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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 Nancy Pretto

Address 775 Bridge Road, San Leandro

Telephone No. Home ( ) 510-352-7498 Business ( ) 510-406-0329

Years of Residence in the San Leandro Unified School District: 47

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QUALIFICATIONS: (Limit each answer to no more than 500 words.)

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

Since Mike and I moved to San Leandro in 1974 I have been immersed in the school community. My focus has been to instill a love for learning and service in my children and grandchildren. While raising our five children, I volunteered in each of their classrooms at some point. I also finished my degree in English with a minor in science at CSEB. I discovered my fascination with early childhood education at Broadmoor Cooperative Nursery when our middle daughter Allison, was enrolled. When all our children were well into elementary school I worked as a kindergarten aide for five years. Subsequently I went back to CSEB to get my teaching credential. I then taught 2nd grade for 10 years. Next, I taught 4th grade for 2 years. I loved teaching the five steps of long division to my students as well as California history and literature. I retired from classroom teaching when Allison and our son-in-law Brian relocated to San Leandro. Our first grandson Alexander needed daycare and I loved being his care giver. When he was three, I got to be his partner at Broadmoor. Then, our son Darryl and wife Corina moved back to San Leandro and I got to take care of Leo as well. I worked in Alex's and Leo's, classrooms at Roosevelt. Leo and Alex's brother Ben are now students at San Leandro High. I currently lead a Middle School Social Action Team, which includes students from public and private schools.

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

I wish to serve on the Board because throughout my career I have been deeply involved in educating and nurturing young people. Mike and I knew Christian Rodriguez and admired his vitality, love of students and strong support of public schools. I feel I have these same qualities, and am applying because I want to assure myself and the community that his efforts will be continued. Moreover, my life has been focused on raising our children, assisting with our grandchildren's growth and development, family needs and classroom teaching. From my life experiences I have seen and felt deeply the stages of learning processes in growing minds. Most recently, through my leadership of a service group consisting of public and private school students from diverse backgrounds, I have become increasingly aware of the joy that young teens experience by helping others alongside their peers. Feeding hungry people, pulling out invasive plants from the creek, calling people who are unable to leave their homes just to say hello, etc., I have felt the power of young people going into themselves and searching for whom they wish to become. I compare this to the butterfly caterpillar going into the chrysallis, becoming silent, invisible and then struggling out of the chrysallis, drying off its wings and taking flight. Young teens go into themselves, often becoming silent for a while as they search and explore their inner abilities, ask questions and try out different interests and options. Public education supports this process by offering young people so many avenues and opportunities to walk down paths that guide them to discover their strengths and abilities to contribute to the good of their community. I wish to inform and involve myself and our community about the myriad ways young people can develop their abilities and serve others in the community.

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

I believe that my deep interest in public education, my experience as a teacher, and as a volunteer in my grandchildren's classrooms have prepared me to understand the issues that educators and Board members encounter daily.

As well, I organize and lead students in group learning projects well. I am focused on students exploring their strengths and interests through community service. Cleanups of San Leandro Creek, including digging up invasive plants, provide learning opportunities in science and health. Writing about their experiences in exploring the natural world stimulates students' deeper thinking about service and our connectedness with the natural world.. I continue to work on community service projects with my Middle School Social Action Team.

4. 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.

Davis Street Family Resource Center Board Member 2015-Present.

Literacy Tutor with San Leandro Library Literacy program 2013 - 2018.

Board Member of Community Theater Group

Past President League of Women Voters San Leandro

Brougtht teens to assist at Davis Street's annual Christmas toy gift program.

For three years prior ro Covid pandemic, brought Bancroft students to Jefferson Preschool run by Davis Street. Bancroft students made lunches for the preschoolers, ate with them and read stories to them.

Longtime supporter of San Leandro Education Foundation, Building Futures, and Girls Inc. of Alameda County.

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

1. Teacher retention
2. Campus Security
3. Students treating one another with respect
4 .Ensuring mental health during Covid

I present the above issues because they are essential to the education goals stated in the SLUSD Mission Statement. All of them are currently being addressed, but there is always room for improvement. They are absolutely essential to creating a stable learning environment. When students feel safe, they can focus on learning. Students respect the educational processes and challenges when they are fully engaged in them and surrounded by faculty and families dedicated to these goals. SLUSD is working hard to create and improve this learning environment for students and for the whole San Leandro Community, and must continue to do so.

6. Explain the mission of the San Leandro Unified School District.

The District's adopted mission statement speaks for itself. It is comprehensive and appropriate. It encompasses what I strongly believe public education should achieve:

1. Students are treated with respect and trained to ask questions when they need clarification. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves, and they are focusing on how they learn. Families are included as much as needed to assist their students in efforts and activities leading to academic success.

2. All personnel and students respect the goal of learning and will learn to see the courage, persistence, curiosity and strength of each person in this learning community.

3. Students acknowledge and develop their own learning styles. They become increasingly aware of strategies to enhance their learning. They ask for help when they are in need.

4. Family concerns about their students are addressed to ensure students remain engaged in the learning process. Unmet basic needs such as food insecurity or shelter are addressed and appropriate services given to families. When appropriate, counselling to families and students are offered.

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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.

Nancy Pretto
Signature of Applicant

January 28, 2022
Date

Information contained on this application may be subject to verification.