

MODESTO BEE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

What is your full, legal name?

Kimberly Clare Gerber Spina

What name do you prefer be used in print?

Kim Spina

What office do you seek?

Stanislaus County Board of Education

What is the primary reason you are running for this office?

My background of serving the past four years on the Modesto City Schools Board of Education gives me firsthand knowledge and experience to deal with educational issues. My enthusiasm and dedication to our educational community and encouragement from leaders in our community to run are my primary reasons for seeking this office.

SCOE has been a champion of providing "options" for at-risk youth (e.g. Stanislaus Military Academy for high school students and Tactical Character Academy (TCA) for junior high students). They are currently embarking on a new Fine and Performing Arts Academy in Ceres and a Culinary Arts Academy is planned to open in Oakdale next fall - all targeting youth who have not been successful in the traditional academic environment (alternative education students). I want to support this kind of innovative thinking and encourage further efforts of this nature to help meet the needs of all students in Stanislaus County.

SCOE is uniquely positioned to bring together school districts and the community at large to focus on important issues that impact all of us. Over the last several years, SCOE has successfully led initiatives to raise school attendance rates (Every Day Counts) and to encourage children to make better choices about nutrition and exercise (Fit for the Future). Their current initiative, "Choose Civility" is one all of us can embrace as they work to raise awareness and change behavior on the importance of civility in our work and personal lives. I want to add my voice and influence to these campaigns and to future efforts that help to build our communities into places where families, and especially children, thrive!

What will be your single most important priority if you get elected?

At this time the current pressing issue is the Special Education matter. I am hopeful that the situation is resolved before December of this year when the term begins. If however, it is not, I would be particularly interested in encouraging healthy dialogue between all parties involved, specifically to the benefit of those affected by the outcome (certificated and classified employees, administrators, students and their families). SCOE has a solid reputation for operating quality special education programs, and I'd like to see the programs remain with SCOE if the fiscal issues with the districts can be resolved. Regardless of who runs the programs, there will be a number of challenges to work through and these special students must remain the priority in all discussions and decisions.

What sets you apart from the other candidates?

Four years' experience on the board of a district with over 30,000 students and 34 school sites K-12 with a \$249 million budget; one year as board president at which time I

initiated community forums; community-leader meetings with the superintendent, board vice president and myself; my contributions to initiating a Mandarin language and cultural after school program at Enslin Elementary School; and dual language immersion (English/Spanish) which began last year at two sites in Kindergarten, continuing in Kindergarten and First Grade this year.

Four years ago I created the Salida Performing Arts Foundation, which is dedicated to keeping performing arts in public education, specifically with a fourth grade violin immersion program in the Salida Union School District.

Mentoring disadvantaged youth, sitting on the UC Merced Dean's Advisory Council on Arts and Humanities as well as the CSU Stanislaus' President's Advisory Council, and establishing the California State University Stanislaus' Dean of Education's Advisory Committee adds significantly to my overall perspective.

My focus is on reaching out of our comfort zone. Research and Development. Step back, take a deep breath, and ask the questions. How is it a child from Uganda, one of the world's poorest countries, can read, write and speak three to six languages by the time he or she is 12, and our children struggle with one? If creating synapses that will increase a child's brainpower is as simple as playing a violin or learning a second language at a very early age, why aren't we focusing on that? There are so many children who don't have a chance, whose lives we can change if only we challenge the way we look at things. Is the system failing us, or are we failing the system?

Where do you work and what is your job title?

Modesto City Schools Board of Education

What date were you born and where?

October 18, 1958 Modesto California

What is your spouse's name, if any?

Al Spina

What are the names and ages of your children, if any?

Alfred Spina, Jr. 17

John Spina 15

Please list the schools and colleges you attended, the degrees you attained and when.

Have you ever held an elected or appointed public office?

December 2007-1011 Modesto City Schools Board of Education

Have you run before for an elected public office?

2007 Modesto City Schools Board of Education

Approximately how much money do you expect to spend on your campaign?

I am hoping to keep it under \$1,000.

Have you ever been convicted or charged with a crime other than a minor traffic violation?

No

Have you or a business you owned or had principal interest in ever filed bankruptcy? If so, please include dates and the location the bankruptcy was filed.

No

Do any of your immediate family members work for the organization/agency you are running to represent?

No

CONTACT INFORMATION

Campaign Web site address, Facebook page, Twitter account:

Facebook: Kimberly Spina

Please list the campaign contact information you want made available to the general public in print and online, including a phone number, address and e-mail:

kimspina2011

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