

First Name and Last Name

Connor Swan Smith

Are you an incumbent? If so, how many terms have you served?

No I am not.

Have you run for School Board Office before? What is your involvement with the School District (past or present?)

I have not run previously. My involvement in the district has been purely as a student as a member of the graduating class of 2017 at Los Alamitos High School.

Do you have a campaign website? Share the link.

www.swansmith4schoolboard.com

In life, who do you look up to? Why? Whose example would you like to follow and why?

I look up to Harry Chapin because he dedicated his life and his career to making the world a better place, and even though he often didn't have much, he gave it all to accomplishing that.

What would be your top 3 priorities; What do you hope to achieve if elected?

I want to increase the board's involvement and interaction with the teachers and students of the district.

If Measure G does pass, I want to ensure the new funds it raises for the district are spent responsibly and necessarily.

I want to make certain that all programs are effective at bettering our students and fostering the welcoming atmosphere that exists and should continue to exist in this district.

What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about? why?

I am most passionate about education, because I believe it is the foundation for everything else. We must have good, well adjusted, well informed citizens for this democracy to work and to be strong. Everyone benefits from a strong educational system because it it ensures a strong future.

What characteristics or principles are most important for an elected official

Elected officials should be honest, and should always keep the best interest

What do you believe are the core responsibilities for someone elected to this office?

A member of the School Board should make decisions independent of politics and the national stage. Decisions based upon the voices and experiences of the students and educators, and weighed in equal measure with the best interests of the communities that support them.

What legacy would you like to leave?

I want to show that it is never too early for young people to get involved or too soon for them to start making a difference when they see problems in their world.

What was your very first job and how long did you have it?

Bussing at Finbars in Seal Beach.

| If you could be any fictional character, who would you want to be?

| Atticus Finch because he stands up for what he believes against hatred.

What is your favorite holiday? Why?

| Christmas

| What is your favorite book? Why?

| The Great Gatsby

What is your favorite thing in your home? Why?

My computer is the most useful thing in my house because I use it to compose and arrange my music.

Where you ever (or still are) involved in sports or Arts?

I played baseball from baseball from T-ball until 6th grade and I was involved in show choir at the high school all four years participating in Sound FX during the last. Currently I am double majoring in Vocal Music and Education in order to continue pursuing music.

What is something that has been a struggle in your life?

I would say that the biggest struggle of my life so far, has been having separated parents.

What is the primary job of a school board member in your view?

In my view, the most important job of a school board member, is to make sure the teachers of the district have what they need to do an excellent job with our students, and then to hold all our faculty members to that standard of excellence.

How would you support the diverse needs of your district's students, faculty, staff, and community?

I think that the answer to this starts with knowing what different people in the district need, and the only way to do that is to go out and visit schools often so I can meet with and talk to all the people who make up the district and find out what is going on directly. That is what I plan on doing.

In light of the circumstances of NFL players not standing for the national Anthem to protest certain perceived racial injustices, how would you react to a student Athlete protesting at a school athletic event in the same manner?

Of course every student has the right to voice his or her opinion in any way that does not hurt anyone else or distract from learning. Personally I would not choose to voice my opinion in that manner, but I would support no effort to stop or curb the behavior of healthy expression.

How do you expect your staff to address any bullying issue in the classroom or campus, if at all?

I expect staff to have zero tolerance for bullying when they see it, and to look for it and snuff it out when possible. Beyond that, I trust their judgement on how to deal with specific cases, and if it is a problem I will look into it personally.

How will you do to build a better relationship with parents in the district? what plans do you have to be inclusive of parental involvement?

I want to increase parental involvement, especially at the younger grades because parents are such an integral part of a students education. I want to have events for parents to remind them that their child does not stop learning when school ends, and find out how we can make life easier on them.

Do you believe it is important to intentionally recruit with the aim of diversifying the district's faculty, staff, and administration? if so, what would be your policy to achieve this?

I think it is extremely important to go out of the way to try to find the best people, and bring them to Los Al. My policy will always be to get the best possible educators for our students, and our district.

What issues get in the way of quality education? how would you address these obstacles?

Primarily I have seen family or general life issues interfere with students' educations, and the best way to combat that is to be flexible and accommodating for students when those things happen. Especially at the high school level, it can be a very stressful and emotional time for students, but ultimately our goal should be to help them get through it and leave us as successful citizens.

What constitutes good teaching? How will you measure this? How will you support advanced teaching approaches?

I think a good teacher has prepared their students for both the next level of education, and also for life. I think its important to allow teachers some flexibility and creativity on how to best reach students. Ultimately we want to produce kids with the tools and skills to be successful in life.

What type of skills should students be learning for success in the 21st Century?

In the 21st century I think its more critically important than ever to create students that are great independent thinkers, and who know how to use the tools that we now have to get themselves to where they want to be in new and creative ways.

How might you improve the value of a high school diploma? what should the diploma reflect?

A diploma should reflect an ability to start taking on life as an adult no matter what path a student takes after high school. I want to improve that by improving upon and adding new courses in skills that students can choose to take, especially at high school level.

In what areas would you like to expand curriculum? what sort of additional *technical training*, *apprenticeships* and *innovative programming* would you advance if given the opportunity?

I would like to expand those types of opportunities for the arts especially. I believe that our schools have amazing arts programs and many students who enjoy them so it is important to have the ability for students to prepare for a next level in their art so they can choose to pursue it beyond high school if they want.

I'd also like to expand those opportunities in the sciences and especially technology. I'd like for our district to become more of a leader in those areas.

I also think programs like Model United Nations and other diplomatic types of programs can really strengthen the student body.

What role do you imagine technology playing in and outside the classroom in the future?

I think that many students are already using technology outside of the classroom to develop many skills that will be useful in tomorrow's world and economy. Inside the classroom we will need to work to give students greater exposure to technologies, and opportunities they wouldn't have come to on their own.

What principles drive your policies for safety in schools? What will you implement in our schools for our kids and staff to be safer?

My policies for safety in schools is driven by reason. We must keep our kids safe to the very best of our ability, however not all “safety measures” actually keep our kids safer, and indeed some do more harm than good. Emergency blue light phones which patch straight through to emergency services simply are not necessary. Yet they are mentioned as a goal for Measure “G”. We need to keep our kids safe at school, but we also need to educate them while they’re there, and unnecessary spending on safety measures will cut into our ability to do that.

How will you support the mental health needs of students/faculty/staff?

It is my belief that we need to hire a few more counselors in the district, and especially ones who are equipped to deal with mental health issues and even just day to day stresses of students and faculty alike.

