

# Jason Freeman for School Board

## EXPERIENCED EDUCATOR SEEKS SEAT ON WEST CONTRA COSTA SCHOOL BOARD

Jason Freeman, a former classroom teacher with 13 years of experience in education, filed papers on Friday to run for the West Contra Costa school board.

“I have worked at all levels of education – from the classroom to Washington, DC – and I have seen success in many forms. Our district faces great challenges, and now is the time to build upon examples of success from our own and other communities. Our community must come together to support our schools, and I have the experience to make that happen.”

Freeman’s career in education has focused on building networks and coalitions, primarily supporting science and math education for youth in underserved communities. As the founding director of the Coalition for Science After School, Freeman brought together over 600 organizations, including science museums, providers of afterschool programs, and community groups, to advocate for and implement science learning beyond the school day. Freeman helped unite teachers, families, and community members who wanted better public schools for their children as a teacher and part of the founding team of the IDEA Academy (now IDEA Public Schools), recently recognized as one of the best schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

Former student and recent college graduate Sandy Garcia says, “Jason Freeman is one of those teachers a student will never forget. He lays the foundation for learning and then challenges the student to do more. He is sincere about his passion for giving each child the opportunity for a quality education. ... He was one of the first teachers to mention a college education, something I was completely unaware of before then. I am proud to say I am one year away from completing my master’s program and I owe my success to teachers like him.”

Freeman recognizes the difficulties faced by an incoming school trustee – a structural deficit, mounting debt, safety problems, and declining enrollment – and offers a new perspective in addressing those challenges. “Funding for education is changing nationwide, and districts must be prepared to compete for support. The districts where everyone is working together will be rewarded, and I will work to ensure that West Contra Costa is not left out.”

Freeman is a trustee of the West Contra Costa Public Education Foundation, which supports public education throughout the district. He and his wife Gretchen, who is also a science educator, live in El Cerrito with their one-year-old daughter Sydney.

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