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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 Shauna Olsen

Address 802 Superior Ave, San Leandro CA 94577

Telephone No. Home ( ) 510-301-2378 Business ( ) 510-301-2378

Years of Residence in the San Leandro Unified School District: 22

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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.

My work in the education sector has consisted of teaching an after-school class on nutrition in the San Francisco Unified School District with the Food Education Project. I have many years of experience volunteering with SLUSD in various capacities as well as teaching a nutrition and cooking class for school-aged children through the nonprofit CUESA. Professionally, I have experience working in public service through my work with the CA Dept. of Public Health. While most of my public health career has been spent in chronic disease prevention and health policy, I have been working for the past year as part of the state's COVID-19 response and spent much of 2021 working with the Safe Schools for All team, a multi-agency group that makes policy and creates guidance for California's K-12 schools. As a liaison and statewide coordinator for the Safe Schools team, I led efforts to provide technical assistance and interpretation of K-12 guidance for schools and local health jurisdictions. Currently I am a part of the Workforce Training & Development team and help lead a cohort of 45 early career public health professionals. My role involves providing mentorship and training for the fellows as well as technical assistance and support for the local health department preceptors. Regardless of job title, my work has always involved relationship building and working in teams to accomplish goals.

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

I am interested in serving on the Board because I believe my education, professional experience and volunteer work give me a background that could be helpful. I hope that my service will benefit the community and improve educational outcomes for the students of San Leandro Unified School District. My years of experience volunteering in the schools have given me insight into the needs of students, teachers and administrators as we work together to make San Leandro schools excellent. My professional experience working in public health, including as part of the state's Safe Schools team, has given me opportunity to work on public policy with my work being guided by a focus on equity. Public health, as a discipline, looks at the community as a whole and works to create programs and policies that improve the health of the whole. Good public health policy, like good education policy, prioritizes populations in the community that are the most impacted, have the fewest resources and are most underrepresented.

What I hope to accomplish while serving on the Board is that my contributions will have a positive impact on our school community and it will be in a better position when I end my tenure than when I began. I understand there are many issues confronting the district and I hope to put my critical thinking skills to use to tackle those issues with collaboration and leadership.

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

As a parent and volunteer in the district, I will bring the perspective of someone who experiences district policy directly. As someone with strong community ties, I hope to represent the voice of fellow district families. As a public health professional, I bring knowledge to help navigate the pandemic and expertise in public health communications. I am told that I have an ability to take complicated things and make them easy to understand. I hope to utilize that skill to not only guide board policy but also improve communication with the community.

I prioritize looking at issues from all sides, and will take that approach when working with the board to carry out its responsibilities. My job is very collaborative and I have experience working with a team to make policy, produce reports and execute strategy. I understand the need for the Board to function as a team as it carries out its responsibilities. I will also bring a desire to learn and the humility to recognize expertise and knowledge in fellow Board members, school staff and the greater community. I operate from a strengths-based perspective and believe learning from those who have come before me is the best way to be successful.

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.

Since my children first enrolled in San Leandro Unified in fall of 2010, I have actively volunteered in the district. I have worked regularly in their classrooms and chaperoned countless field trips. I have held many leadership positions in the Roosevelt and Bancroft PTAs incldluing VP of Membership, VP of Communications, Member of the Fundraising Committee and Hospitality Chair. I served on the Roosevelt Wellness Committee and the SLUSD GATE Committee. I served a two-year term on the Bancroft School Site Council and helped organize activities for their student-led Earth Team. I've canvassed and waived signs for school bond measures and have always looked for ways to contribute to the benefit of my community.

I have been involved in other community service efforts including serving as a member of various nonprofit boards including the Tourette Association, First Covenant Church of Oakland and the Food Education Project.

My volunteering philosophy is to look for opportunities that have the biggest impact. When my kids were younger, the greatest need way always in the classroom, working with students and supporting teachers in any way possible. As they grew older, I have looked for opportunities to continue serving such as being a part of the Bancroft School Site Council, where finding parents to volunteer was difficult. That is why I am interested in serving on the school Board, feeling that my experience can benefit the community.

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

1. I believe the biggest issue confronting any public school district, including San Leandro Unified, is the challenge of providing an excellent educational experience for every child in the district, given limited resources. The challenge exists of trying to balance the needs of the larger school community against the needs of an individual child and determining what to prioritize. SLUSD has done an excellent job over the years of using an evidence-based approach to prioritizing school community needs and I'm so happy the broader community has supported the district with increased funds through bond measures and general financial support. I feel that my training in public health and experience looking at issues from a community perspective will help me guide the district through this challenge. 2. The current public health crisis is another huge concern confronting public education, although we hope it will be a shorter term challenge. Schools taking on contact tracing, initiating testing programs, and other public health mitigation efforts is a major undertaking which is outside the typical scope of work for a public school district. This is an area where my training and expertise can benefit the district and I hope to help provide guidance and understanding in the midst of constant change. 3. I am also concerned about overcrowding in our schools, including traffic hazards during drop off and pickup times. While SLUSD has been incredibly creative in their use of space I believe this issue will continue as the city of San Leandro continues to grow.

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

The San Leandro Unified School District exists to provide an excellent educational experience for every child in the district. To accomplish this, SLUSD must have excellent teachers who have the resources they need to do their job and support from administrators and families in the district. SLUSD administrators, staff and Board members must be committed to the success of all students in the district and willing to support teachers in their quest to inspire, engage and instruct students. Furthermore, SLUSD leadership must be willing to invest in the health and wellbeing of the whole child so the children are prepared to learn.

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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

1/28/22
Date

Information contained on this application may be subject to verification.