

Trustee Area 1

Matthew McMann

1. Why I'm running + priorities

I'm running because I care deeply about Napa's public schools and want to give back to the community where I grew up and am raising my family. As a parent, coach and community volunteer, I've seen that kids and families don't come in one size. Every student deserves the support and opportunity to succeed. My priorities are supporting students and educators, protecting classroom instruction, and making thoughtful, transparent decisions about district resources. I would listen first, ask hard questions and keep students at the center of those decisions.

2. Biggest challenges + actions

NVUSD faces difficult choices about resources while students need consistent support and strong instruction. I would use data to identify where students are struggling, listen to families and educators, and direct support where it makes a measurable difference. When budgets are tight, I would look first for efficiencies in administrative and non-classroom spending before cuts to teachers, instruction or student services, and explain the tradeoffs openly. Chronic absenteeism also needs more than a one-size-fits-all response: identify students early, find out why they're missing school, and connect families to the academic, counseling, transportation or other support they need.

3. Vouchers and charter schools

Families want schools that work for their kids, and I understand why some look at vouchers and charters. I believe strong public schools are the best answer. They serve every student, and they are accountable to the whole community. Vouchers and charters can pull enrollment and funding away from a district that still has fixed costs, so the board has to understand the real impact on our budget and our students.

NVUSD should ask families what they need and aren't getting, whether it's a particular program, a different learning environment or more support, and then build it inside our public schools. That means expanding career and college pathways, strengthening support for students who are struggling, and communicating clearly about what our schools already offer. If we meet families where they are, fewer of them will feel they have to look elsewhere.

4. Libraries, curriculum and book challenges

Every student should find themselves in the books and lessons at school, and should also learn about people and perspectives different from their own. I would support libraries and curricula that are accurate, age-appropriate and grounded in educational standards, selected by trained professionals, and open to review by teachers and families.

When a book or lesson is challenged, I would want a clear and consistent process. A parent can raise a concern and be heard. The material is reviewed by educators and librarians based on its educational purpose and the facts, and the decision is explained publicly. One family's objection shouldn't decide what every student can read, and families should always be able to guide what their own child reads. I would listen first and ask questions, and I would keep the focus on what serves students.

5. Equity, harassment, bullying and safety

Students learn best when they feel safe, respected and known. To me, equity means recognizing that kids don't come in one size, so some students need different support to meet the same high expectations, whether that's a disability, language, family circumstances or something else.

On safety, I would advocate for clear, consistently enforced policies against bullying, harassment and sexual assault, with a simple way for students to report and a prompt, fair response. I would ask the district to track the data, such as incident reports and survey results, and share it openly so the board can see what's working. I'd also want staff training and counseling support in place so no student is left to handle it alone. Every student, regardless of ability, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual identity, deserves to feel safe at school.

