

GARY KNACKSTEDT

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER, TRUSTEE AREA 2 LODI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Occupation: LUSD Board Trustee/Retired Teacher and Athletic Director

My education and qualifications are: I have devoted my entire professional career to the youth of Lodi Unified. For 37 years, I called Lodi High School my home as a business skills and computer technology classroom teacher. Thirty-two of those years also included coaching Track and Cross Country at the varsity level. I took great pride in becoming Lodi High's Athletic Director the last five years of my career where I was involved in the planning and completion of facility improvement projects of the baseball field, track facilities, and building a new gym. My desire for continued quality education in our community led me to become a mentor to help new teachers.

It has been my honor to serve as LUSD Board Trustee for Area 2 that included terms as Vice-President and President during the past four years. I have a proven track record supporting the district personnel change by hiring Assistant Superintendents for Secondary and Elementary Education, Curriculum Superintendent, and the Chief Business Officer. I participated in contract negotiations for salary, benefits, and employee working conditions. And I proudly advocated for more Career and Technical Education classes at Valley Robotics Academy.

COVID-19 has made this a complicated time for all school districts. I pledge to continue to keep campus safety a high priority and to successfully work with our district staff and teachers to produce a learning strategy that inclusively educates our students under all circumstances. Student success is my number one goal. My instincts and perspective as a classroom teacher continually remind me how my decisions impacts students of LUSD.

My years of experience as an educator for Lodi USD proves my deep commitment to the education for all of our students. LUSD Board trustee is a natural extension to a career that has been devoted to LUSD students and a continuation of the service I have provided for my professional lifetime. My focus has always been to work for the students of Lodi USD. Now is not the time to gamble with inexperience leadership. Education is my profession, not just a steppingstone to some other political office.

Thank you for your vote.