

Trustee Area 7

Dave Hildebrandt

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

I am running for the board to give back to the community. My children and I attended NVUSD, and my wife works for the district as a School Psychologist. I am a full professor at National University. Prior to my time in higher education, I worked as an entrepreneur and worked at IBM, Sun Microsystems, Gartner, and several start-ups.

The challenges before the school district are financial stability amid declining enrollment, expanding career technical education (CTE) programs, developing apprenticeships, and preparing our students for work in the age of AI.

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?

Funding and the shift to an AI-enabled society. We need to continue investing in facilities, maintenance, and information technology infrastructure. Just as we saw in the transition from the industrial age to the information age, there is a redistribution of jobs in the AI-enabled age. We need to prepare students for jobs that do not yet exist and for the loss of jobs we do not yet know are going away.

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

Vouchers and charter schools are not always the answer. NVUSD relies on attendance data to set its budget. With families moving away, the budget is shrinking. When families send their children to a charter school, that is a loss of revenue to NVUSD. NVUSD needs to enrich its programs so that the need for charter schools diminishes.

- 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 do not believe in censorship. We cannot have the federal government setting the curriculum and deciding what resources we provide our children. What makes our nation great is the very diversity that is under attack.

- 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?**

We need to reduce cell phones on campus. The loss of privacy in young people's lives is taking a toll on our children. We are also seeing long-term societal impact from the isolation years of COVID. Technology is not always the answer. Students should know they are in a safe, recording-free environment. This is important to allow our students to try new things and be a bit goofy, since their actions will not be posted for likes, and they will not risk the wrath of social media.