



2018 City Council Candidate Questions

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT

How would you improve communications and collaboration with the PAUSD and School Board?

PAT BOONE

One of the highlights value in Palo Alto are our schools. I have experience to develop open dialogue with my journalism experience.

We need to honest open conversation with each other in the public every quarter what we can do to keep our schools leading edge.

Lack of communication continues to be the source of so many problems. We are separated agencies, but we all have one goal - a united Palo Alto.

ALISON CORMACK

The city/school liaison meeting, which I have regularly attended for the past year and a half, is insufficient to connect these two entities. The staff of both organizations must be better connected, perhaps with identified liaisons, not just people who work on individual projects. The liaisons could meet frequently, perhaps even weekly, to review decisions and projects.

TOM DUBOIS

I am endorsed by the entire PAUSD school board and the quality of our schools is extremely high priority for me.

The city and school district have a good working relationship but it can be improved. The city needs to avoid scheduling major construction projects right at the start of the school year, and we need to work together on traffic, transportation and parking.

The Council and the School Board are both ready to move forward on Cubberley. I'd like to see the next Mayor form a working committee to bring extra attention to this important collaboration.

ERIC FILSETH

"Two agencies, one town." For many people, the City's most important service after Public Safety is PAUSD.

A lot of the dynamic comes from the relationship of the City Manager and the School Superintendent, which is an important one.

The current City-School Committee has dedicated people from both agencies on it and IMO is working pretty well at the moment.

Key intersection points include Transportation, including bike infrastructure and Safe Routes to School; the relationship between enrollment capacity and housing growth; and the future of the Cubberley site whose ownership is shared between agencies.

CORY WOLBACH

I think we have a generally good relationship, but we can do a lot more. For example, our City-School Liaison Committee, as with too many of our committees, is staff-driven, rather than member driven. Instead of tackling tough policy issues and making recommendations to the Council and PAUSD Board, the Liaison Committee serves more as an informational forum. This is a huge missed opportunity.

With so many joint interests between the City and PAUSD, we need to work more closely. First, there is the issue of what we are going to do with Cubberley. Second, the City is heavily involved in some school programs (middle school athletics, for example). We also provide school resource officers at PAUSD schools, and have needs for sharing parks, playing fields, and swimming pools.

The full PAUSD Board and the entire City Council should do joint study-sessions at least once per year. Also, the City and PAUSD staff responsible for transportation need to collaborate more closely.