

## Bay Area News in Brief

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SAN JOSE

### **Group seeks pledges from candidates**

About 400 people concerned about schools, youth and crime turned out to elicit pledges from Santa Clara County supervisor candidates Tuesday night to support small schools and immigrants.

Organized by the interfaith group People Acting in Community Together, the evening featured five young people testifying about their fear of increased violence, and parents speaking in favor of autonomous schools started in the Alum Rock School District.

The four candidates who appeared - Richard Hobbs, Richard Lopez, Patricia Martinez-Roach and George Shirakawa - are running in the county's District 2 supervisor's race to replace Blanca Alvarado. Another candidate, Frank Chavez, president of the Alum Rock school board, did not attend.

Although the evening at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church began with talk about violence and fear, the questions turned to whether the Alum Rock School District would support three autonomous small schools - Adelante Dual Language Academy, LUCHA and Renaissance Academy.

Gustavo Gonzalez, an Alum Rock trustee who attended the meeting, said afterward that the district was evaluating the programs, but the reviews hadn't yet been completed.

- *Sharon Noguchi, Mercury News*