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OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

San Leandro Unified School District

Application for Governing Board Appointment

THIS APPLICATION IS A PUBLIC RECORD

The appointee will hold office until the next regularly scheduled Statewide General Election for governing board members, which will take place on November 8, 2022. [EC § 5091(e)]

QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicant must be a registered voter and a resident of the San Leandro Unified School District and a resident in Area 2. An employee of a school district may not be sworn into office as an elected or appointed member of that school district's governing board unless and until he or she resigns as an employee. [EC § 35107]

Certification of qualifications on page 5 must be signed by the applicant.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

This application must be received no later than **January 28 at 5:00 p.m.** Applications may be mailed or hand-delivered to:

Dr. Michael McLaughlin, Superintendent
c/o Michelle Mayfield
San Leandro Unified School District Office
835 E. 14th Street, Suite 200
Tel: (510) 667-3522

(Please type or print):

Name Abbey Kerins

Address 954 Lee Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577

Telephone No. Home (415 200-8120 Business ( )

Years of Residence in the San Leandro Unified School District: 3

SLUSD Board of Education – Area 2 Application
Abbey N. Kerins

Provide a description of your educational work and/or public service background.

I have worked in public education in the Bay Area, since 2004, as a teacher-leader, a district-level literacy coach and coordinator, an administrator at a large comprehensive high school, and most recently as the Director of State and Federal Compliance for Newark Unified.

Over these last 18 years, I am proud to have been part of many collaborative, transformation efforts at many different levels: classroom, teacher team, schools, non-profits, and even District office. These experiences have given me a lot of insight regarding the role that local governance can play in facilitating meaningful change and empowering community engagement processes.

During the federal funding for Race to the Top in 2011-15, I was part of a multi-county and -District effort to establish cycles of inquiry at elementary and middle schools across San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose. This work included working closely with Superintendents, Directors of Curriculum and Instruction, and presenting to boards of education on the impact of our efforts to change student outcomes and change teacher and leadership practices.

From 2016-2020, among challenging budget cuts in Oakland, I established strong partnerships with external organizations and philanthropies to help maintain the programs and services to students. This work included securing a 3-year, $600k, grant from the Schusterman Foundation to implement high-quality curriculum and professional learning; a 3-year, $300k grant from the Gates Foundation for professional learning partnerships; and a 2-year, federal grant from Institute of Education Sciences to study efficacy of literacy interventions at the secondary level.

And most recently in the midst our current pandemic and staffing crisis, I was able to relaunch Newark Unified School District's professional learning for English Learners. We are proud to now have 85% of our cohort of teachers in TK-3 training in Sobrato Early Academic Literacy (SEAL) Practices that have already shown to be accelerating academic performance for our multilingual students.

I believe that those that are in service of students and families are some of the most brilliant, dedicated, and creative people in our community. I have worked alongside them, literally, as an Assistant Principal at San Leandro High School, and I hope to work with our students, families, teachers, staff, and administrators again, as a member of the Board.

My core driver in doing this work is engaging in continuous improvement of teaching and learning and disrupting patterns of inequity. This is a core driver that I know I share with the community in Area 2 and San Leandro as a whole.

Why do you wish to serve on the Board? What do you hope to accomplish?

I grew up in a small working-class town, much like San Leandro. In fact, I grew up in the house my father grew up in. My family raised me to always give back to the community in which we live, because it is the strength of our community that really determines the quality of our lives and the lives of future generations.

It is this upbringing and my years of dedicated serve to public schools that has helped me build an understanding of what it takes to govern in a way that empowers parents, students, staff, and community partners to participate in meaningful ways. I know that I will be able to listen to the community in my area, that I will seek to understand the different points of view, that I will build compassion and connection across the diversity of perspectives, and that together we will come up with solutions to move us into the next generation

It is important to acknowledge that this opportunity is available to me and to all applicants because of the tragic loss our neighbor, Trustee Christian Rodriguez. He was an excellent model of what it means to celebrate and support our schools and students. He and his family showed up for San Leandro on every occasion. I hope to honor that legacy by continuing his work, and the work of this Board, to create a school system that is transformational for all.

The Board and the Superintendent and Executive Cabinet have set forth a beautiful vision of what our District can do. My hope is to help move forward the bold, equity-focused goals outlined in the LCAP. I feel passionately about so many actions that have been put forth and would love to serve as a Board member as they come to realization.

I want to see the new STEAM Academy at San Leandro High School train the next generation of engineers. I want to see the District make bold moves toward lowering its carbon impact on our environment through facilities and supply decisions. I want to see all our multilingual students achieving and competing at the highest level from Kinder through high school because of high quality dual language and language development instruction. I want to see how our brilliant, young people blossom with expanded offerings in the arts and STEAM. I want to see students accelerate regardless of what their prior experiences are in school or life, so that San Leandro becomes a beacon of hope for families here and in neighboring communities. All of this is the work that is set before us, and this is the right work to do.

What skills, abilities, and experience would you bring to the Board to assist in carrying out its responsibilities?

I bring a set of technical and relational skills that I hope will be of value to the Board and Area 2 families. I have a deep knowledge of the field of education: the current research, statues and policies, and have practical knowledge about the application of these things. In addition, I bring joy and optimism about what we can accomplish. I know it is possible to really live out our values of equity and inclusion, and I have a good understanding about some of resources (financial and programmatic) and tools (statutes and procedures) to help us get there.

List your involvement in activities that demonstrate your understanding and support for public education, such as membership on committees/organizations, offices held, volunteer work, and community service.

I think that the best demonstration of my understanding and support for public education are my years of experience. I have served in many capacities (not previously mentioned), which are listed below:

- Facilitator of Foster Youth and Unhoused Youth Focus Groups
- Facilitator of English Learner Advisory Groups and District English Learner Advisory Groups
- Planned and facilitated community engagement for the adoption of History and English Language Arts curriculum.
- Facilitated parent-focused, literacy events in Hunter's Point.
- Supported a student led conference to train students on advocacy within public school governance structures.

List, in order of importance, the major issues confronting public education and, specifically, the San Leandro Unified School District.

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the tremendous work that the Board has already accomplished. With the support of the public, San Leandro Unified School District has achieved many significant upgrades to school facilities under Measure J1 and Measure N, including Area 2's Washington and Roosevelt Elementary Schools, and the upcoming improvements to Bancroft Middle School. These improvements, especially the improvement of our HVAC systems, have been a critical part of keeping the community engaged and healthy during the pandemic. The District has done an excellent job of monitoring the progress of construction and providing transparent communication regarding the status of the improvements.

Beyond facilitates, the Board has also worked diligently to make a clear and inspiring stance on issues of racial justice and other systemic inequities. The inequities that the Board has recently addressed in its policies include an updated, comprehensive plan for our Special Education students, a commitment to transparency with posting all relevant strategic planning documents and all policies related to harassment and discrimination, and a recent review and revision to our programs and policies that support our multilingual students.

If I was to be granted the honor of serving the community, I would like to use my expertise to continue to support the Board's work in the following areas:

1. Continued improvement of our students that are meeting college readiness indicators, including an increase in the number of students that are graduating with all the A-G credit needed for a UC/CSU admission.
2. Engage in a continued exploration of high-quality assessments to monitor student progress to make early interventions and accelerate achievement for all.
3. Strengthen our inclusive practices for our exceptional students with special needs, so that there is sense of connection and access for our students.

4. Support the work that is already underway to revise out English Learner Master Plan in alignment with the State's EL Roadmap and develop a deeper understand for all families about the assets that our language learners and multilingual families bring to our schools.
5. Expand the partnerships that we have with mental health providers and non-profit wellness organizations to better leverage those strong partnerships and to monitor the data generated from those engagements.

Lastly, I would also like to engage my community in formal and informal ways to make sure that these values and priorities match their interests and address their concerns.

Explain the mission of the San Leandro Unified School District.

I find that the most powerful part of the District's mission is the way that it acknowledges the past and looks toward the future.

We are a community of local tradition and a community that has become representative of a global world with numerous international businesses around the corner and mom and pop shops that have been passed down for generations. Our graduates are leading innovation and carrying on the legacy of families that have been here for decades and those that are brand new to the country.

The work of our schools is to foster the creative talent, collaborative spirit, and compassionate heart that come with growing up in such a vibrant community. We dedicate ourselves to this work by to creating meaningful partnerships with teachers, students, and families to address the historical and entrenched issues that have become all too predictable in public school systems across the country. Our mission is to not only create policies and practices that rebalance the opportunities available for students, which is often where many other Districts draw the line. Our mission also calls on us, District leaders and Board members and all staff, to work with all of our community partners in a way that is restorative and healing so that we not only share the inspiring vision for San Leandro Unified, but more importantly that we walk together, that we learn together, that we lead together to realize a more equitable and hopeful future for our students.

San Leandro Unified School District
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CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS:

I understand that upon appointment I would be required to file a Conflict of Interest Statement and take an Oath of Office.

I certify I am not disqualified to hold this office because of a conviction of any of the crimes on the attached list and further certify I am not otherwise disqualified under the California Constitution or statutes from holding public office.

I certify I am a registered voter and that I reside within the San Leandro Unified School District, Area 2. I attest the foregoing information is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant

1/27/2022
Date

Information contained on this application may be subject to verification.