

The

FRONT P.A.G.E. NEWS

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Welcome to the seventh volume of our Association's Political Action Newsletter. SBTA is endorsing four candidates for school board for this coming November 3 election. They are Kaisar Ahmed, Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers, Mike Gallo, and Margaret Hill. These four candidates strongly support classroom teachers and believe in more parent involvement in their children's education as well as more extensive parent-teacher partnerships. It is these partnerships that will permit our schools to prepare our children for the basic skills that are necessary for the 21st century. This means that students become prepared for either a career or college. In addition, these candidates believe that teachers should have more control over the educational process.

SBTA will be asking for your participation in the coming weeks to support these four candidates by phone banking, walking door to door in local neighborhoods, and requesting others to support them. School board elections have a great impact in the daily work lives of teachers, and this one is especially important because of the new money received from the state through

the Local Control Funding Formula. We need knowledgeable school board members who can make decisions with that money that are best for our students, such as reducing class size in grades K-3.

Each month a small portion of your local dues and of your CTA state dues are allocated to political action. These funds are used for lobbying local and state representatives regarding issues concerning children, public education, and its employees. These many issues include wages, benefits, working conditions, how public education funds are directed, the rights and responsibilities of educators, retirement issues, and the needs of children. Funds are also used to support both local and state candidates especially SBCUSD Board of Education Candidates known to back efforts to protect and improve public education, as well as local and state ballot initiatives that would impact public education, its employees, and those they serve. If you choose not to have this portion of your dues go to support these activities, all you need to do is contact the SBTA office at (909) 881-6755. They will provide you with the necessary forms. This request needs to be made by October 31st.