



KATYA BAUTISTA

Northshore School District No. 417
Director District No. 4

Email: Katya@Katyabautista4nsd.com

Website: KatyaBautista4nsd.com

QUESTION #1

**As PTA leaders we believe that our children's education is a team effort. Describe ways in which you have contributed to this effort, and communicated with district staff, the administration, organizations, government officials, and other stakeholders to share ideas and solve problems for our students and community.
Bonus question: which PTAs do you belong to?**

RESPONSE #1

I wholeheartedly agree that our children's education requires a team effort of parents, teachers, and of course, the students themselves.

To me, it is very important that my child has a high-quality education at school that will allow him to have a lot more chances to be a college or university student. And this is why I am running for the school board district 4 position.

My husband sometimes complains that I always say "there is still room for improvement"; therefore, having "good enough" knowledge is not what I want for my child and kids in the district.

I am committed to being a voice for these children and their parents and relentlessly advocating for excellence.

My mom is an excellent example of how parents have to be involved in their children's education.

Therefore, I feel it is both my opportunity and responsibility to be actively engaged right now.

I am passionate about promoting specifically academic knowledge without subjective influence or opinion. As an immigrant, I am committed to bringing diversity and academic excellence back to our school district. Our children cannot wait.

Given that I am a new citizen, new to the district, and my child is beginning school this fall, I am looking forward to active involvement in PTA at our local elementary school.

QUESTION #2

One of Washington State PTA's top legislative issues is: "Supports and Funding for Students with Disabilities and Their Families". Do you think this needs more attention and if so, what would you do to advocate for supports and funding for Special Education?

RESPONSE #2

It seems to be a huge problem based on what I have seen take place in this district especially over the last school year. Children with special needs were essentially ignored by district leadership during the pandemic and recovery services are shockingly nonexistent. I will advocate with state legislators to prioritize services for kids with special needs and demand equity for our most vulnerable students. But first, it is necessary to analyze the current system for Special Education in order to see if there is room for improvement. I want to determine if we have done the best we can with what we already have.

QUESTION #3

Northshore School District has a Strategic Plan with Four Building Blocks. "Building Block 1: Equitable Access to Personalized and Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning. Teaching and learning is the central function of our school system. We will advocate for standards, practices and programs that engage every student in challenging work, regardless of their current level of performance. And, because 'one size does not fit all,' we will differentiate and scaffold instruction and supports to meet the unique strengths, backgrounds, readiness, and learning styles of each student." What does Building Block 1 mean to you and how would you approach it as a school board director?

RESPONSE #3

To me Building Block 1 means no one will be left behind: a huge tenet of my campaign. We need rigorous instruction and high expectations of our students to help every child achieve their full potential. However, this building block has been forgotten in virtual schooling. Our system is not being held to the standards of excellence we have come to expect from NSD.

As a school board director, I would engage parents, teachers, and the community together as this is critical to achieving all the expectations of the program. It has to be teamwork, and we have to maintain high standards if we expect quality results. My platform is based on reinforcing this building block. The three main areas I see as opportunities include;

EXPANDING HORIZONS: Provide NSD children with a more diverse, global-minded education

RESTORING EXCELLENCE: Promote academic rigor and commitment to success

UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITY: Ensure every child has access to foundational education

I'm looking forward to expanding, restoring & unlocking the potential I see.

QUESTION #4

Two of Washington State PTA's top legislative issues are: "Increase Access to Nursing, Mental Health, and Social Emotional Learning Staff" and "Prevent and Reduce Gun Violence and Suicide". This coincides with the concerns of many Northshore families as well. The district has mental health supports at every school including staff and curriculum. For example, every elementary school of at least 500 students has a full-time mental health counselor and smaller schools have a half-time counselor. What is the district doing well? What should it be doing to better to support students' mental health and safety?

RESPONSE #4

First, bring kids to school. Full-time. Especially middle and high-school students. The percentage of kids that committed suicide or attempted suicide directly correlated with social isolation. Ultimately, I can't imagine that one counselor for 500 kids is enough. We need more opportunities for engagement and more check-ins with how students are doing.

My opinion is that parents have to be involved as much as possible and work shoulder to shoulder with the teachers and counselors. I would strive to bridge the gaps and help parents get more connected to school counselors to keep the healthy dialogue going among all those eager to support a student's welfare.

In addition, it is high time we reinstate School Resource Officers in all schools. The officers not only prevent gun violence, but they have proven to be the most connected resources to the students as great role models and proactive intervention for social and emotional challenges. They see first-hand student interactions and often can work closely with the counselors to support the children that need it most. I cannot understand why this invaluable relationship was ever removed in the first place. We need to stop playing politics with the safety of our children.

QUESTION #5

Funding is basically fixed and so new spending in one area means making cuts somewhere else.

Some of the things that Northshore has chosen to spend their money on are: the 7-period day for high school, and staffing for nurses & counselors beyond what the state provides. Where do you think we need to spend more of our resources and where would you cut spending to make it work budget-wise?

RESPONSE #5

Based on how the budget has been spent providing kids with the technical resources during the pandemic and how much of the budget was spent to train teachers on using Zoom, it looks like the budget question must be studied more deeply before making any decisions. Therefore, before making any statements, I have to get more familiar with the rest of the plans of how the budget was planned to be spent. We need absolute transparency at a more detailed level, as publicly available budget documents are very high level, and it is quite challenging to address this question at the level I would like to.

Ultimately, however, I would focus on academic knowledge, mental health, and ensuring kids from all socio-economic backgrounds have the same opportunities.

QUESTION #6

What is a school board member's role and responsibility under the law and under Policy Governance? How does that role differ from the role of the superintendent or the administration?

RESPONSE #6

I'm not sure if understood the intent of this question. The fact that I am running for a publicly elected board position implies that I understand what a board member's duties are at both the state and district level. So let me address what my expectations are, as a board member that has oversight of developing policy and maintaining governance.

The superintendent must work within the framework set by the Board and meet the stated expectations. Administrators are responsible for carrying out these policies at the individual school level. A school board member also has the responsibility to listen to their constituents, process and evaluate data, and create the framework for which district schools will operate, including determining curriculum. This is an important differentiator from the current Board that does not actively engage with the community that elected them into office. There are far too many politicians on the Board and not enough advocacy and community representation. That's what I will change as a Board member.

QUESTION #7

Within our school district, there is a lot of residential building. Overcrowding is a major issue in many of our schools as well as portables and buildings that are old and need maintenance. What are the steps you would suggest the district take to alleviate these issues?

RESPONSE #7

Being forced into the feeder school based on your zip code looks odd to me as an immigrant. It forces parents to either move all the time within the district or choose which of their kids will go to the school with the better score and which of their kids will have to be sacrificed and choose a worse school if the family has two or more kids at different ages.

Parents should have the right to choose where their children attend school based on their individual needs and logistics, such as their place of work. For example, in Belarus, you can attend any school, it doesn't matter where you live, and if you want to move to attend the school with a better score, you need to pass an exam, there are no lotteries.

In addition, we need all schools to receive basic services and upgrades. Having a few state of the art buildings and other 'poor schools' is unacceptable. I understand the capital planning committee has new sporting facilities being planned for. Why is that even a consideration when so many children are stuck in portables?

All children deserve the same opportunities and quality of buildings. Some schools are known to be excellent and others not. Again, that is not acceptable if we are a district of equity. Currently 16 out of 26 buildings are in the red zone for being in disrepair. We are the 9th wealthiest school district in Washington State. How is it possible that our budget has been so poorly managed that we have so many buildings where the learning environment is so poor?! I will work to ensure all children receive excellent learning environments.



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