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Q1 Candidate Information

Candidate Name: Jeremy Shonick
Email: jeremy.shonick@gmail.com
Phone: 831-425-3820
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Q2 What office do you seek to be elected to?

School Board Trustee, SCCS, 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? No, but I'd like information on how I can become a 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.

Public education has been at the center of my life since my wife Marion and I arrived in Santa Cruz 38 years ago. All three of our children attended Bay View, Mission Hill, and Santa Cruz High School. I worked as a high school history and English teacher for Santa Cruz City Schools for 28 years. Currently I am working as a Teacher/Supervisor of Student Teachers at UCSC in the Dept. of Education MA/Credential Program. Through my work and during my four years on the Board I have had the privilege of interacting with thousands of students, parents, and community members. I am once again asking for your vote so that I can continue to serve as your Trustee. As a School Board member I have worked hard to fulfill the two fundamental promises I made four years ago: • To restore the trust between the School Board, the Teachers, Classified Employees, the District Office, parents and community members. • To be a voice of reason, accountability and transparency on the Board. It's quite amazing what a School Board can accomplish when trust is restored. During the past four years we have: • Implemented new innovative programs district-wide including Next Generation Science Standards, and BaySci to improve the quality of our curriculum. • Revitalized our athletic programs. • Passed a 200 million dollar bond that has allowed us to begin the process of upgrading all of our facilities at both the elementary and secondary school levels. • Created outreach programs to connect with and better serve our historically underserved communities. I'm proud of the work that I've helped to accomplish and I urge you to please ask yourself one simple question: Is Santa Cruz City Schools in a better place than it was four years ago? If your answer is "yes" then I am humbly asking for your vote in this coming election. The real work has just begun; together we will make a difference.

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

I respect and support the work that you do and, as a history teacher and Teacher/Supervisor of Student teachers in the area of History and English at UCSC, I feel that implementation of the FAIR act, for example, is important work that needs to be continued.

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.

Again, as a high school history teacher and now Teacher/Supervisor of Student Teachers, my work around LGBTIQ issues has been to promote topics and issues in the classroom for my students and student teachers.

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

Which one's don't. When teaching about the 1960s for example and the Civil Rights movement and the Women's Movement and AIM, it's also crucial to teach about not only Stonewall and Harvey Milk but to contextualize gay rights as part of a broader issue of human rights. (Just one of many examples.)

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?

My whole working career has been dedicated to promoting the rights and illuminating the history of communities that have been excluded from the proverbial history book. So, when teaching Zinn's A People's History of the US, this light is being shed. It needs to be broadened of course and the FAIR act helps to promote further inclusions of the work and contributions of the LGBTIQ community.

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.

Within SCCS the FAIR act is a crucial piece of the puzzle to promote/enlighten and I am involved in this work. Obviously, we also need more outreach programs for all of our at-risk youth and that certainly includes members of the LGBTIQ community.

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

I believe that I am already doing this through my work on implementation of new curriculum that honors the intention of the FAIR act.

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!
