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Mohr tops vote for community college district

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Longtime educator Tom Mohr came away with the most votes in the race for the San Mateo County Community College District Board of Trustees, with 42.8 percent of the vote.

Incumbent Richard Holoher, 61, received 38.6 percent of the vote to snag the second open seat on the board, according to semi-official election results from the San Mateo County Elections Office. George Yang came away with 11.5 percent of the vote and J. Samuel Diaz took 7.1 percent of the vote. The vacant seat that longtime trustee Helen Hausman left this past spring was up for grabs, along with Holoher's seat.

Mohr, 78, said his point of focus going into office is improving the completion and graduation rates, but knows it's not the kind of matter you change substantially in a fortnight.

"I feel very good about it (the win)," said Mohr, a former science teacher, high school principal, San Mateo Union High School District superintendent and president of Cañada College. "I wanted very much to continue my association with the college district."

Mohr said he was surprised by the margin of his win.

"I didn't know what to expect," he said. "I have worked in every part of the county over the years and I don't know if that made a difference in those numbers or not."

This is Holoher's fifth term on the board.

"I'm very pleased and look forward to serving another term," Holoher said. "The issue that we will be addressing, simply because it is happening right now, is the accreditation review. Beyond that, we're moving into new environment after five years of cuts, we will now be able to restore programs and offer new programs; it's an exciting time."

Other county school board races in the Daily Journal coverage area included victories by incumbents Alan Sarver with 35.3 percent and Christopher Thomsen with 33 percent of the votes for two seats on the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees, according to the semi-official final results. Challenger Georgia Jack received 31.8 percent of the vote.

In the Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary School District Board of Trustees race, there were seven candidates vying for three open seats. Incumbent Charles Velschow, Suvarna Bhopale and Amy Koo were elected with 22.9 percent, 17.8 percent and 13.6 percent of the vote, respectively. Naomi Nishimoto, Rakesh Hegde, Kelly Redmon and Herbert Neuman also ran. Incumbents Andy Stulbarg and Brian Matthews did not seek re-election.

In the San Carlos Elementary School District Board of Trustees race, appointed incumbents Carol Elliott



Longtime county educator Tom Mohr celebrates at the Fox Forum in Redwood City after learning he took a commanding lead in the race for two seats on the San Mateo County Community College District Board of Trustees. Incumbent Richard Holoher also received a high vote total to keep his seat on the board.

and Kathleen Farley, along Nicole Bergeron, won the three open seats, with 29.4 percent, 28.7 percent and 26.5 percent of the vote, respectively. Sarah Stiefel received 15.5 percent of the vote. Elliott and Farley were appointed when Carrie Du Bois was elected to the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees and Mark Olbert was elected to the San Carlos City Council last November. Board President Beth Hunkapiller decided not to run for re-election and stepped down from her seat.

There were three open seats in the Hillsborough City School District Board of Trustees race. Incumbent Lynne Esselstein, Don Geddis and Kaarin Hardy took the open seats with 28.2 percent, 27.9 percent and 27.7 percent of the vote, respectively. Pearl G. Wu received 16.3 percent of the vote. Trustees Steven Koury and Mary Ellen Benninger were not seeking re-election.

Incumbent Henry Sanchez, appointed incumbent Patrick Flynn and John Marinos took the three open seats on the San Bruno Park School District Board of Trustees, with 28.6 percent, 27.6 percent and 24.3 percent of the vote, respectively. Former trustee Chuck Zelnik received 19.5 percent of the vote. Flynn was appointed to replace longtime trustee Skip Henderson, who retired. Trustee James Prescott was not running for re-election.

Elections were not required in five school districts. In the Burlingame Elementary School District, Kay Coskey and incumbents Davina Drabkin and Gregory Land were the only three candidates for three open seats. Trustee Liz Gindraux did not seek re-election.

In the San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District, incumbent Lory Lorimer Lawson, Chelsea Bonini and Ed Coady were the only candidates for three open seats. Incumbents Ellen Mallory Ulrich and Julie Chan did not seek re-election.

In the Millbrae Elementary School District, incumbents Lynne Ferrario, D. Don Revelo and Denis A. Fama were the only three candidates for three open seats.

In the Redwood City Elementary School District, incumbents Hilary Paulson and Maria Diaz-Slocum were the only two candidates for two open seats.

In the San Mateo Union High School District, incumbents Linda Lees Dwyer, Peter Hanley and Robert Griffin were the only three candidates for three open seats.

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