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Page 1: Questionnaire

Q1 Candidate Information

Candidate Name: Deborah Tracy-Proulx
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Q2 What office do you seek to be elected to?

Santa Cruz City Schools Board of Education, Trustee Area 1

Q3 Please choose the option best describing your candidacy: Incumbent

Q4 Do you identify as LGBTIQ? No, but I strive to be a LGBTIQ ally!

Q5 Are you a member of the GLBT Alliance? Yes, I am currently a 2018 member!

Q6 Please describe your qualifications for the elected position you seek. Include your main issues, priorities if elected, key endorsements, plus anything else that you'd like our members to know about you and your candidacy.

I work hard to support strong public schools that enable our children to become informed and engaged members of a diverse society. It has been my honor to serve the students of our school district as a two-term school board member. During my tenure, I have focused on addressing issues of equity, access to technology, student safety, and full and fair school funding. I am proud of our schools and of what I have been able to achieve through my collaboration with our dedicated and passionate teachers, staff, parents, and community members. I have worked hard on developing relationships with community leaders and school board members across the state. I bring to this office 12 years of experience in policy, governance, and my strong interagency relationships. My accomplishments include increasing funding for school supplies; securing emergency funding to pay for trauma counseling for elementary students; increasing the number of crossing guards; working to pass bond Measures A & B, which fund much needed facilities improvements to all of our schools; and serving as an effective board president and delegate to the California School Boards Association statewide assembly. I remain committed to addressing our district's achievement gap; to stewarding the many bond-funded facilities projects our district is currently undertaking; and to ensuring that our students are academically challenged and supported. If re-elected, I will continue to dedicate my time, energy, and passion to the success and safety of our students. My endorsements include several trustees from sister districts in our county with whom I have collaborated; Assembly Member Mark Stone; County Supervisor Ryan Coonerty; SCCS County Office of Education Superintendent Michael Watkins; Superintendent-elect Faris Sabbah, newly appointed Cabrillo College Board Trustee Adam Spickler

Q7 Why are you seeking the endorsement of Santa Cruz County's grassroots LGBTIQ political organization, the GLBT Alliance?

Student safety and district inclusivity are top priorities of mine. For the past 2 years, I have been lobbying the California School Boards Association to create a Director at Large, LGBTIQ in order to inform policy that will address issues facing students and staff across the state. An endorsement from the GLBT Alliance would mean not only that the members of our community who identify trust me to make the right decisions for the students of our community, it would also show CSBA that I have the support of the LGBTIQ community in Santa Cruz, which I hope will underscore my determination for them to add the new director at large position.

Q8 Please tell us about any past or current experiences or involvement you've had addressing LGBTIQ issues or work you've done to support the LGBTIQ community.

As I mentioned in the last question, I have been lobbying CSBA to create a Director at Large, LGBTIQ; I recently collaborated on creating a presentation titled "Supporting Students who Identify as LGBTQ+: Student and Expert Perspectives" that will be at the CSBA annual conference this coming December; I participate in Santa Cruz Pride every year as an elected to publicly show my support for the LGBTIQ community, I am a standing member of the Alliance and the Human Rights Campaign

Q9 What historic political or civil rights struggles are you familiar with that impact LGBTIQ equality?

The Stonewall Riots in 1969; Harvey Milk, first openly county board supe; Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy re: military service; the long road to marriage equality, John Laird elected first openly gay mayor in the US - these are the first few that come to mind.

Q10 What is your philosophy about working with minority communities of which you are not a member, and how will this manifest in your future work with the LGBTIQ community?

I remain open to working with all people across our community. As an elected, it is my responsibility to give voice to those who do not always have the social capacity to advocate for themselves, and to listen to those who represent the underrepresented. This philosophy informs all that I do as a trustee.

Q11 Please describe any programs you know of that impact the LGBTIQ community and that are governed by or funded through the elected office you are running for? Include any suggestions you may have for improving these programs.

Queer Youth Leadership Awards; LGBTQ inclusive sex education; transgender student policies and roster name changes; support of QSA, Rainbow Alliance; partnership with the Diversity Center, PFLAG and the Safe Schools Project

Q12 If elected, how would you use your position to help further issues of importance to the LGBTIQ community?

If re-elected, I will be able to remain a delegate to the CSBA assembly, a platform through which I can advocate for LGBTIQ students at the state level. I will continue to support policies of inclusion and equity within our district, and at the state and national level.

Q13 If you receive the GLBT Alliance's endorsement, will you display it in your campaign literature?

Yes, please send me the GLBT Alliance's logo (jpg file) so I can proudly announce the endorsement on my campaign literature, social media and website!
