

Our Picks for Clark County School District



Clark County School District C
Martin Dean Dupalo

Las Vegas Tribune Staff

If you have no interest in helping education or in the proper use of public funds, you have a lot in common with the activities of some current and recent School Board members. Watch the trend line for what goes on with the failed Trustees as they move through the political system. Many would-be politicians see the School board as a way to consolidate power before running for other offices in Clark County.

The lackluster performance of Suzan



Clark County School District D
Javier Trujillo

Brager is a fine example of what happens when you take those responsible for bad planning at the School Board and promote them to the County Commission. While Commissioner Brager is assisted by more than one person who is a notable thinker on the Commission, her limited thinking still comes forward from her CCSD days, which only ended when she handpicked Edwards as her successor.

Currently, Mary Beth Scow is attempting to make the same leap. If the



Clark County School District F
Ken Small

public had the chance to watch these two on televised School Board meetings they would never have been reelected let alone have the chance of running elsewhere. Our County has too many serious problems to have well intentioned incompetents making big decisions.

Current School Board President, Terri Janison, was planning to run for City Council in the last election and is still posturing for a higher position.

Las Vegas Tribune suggests that you
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come out and vote now or you will be facing more bad choices as a result of the CCSD selection system elsewhere in the future too. The same people who made Nevada the 50th state for education will soon be running the County Commission, City Council and worse, if you don't vote some good choices in now.

Our choices for Clark County School District are: Martin Dean Dupalo, Ken Small and Javier Trujillo.

District C

Martin Dean Dupalo

Dupalo is a UNLV political science professor who has, of course, experience as a teacher. He attended Carnegie Mellon, Heinz School of Public Policy, earning his Masters in Public Management. He is an activist recognized for facing down Walmart and clearly articulating views to help our students. Dupalo was an Air Force intelligence officer and after being honorably discharged, began teaching at the former CCSN.

This seat is being vacated by Sheila Moulton who is one of a long line who select their successors. We hope that Moulton will be the last in a long list of failed but well-intentioned stay-at-home mothers who have no experience in the management and who are only able to take the advice of the bureaucracy. Moulton has pushed hard to elect Erin Cranor. Cranor has Moulton's same qualifications (mom with no management experience) and an insider history of working on the School Board's disaster-

prone zoning board. That board is the source of most handpicked successors and is also where Edwards came from. Graduating insiders up the ladder is what has brought the school board to its knees today and so, we like Dupalo's education and ideas instead of more of the same.

District D

Javier Trujillo

District D is almost a one-horse race. Trujillo is the obvious winner although he is apparently another insider from the school district. In 2002, Javier was recruited by the Clark County School District to develop and implement a district-wide mariachi program. He has worked as a music teacher. He is a community activist volunteer for numerous political and community activities. He is slowly learning what the issues and solutions are for CCSD. Javier's competition in this race can barely articulate a position or what they would do if elected. His ability to articulate the issues of the largely Hispanic and minority community that District D was gerrymandered to represent make him the only option for those people.

You will note that this is not exactly a ringing endorsement; we feel that Trujillo, having an MBA, is smart enough to catch on between the primary and the general election and the others running have presented no evidence of being able to do that. This seat is not held by Larry Mason who is so obviously frustrated with the seat that you can see it from the school board au-

dience. Since Mason's illness two years ago, District D may as well have had no representative. However, Mason comes to life sometimes and shows the experience of the old master and some ability to fight for his views. With all the back-room deals and screwed up ideas that rule the trustees not currently not up for reelection, Trujillo had better be a fighter to get anything done. We have seen a little evidence of that so far and hope to see more.

It is a little early to call who will win the general election, but unless he makes a big mistake, Javier is a shoe-in for the general election. We would caution him that he needs to get out there and get charged up with his community to make a difference.

District F

Ken Small

Ken Small is a parent activist who has been pointing out the school board's mistakes publicly for many years now. He is a recognized Educational Facility Planner, which means that he is the only person in this race who has any training or experience that will be of benefit to the kids and taxpayers of Clark County. Small is an award-winning architect who came to public attention about 2007 when he publicly reported that the District construction department was intentionally violating the Americans with Disabilities Act and that the District was paying contractors for work not done on CCSD construction projects. He regularly appears at Board meetings and hits the nail right on the head when it comes to the Trustees

mistakes that have led Nevada to be ranked among the worst in the nation for education. As a former president of a local Educational non-profit organization, Small has traveled all over the country, touring schools and being trained on solutions from which the district could learn.

District F is presently held by incumbent Carolyn Edwards who is the School Board vice president. Edwards's presentations to voters mostly list taking credit for "successes" like building many new schools and posting videos of the school board videos online. These presentations fail to mention that she forgot to fix our old schools and built too many new ones, causing a crushing debt for the taxpayers. Edwards was successful in heading off a move within the state legislature to force the Trustees to televise their procedures. That was the reason that School Board meetings are now viewable in a tiny window on the internet. As Vice President of the School Board and the only incumbent up for reelection, Edwards does deserve full credit for the mess that CCSD is now in.

The other school district seats come up for election in two years. This seat is for a 4-year term starting in January 2010 and ending in December 2013.