

Peter (Ted) Romo

Having grown up in the Bay Area, my family and I first moved to Sunol in 2012. The Sunol Glen school was one of the primary factors that attracted us to Sunol and was a strong reason for moving here so many years ago. And, once here, our children thrived at the school and were well prepared for continuing their education at Foothill high school and beyond.

I sought to be on the Sunol Glen Unified School District Board of Trustees in part because of the positive experience we had at the school. I also feel strongly that you should give back to your community.

I graduated from Columbia College/Columbia University in 1991 with a B.A. in Political Science and I graduated from New York University School of Law with a J.D. in 1997.

I have been practicing law in California since 1997. My background and training have taught me how to look at matters in a reasonable, unbiased, and objective way, applying facts to the law in a variety of situations with the goal of reaching the best outcome. As a transactional and business lawyer, I have worked with boards of directors and executives in a variety of situations, and I have experience not only in the law but in business as well, such as reviewing financial statements and budgets and assessing governance policies and procedures. Given that the Board's role is largely one of oversight of the Superintendent/Principal and the school's teaching, custodial and administrative staff, together with setting the direction of, and considering/approving, policies and procedures for the school, I believe my background and experience are well suited for, and that I bring them everyday to, the Trustee role.

I believe that it is important that the Board has a healthy cohesiveness and operates at all times with the good of the school in mind. I believe that everyone serving on the Board is serving in the best interest of students. At the same time, it is important to be able to share differences in opinion in a constructive, respectful way, especially when representing a variety of viewpoints within the community. Ultimately, no matter how it is achieved, any decisions affecting the student body and staff of the school must be evidence and fact based and in the best interests of all stakeholders.

Sunol Glen has been, is and should remain, a crown jewel in the Sunol community. I believe that prior Boards, together with a leading Superintendent/Principal and terrific teachers and staff, have created an educational powerhouse and the current Trustees on the Board should seek to maintain and continue to advance such excellence. With the passage of Measure J, the Board will have a key role, along with an independent citizens' oversight committee, in the implementation of these new bond funds, as it does with other principal issues.

Overall, I believe that the Board will and should continue to focus on maintaining consistency and continuity for, and development and advancement of, the best interests

of students, while taking into account the teachers and staff and the larger community in which the school operates. Ensuring communication and engagement by the Board with the community are critical for the Board and the school in the coming years, especially as the school implements Measure J-related improvements.

While the role of the Board is primarily to provide oversight and to set policy, implementation of how best to teach is, and should be, left to the professional educators in the classroom, who best know their students and the particular teaching material. While there are obvious bounds to what should or should not be taught at particular grade levels, common sense, together with the professional experience of the teaching staff, should be recognized and implemented to the extent possible, subject of course to requirements of the Education Code and state law. In all cases, an open, caring and thoughtful environment, where children are exposed to new ideas and concepts, appropriate to their age group, and where they can openly learn and express themselves free from judgment, prejudice or bullying, is ideal. Application of reasonableness, common sense and appropriateness, together with openness, inclusiveness and a non-judgmental environment, should go a long way in the Board's work to help shape policy and oversight around what is taught, how it is taught, and what is available to be learned and read by students throughout the K-8 grades at Sunol Glen.

Public schools are meant to serve the community and, in particular, educate the community's children in order to make them productive and engaged citizens of tomorrow. Every student is different, and the Sunol Glen school should actively seek to meet the needs of each one of them. I believe that members of the teaching staff at Sunol Glen, as professional educators, are keen to make sure that every student gets the best education that can be provided.