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Q1 Candidate Information

Candidate Name: Jennifer Holm
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Q2 What office do you seek to be elected to?

Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees, Area VII

Q3 Please choose the option best describing your candidacy: **Open Seat**

Q4 Do you identify as LGBTIQ? **Yes, I am bisexual**

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.

I am a parent of three children who have attended schools in the district. By the time my youngest graduates high school in eight years, I will have been a PVUSD parent for 23 years (2003 – 2026). I have been a nurse for the past 13 years at Watsonville Community Hospital and see on a day-to-day basis how quality education is key to lifelong health. As a Clinical Instructor in the Nursing Program at Cabrillo College for the past three year, I strongly value our community's access to a strong education system. I bring the same strong collaboration and negotiation skills to the PVUSD board that I use as a board member for the California Nurses Association. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from UCSC, an Associate Degree in Nursing from Cabrillo College, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and Master of Science in Nursing Education, both from Western Governors University. My issues center around educating the full spectrum of students, from those who have challenges in learning, to those who take in information at an accelerated rate. A priority for that will be to support programs that are already strong, but also to advocate for schools that are in the process of developing arts and music opportunities. I want our schools to be a safe environment, where kids know they are supported in who they are, and able to grow into who they want to be. I know that funding is a challenge. As I go through this process and learn more, I can appreciate just how much of a challenge it truly is. And, one of my skills as a nurse negotiator has been speaking to and working with state and federal legislators. I would be honored to have the opportunity to advocate for increased funding for our public schools as a board trustee. My growing list of endorsements includes: Assemblymember Mark Stone, California State Assembly District 29 Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent-elect, Santa Cruz County Office of Education* Lowell Hurst, Mayor Pro Tempore – City of Watsonville* Felipe Hernandez, Watsonville City Council* Jenny Sarmiento, Planning Commissioner – City of Watsonville* Deborah Dorney, Principal (retired) – Rio Del Mar Elementary* Casey Carlson, President – Greater Santa Cruz Federation of Teachers* California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee (CNA/NNOC) Monterey/Santa Cruz Counties Building and Construction Trades Council IBEW Local 234
*Organization listed for identification purposes only.

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

I want the LGBTIQ community to know that I will be a school board trustee that they can come to for support. I want to hear from community members about how we can embrace the diversity we have, and support openness and honesty in how each person identifies themselves.

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.

I organized nurses to march in Monterey Peninsula Pride this past year. I have also worked with other nurse leaders to defend the right to benefits for the partners of our union's LGBTIQ members. That was a victory we were very proud of.

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

This may sound flippant, but all historic political and civil rights struggles impact LGBTIQ equality, because you can't have "history" without LGBTIQ history—regardless of whether or not we as a society choose to acknowledge that. What I have the most experience with is advocating for equality in healthcare, and the impact that discrimination has on the LGBTIQ community, both in terms of access to care, and how people are treated if they are able to receive care.

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 believe that knowledge is power. In the conversations I've had with many public education stakeholders in my area, people want to be known and valued for who they are and the work they do. For any minority community, whether or not I am part of it, my philosophy is to listen for the concerns members may have, but also for what strengths and opportunities they bring. I strongly hold to the idea that embracing diversity strengthens communities.

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.

I know that PVUSD is a partner in the Santa Cruz County Safe Schools Project. I would love to have an opportunity to hear from LGBTIQ leaders about how the program has served the community, and what additional support is needed.

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

My commitment is to be available to all members of my trustee area. When there are important issues that need to be addressed, my promise is to be in dialog with the community about how best to manage them. My leadership philosophy is one of advocacy through partnership.

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!
