



LOMPOC FEDERATION OF TEACHERS (LFT) Union Local 3151
A Division of the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) and an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

LFT School Board Endorsements

After much discussion and deliberation, LFT Leadership has decided to endorse two candidates in the LUSD School Board election. These two candidates were selected for our endorsement because of the experience and depth of knowledge they possess regarding the many important issues facing our members, especially during these uncertain times we are in right now.

- **Kathi Froemming**—Ms. Froemming has a rich history working for the Lompoc Unified School District as a teacher, principal, and member of the superintendent’s cabinet. LFT Leadership has worked directly with Ms. Froemming on a number of key issues over the years during her tenure as Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, including in the spring during the COVID-19 crisis prior to her retirement. She could always be counted on to be responsive to LFT’s concerns, and she demonstrated time and again a willingness to problem-solve toward effective solutions whenever issues arose. Her experience, problem-solving mindset, and deep knowledge of the inner workings of LUSD make her an excellent choice for voters in the School Board race.
- **Dr. William Heath**—As the only incumbent in the race, Dr. Heath has the experience of working with our returning School Board members on a number of important issues involved in the effective operation of our district. Perhaps more important than his experience, though, is his ability to listen to stakeholders as he works through understanding complex issues with an eye toward making the best decision possible for all involved. LFT has been consistently impressed with his ability to seek out information and with his willingness to ask questions before taking action. While LFT Leadership has differed with Dr. Heath on a few issues in the past, we always know that even when differences of opinion arise, he will still take the time to hear out the other side. Those traits—his capacity to really hear the opinions of stakeholders and his willingness to ask questions—make him an excellent candidate to continue serving on the School Board.

LFT would like to extend our sincere thanks to all other candidates in the race. We especially appreciate the candidates who took time out of their schedules to meet with LFT Leadership over the last few weeks.

Coming to our endorsement decisions was not an easy process, as the field of candidates this year was very strong. We spent an extraordinary amount of time discussing and weighing our options, and we truly feel that any of those who are running this year would make solid additions to the makeup of our School Board.

Although we are officially endorsing the candidates above, we would like to highlight some of the important attributes of the others in the race as voters weigh their options in determining whom to vote for in this election. As a reminder, the candidates are running to fill three open seats on the School Board, so voters can vote for up to three candidates on their ballots.

Tom Blanco—As a long-time educator and parent in the Lompoc Unified School District, Tom Blanco has a strong background that would serve him well on the School Board. Mr. Blanco has long been regarded as a respected leader in the community, and as a candidate, he has worked on developing ideas to attract and retain quality teachers in our District. He has proven his commitment to the District and to the Lompoc community most recently by spearheading the Lompoc Community Track and Field project, which was successfully completed earlier this year.

Janet Blevins—As a former classroom teacher in the Lompoc Unified School District, Janet Blevins served for many years as an effective advocate for our students and community. We appreciate that she has experience serving as a member of the boards of a number of other community organizations, including the NAACP, Santa Barbara County Action Network, the AAUW, and the League of Women Voters. Her community involvement speaks to her commitment to improving the lives of those around her, which would make her an asset on the School Board.

Martin Casey—As a parent of two students in the Lompoc Unified School District, Martin Casey brings the parent perspective in looking at issues impacting students and educators. Mr. Casey has long been involved in volunteering in his children's classrooms, experiences through which he's gained a better understanding of some of the issues facing our District. As a professional in the technology industry, he also brings to the table tremendous knowledge of some of the technology issues our District is currently grappling with during this COVID era.

Alex Murkison—As a recent graduate of Lompoc High School, Alex Murkison would bring a fresh perspective to the LUSD School Board. Mr. Murkison is a natural leader, and he would bring new energy to the School Board. LFT Leadership was very impressed by his insightful understanding of some of the biggest challenges facing our students and teachers. It is clear that he is not afraid to put in the work to research issues, and he has already proven himself to be eager to hear others' perspectives. As an active and gifted young leader in our community, Mr. Murkison brings extraordinary talents that would serve LUSD well should he win a seat on the School Board.