

## 2009 Candidate Questionnaire

### SECTION I

#### BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

| First Name | Middle Initial or Nickname | Last Name |
|------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Betty      | A.                         | Patu      |

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number):

**Seattle School Board, Position # 7**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes       No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city?

**Over 40 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**Over 40 years**

6. Is the office sought partisan or nonpartisan?       Partisan       Nonpartisan

7. If partisan, please indicate party: Democrat

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:                                  Campaign to Elect Betty Patu

Address:                                  POB 78137

City/State/Zip:                                  Seattle, WA 98178

Campaign Phone:                                  (206) 856-3966

Campaign Fax:                                 

Campaign E-mail:                                  virtuouschg@msn.com

Campaign Website:                                  TBA

#### POLITICAL BACKGROUND

1. Beginning with the most recent position, please list public offices you have held. Include positions on appointive boards or commissions. **N/A**

| Public Office | Elective or Appointive? | Dates Held | Leadership Role (if any) |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
|               |                         |            |                          |
|               |                         |            |                          |
|               |                         |            |                          |

2. If you ran for public office but were not elected, please list those races below:

| Office Title                           | Year of Run |
|--|-------------|
| Seattle City Council, Position         | 1991        |
| 37 <sup>th</sup> District State Senate | 1997        |
|  |             |

## SECTION II

In this section, we are seeking responses that reflect the four ratings criteria: involvement, effectiveness, character, and knowledge. These are defined as follows:

- **Involvement:** What has the candidate done previously in family, neighborhood, community, volunteer work, employment or public life to suggest readiness to accomplish challenging objectives? How do these activities demonstrate readiness for the challenges unique to the office sought?
  - **Effectiveness:** Has the candidate demonstrated promise of being productive in the office sought? Has the candidate shown the ability to work with other people?
  - **Character:** Do the candidate's personal traits show the ability to take on the responsibilities of campaigning for and holding the public office she or he is seeking? Is the candidate a leader, participant or observer? Is the candidate trustworthy, reliable and candid?
  - **Knowledge:** Has the candidate demonstrated the willingness and ability to learn and adapt? Does the candidate understand the duties and challenges of the office sought? Does the candidate have a firm grasp of the issues important to his or her constituency and their potential effects?
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1. In one page or less, why are you running for this office? (Note: the interview committee will be given a copy of this statement before your interview; at the beginning of your interview you will have the opportunity to expand on this statement in any way you wish.)

**I am running for Seattle School Board, Position #7 because I am retiring from 32 years of educational services to diverse youth and families for the Seattle Public Schools and want to continue my efforts of advocating equitable and quality education for every child. Inclusion of every voice in the community (i.e., neighborhoods, businesses, professionals in education, organized cultural groups, etc.) is key when discussing best practices and creating rigorous curriculum for educating various types of student learners. We need a School Board member that will reflect our community's interests and passions through organized planning, and execution of these strategies to ensure secured funding, increase in high school graduation rates and producing college graduates. I am that VOICE and qualified to do the job!**

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.

**Before I made my decision to run for Seattle School Board, Position # 7, I pondered on three of my best traits and how it will shape my campaign. I KNOW that...**

- I am committed to quality education for ALL children, enabling them to achieve their highest potential
- I am persistent to finding resources when there is a need to securing funding for quality instructional programs, safety and the well being of our children
- I will endure the challenges of teaming diverse communities and personalities to reach our goal of continuous academic improvement & advancement in the public education sector, accountability with administration & staff work ethics, and a spirit of unity as we move towards positive change

3. Please describe, in sufficient detail, one to three accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. These examples should illustrate skills and capabilities you think apply to the office you are seeking. These accomplishments may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional, or public life.

**The accomplishments or contributions that most make me proud are:**

- My intervention work with thousands of diverse youth which has lead to increased graduation rates (especially with South Pacific Islander students – lowest academic performance rate of any ethnic group in Washington and abroad), produce college-bound students and reduced gang violence
- I have over 30 years of community involvement which has bridged and educated several diverse communities to various resources and open discussion of concerns and resolutions regarding youth and families. The fruits of my work have received numerous recognition including the Asian Pacific Women’s Caucus, “Warrior in Education” Award, the Governor’s and Mayor’s Volunteer Award, the Humanitarian United Nation Award, the Campfire Boys & Girls “On Behalf of Youth” Award, National School Safety Center, “Outstanding Leadership” Award, 1995-96 Alliance for Education, A+ Excellence in Education Award; the Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition “2007 RB” Award, Patty Murray, “tennis shoe” award just to name a few
- A parent who endured long suffering with 5 of my own children. Because of a great deal of unconditional love, faith, and work from me and my husband , we were able to witness all 5 high school graduations, college graduations, the fruits of their labor and accomplishments in the community at large. It makes US proud!

4. Please list or describe current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life.

**My active work in the community has solidified concrete relationships with community leaders and diverse cultural groups necessary to promote teamwork within the communities. I am a current member of the Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition, Past President of Asian Counseling Referral Services (ACRS), Vice President of Rainier Beach Foundation, Past Vice President of Rainier Beach PTSA and Founder/President of Islanders Children & Youth Services (ICYS).**

**My experience has taught me to adapt to various environments through the sharing of human commonalities (i.e., brother/sister, husband/wife, mother/father, etc.) that produces relevance needed to understand the concerns of each individual.**

**Lastly, my awards and endorsements from various community leaders and organizations have earned me credibility, loyalty, and encouragement as I continue my fight for equity and justice in the public education system. I am currently endorsed by 37<sup>th</sup> District, 11<sup>th</sup> District, King County Councilman Larry Gossett, Connie So, Brett Eckelberg, Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos, Lem Howell, Seattle Port Commissioner Lloyd Hara, Kay Bullitt, Dr. Carol & Jim Simmons, Representative Bob Hasegawa and countless others. Awards received: Asian Pacific Women's Caucus, "Warrior in Education" Award, the Governor's and Mayor's Volunteer Award, the Humanitarian United Nation Award, the Campfire Boys & Girls "On Behalf of Youth" Award, National School Safety Center, "Outstanding Leadership" Award, 1995-96 Alliance for Education, A+ Excellence in Education Award; the Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition "2007 RB" Award, Patty Murray, "tennis shoe, the International Examiner, "Community Voice Award, and others.**

5. Please describe the duties of the office you seek. Which are the most important duties and why?

**The duties of the office I seek are to:**

- Provide effective learning and quality teaching built on a rigorous curriculum, measurable outcomes, ongoing assessment, professional development and continuous improvement.
- Ensure that every student in Seattle Public Schools have equitable access to quality programs.
- Ensure that all students will achieve to their potential and the achievement gap will be eliminated as every student is challenged to learn at or above grade level.
- Provide a high performing school district based on a shared accountability to our students among district professionals, school board members, students, parents, community partners, and elected leadership.
- Provide quality leadership, effective support structures, and efficient operations that directly impact high student performance.
- Maintain community collaboration and family commitment which are fundamental to achieving and sustaining excellence.
- Placing the interests of students above all others in every decision we make is essential.

**The duties I feel are most notable are:**

Ensure that every student in Seattle Public Schools have equitable access to quality programs. **The importance of providing an equitable and quality education to all children would produce a sound community of competent and caring adults, various opportunities to high paying jobs & community leadership which in turn can help stabilize our education and economy**

Provide effective learning and quality teaching built on a rigorous curriculum, measurable outcomes, ongoing assessment, professional development and continuous improvement. **It is necessary to research creative funding avenues needed for sustainability of quality staff, rigorous instructional programs, effective assessment tools, after-school programs and childcare. Rigorous curriculums for various learning styles are crucial. Preparation with rigor of education received will position our students to be a competitive force in the job market worldwide.**

Ensure that all students will achieve to their potential and the achievement gap will be eliminated as every student is challenged to learn at or above grade level

and

Maintain community collaboration and family commitment which are fundamental to achieving and sustaining excellence. **We need to provide quality interventions for students who are academically challenged. I believe that if we maintain continuous communication and opportunities of involvement for community leaders & organizations, various business entities, churches and youth & families, it would result with concrete resolutions for the problems we face in our neighborhoods and schools, eliminating disproportionality and influencing a mindset of high academic achievement among our youth.**