness. Students should be able to study difficult subjects honestly and respectfully.

5. What measures will you advocate to address the issues of equity, harassment, bullying, and sexual assault on campus, ensuring the safety and well-being of all students regardless of their ability, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual identity?

Every student and their family should feel that they belong and are safe, regardless of their ability, ethnicity, religion, gender, or identity. No student should have to experience fear of discrimination, harassment, or exclusion. Individual cases must be handled through appropriate administrative processes, with the Board providing rigorous oversight and accountability.

I will monitor how complaints and cases are addressed and ensure that the district's policies and procedures are being followed consistently. When necessary, I will advocate to change or refine district policies and operations to prevent future issues and strengthen systemic protections.

Students and families affected by these issues should have clear, accessible avenues to be heard and supported. All students deserve the opportunity to learn, feel they belong, and flourish.

I am fully committed to partnering with our community to strengthen student well-being, safety, belonging, and trust in our public schools.