

**SAN DIEGO ALLIANCE for ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICANS
& FILIPINO AMERICAN CAUCUS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY**

2008 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CANDIDATE/CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

- 1.) Candidate name: **Pearl Quinones**
- 2.) Campaign address: **3009 E. 6th Street, National City, CA. 91950**
- 3.) Office sought: **Sweetwater Union High District School Board of Trustees seat #2**
Legislative district, if appropriate:
- 4.) Are you the incumbent: **Yes**
- 5.) Campaign website: **Friends of Pearl Quinones.com**
- 6.) Campaign email: **pearlquinones@cox.net**
- 7.) Campaign phone: **619.479.1988**
- 8.) Campaign manager: **Frank Salazar and Jesus Cardenas**

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- 9.) Are you a member of an Asian, Pacific Islander and/or Filipino organization? **No**
- 10.) If yes, please list your affiliations:

Please limit your answers to no more than 250 words:

11.) What makes you the most qualified person for office?

*In my last eight years in office, our district has increased API (Academic Performance Index) scores, which measure the district's academic growth. We've lowered the dropout rate. We received national recognition from **Newsweek Magazine** for ranking in the top 5% of high schools in the nation. We have been the County Academic Decathlon Champion nine years running. We've seen a 120% increase in **San Diego State University admissions** through Compact for Success. We've built four new schools in five years. And we've reduced our budget by \$6 million this year without issuing any pink slips.*

12.) Why seek support from the Asian Pacific Islander and Filipino community?

We have tried to increase our outreach to all members of our community. We deeply believe that it takes the entire community to support the efforts in our schools.

13.) If elected, what are your top priorities during your term?

*To continue the district's academic excellence, be involved in the reform of our high schools to include **career technical education** and ensure a balanced budget.*

14.) What distinguishes your priorities and goals from the other candidates?

We have done an excellent job preparing our students for college. Now I want us to make that same effort for the students who don't intend to go directly into college upon graduation. I have also worked very hard during my terms to increase parent involvement. Many of our schools now have parent centers because of my focus. I have been a strong advocate at the state and national level to increase the resources available to the Sweetwater District and its students. I have the experience to take our district to a new level and have the track record to prove it.

15.) How have you in the past and how will you in the future used your position to expand the presence and influence of Asian Pacific Islanders and Filipinos in public policy and politics?

We are one of the few school boards in San Diego County that has a Filipina serving on the board. We have also worked hard to ensure administrative promotions reflect the diversity of our district.

16.) What have you done that demonstrates your commitment to and effectiveness in promoting Asian Pacific Islander and Filipino interests (and if you have not contributed, please discuss any area(s) you may have made a contribution &/or improve the current condition)?

*We were the first district in the state of California to offer a **Filipino language course**. In fact, our hard-working teachers were the ones who created the curriculum standards for this course for the state. Our district has also been leading the way to create a credentialing program so that our teachers teaching this course will be given a state-recognized credential.*

17.) Due to periods of drought, the impending water shortages will have a drastic affect on playing fields and landscaping in our schools. What are your plans to help meet the demand for water resources?

*As part of Proposition O, we are creating new construction and landscaping that will use 40% less water. We are investigating the installation of synthetic fields when we can. And we are participating in the **San Diego County Water Authority's** conservation efforts.*

18.) A new research report released by the Regional Educational Laboratory West at West Ed states that San Diego County will need to hire more than 5,500 teachers in the next seven years. What strategies will you implement to ensure teachers will reflect the student population that they serve? Most importantly once hired, that teachers receive the on-going training and support needed to meet the demands of their classrooms?

*Our **Board of Trustees** has been committed to honoring the diversity within our district. This priority is reflected in our district strategic plan, and we confirm our commitment through an annual resolution adopted by our board. For the last three years, the **Sweetwater Union High School District** has been implementing and perfecting a **Professional Development Plan** that is aligned with the California Standards for the Teaching Profession. The goal is to develop teachers with a strong curriculum base who plan, teach, reflect and apply effective teaching practices to their daily work by using a variety of instructional strategies.*

19.) Have you failed to vote in any national, state, legislative general elections or statewide ballot proposition elections in the past five years? If yes, why?

No I have not.

20.) Do you have plans to seek higher office? If so, what office and when do you plan to run?

Not at this time.

Please list any endorsements you have received:

Please see attachment.