

parent leadership for our schools

Dear Friends and Supporters:

In January, I began my campaign to be elected to the San Francisco Board of Education this November. It is a step I've been contemplating for a long time, and I've been encouraged by many parents and advocates across San Francisco. I believe:

✍ **The school board should not be a training ground or a political stepping stone.** I help out at Audrey and Jackie's school almost every day. I have volunteered at the district level to advocate for better special education programs, and I've been an active member of Parents for Public Schools since 2001. I know the issues and I know the schools; I understand the concerns of San Francisco public school families because they are my concerns as well. I am convinced that the Board needs more parents of current students: right now, only two Commissioners out of seven have children actually attending our schools.

✍ **Our district can and should do better.** The role of the school board is to set the tone for the district--to be its soul. As a special education parent I have seen first-hand that segments of kids are not getting what they need because their parents don't speak English or lack advocacy skills and resources. I have seen first-hand that sometimes district policies are unfriendly to parents, whom we should cultivate as our first partner in the education of our children rather than ignoring their input. Money and resources will be in short supply in our district for the foreseeable future, but a renewed commitment to communication, collaboration and respect does not cost money and will help us deliver a high-quality education to every child.

✍ **School board members should serve as ambassadors and advocates for our schools in the larger community.** We need to highlight the many areas where we are succeeding, and more effectively communicate the areas where we need help: at City Hall, in the business and non-profit community, and in Sacramento.

To succeed, I need your help. Running for citywide office is a big job. I will need almost 100,000 votes to win a seat, and a successful campaign will require more than \$90,000. Getting \$50,000 in the bank by the June filing deadline will help me win key endorsements and get attention from voters; early contributions will make the difference between winning and losing in November.

Please be as generous as you can. The individual contribution limit is \$500; any amount will be helpful. To give, fill out the enclosed envelope (required by campaign finance laws) and return it with your check. Ask five friends in the area who care about schools to make additional donations or contact me to volunteer their time. Information and donation forms are online at **www.rachelnorton.com**.

Thank you! I truly appreciate your support. I can't do this without you!

All the best,

P.S. I've also enclosed my first, and most important, endorsement - from my sister Daphne, whose children attended Lakeshore ES, and now Hoover MS and Lowell HS.