

Week 23 Question: **How did you vote in the school board recall and why?**

Michael Lai

I voted to recall Alison Collins, Gabriela López, and Faauuga Moliga in 2022 because they put ideology over kids.

As a public school kid, educator, and school builder who has dedicated my whole career so far to expanding opportunity for kids and families, I was shocked to hear from parent friends with their kids in SFUSD during Covid that they found school board members focused on renaming 44 schools (because Abraham Lincoln is racist) instead of reopening schools.

These policies were harmful for all children, especially the most marginalized students of color they were purporting to help, and students are still experiencing the negative mental health effects today.

These school board members also detracted from real fiscal and operational issues in the district, including the teacher payroll system crisis, enrollment shortfall, and budget crises that still need to be addressed for SFUSD to serve its mission for students including many D11 students who can't afford to opt out into private schools.

100 years ago, progressive era reformers came up with democratic reforms including the initiative, referendum, and recall. I don't believe in most recalls, but I voted to recall all three members of the school board here. The new school board leadership has since come up with a student centered outcomes framework and hired a new superintendent. We have a long way to go, but I pledge to be an outcomes oriented supervisor that works together with the school board to put kids, teachers and families first.