

**ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

2. Have you worked on any school committees or participated in any school activities recently?
Please list them.

I served on the SSC at Otis and Lincoln while my kids were attending.

3. Describe any other community or business activities in which you have participated. describe your role, and whether your work was volunteer or employment-related

1999-2007 Program Director, Alameda Family Services (formerly Xanthos)

2007-2022 Behavioral Health Director, Oakland Unified School District

2022-2023 Mental Health Consultant, Alameda Unified School District

4. Why do you want to be a school board member?

I recently retired from Oakland Unified and am seeking opportunities to be of service in my home community (Alameda). As a former program director and district administrator I acquired skills, knowledge, and experience that I believe can be helpful in support of Alameda students, staff, and families. In particular I can offer expertise in mental health services, education reform, community schools frameworks, diversity/equity/inclusion, collaborative problem solving, budget management, and distributive leadership.

5. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools?

Most broadly the goal of public education is to ensure that all students succeed academically and become contributing members of society. On a deeper level I believe public schools strive to provide a safe and supportive environment where all students can learn social, emotional, and academic skills and uncover their individual talents and gifts to share with their peers, families and communities. Public schools seek to prepare students to be college, career, and community ready.

6. What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?

I believe the role of a school board is to ensure that the district is responsive to the values, beliefs and priorities of it's community. School board members fulfill this role by setting vision, establishing an effective and efficient structure for implementation, providing support, ensuring accountability, and providing community leadership as advocates for children, the school district and public schools.

7. How does the board's role differ from that of the superintendent?

In my understanding, a school board is a local government unit that manages a district's public schools. The school board does not operate the district on a day-to-day basis; that is the job of the superintendent, who is the district's chief executive. Rather, the school board sets the policies, goals and objectives for the district – and it employs and holds the superintendent responsible for implementing these policies and achieving set goals.

8. What should be the relationship between the board members and the administration in the handling of school concerns?

The school board should be the last resort in handling a problem originating at a school. If for example, a parent has tried to communicate their concern to the teacher, principal, supervisor and/or superintendent and all has failed, then the school board could become involved with the primary goal of providing needed support and holding administration accountable to respond/resolve the issue. School board members may advocate but do not manage.

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9. Briefly describe how you believe you will contribute to the educational process.

I believe that I can contribute by working as a collaborative team member with the board and superintendent to make decisions that will best serve all the students in our community. I will do this by understanding my role, providing strategic support, committing to learning and development, being emotionally engaged, being transparent and accountable, working for equity and inclusion, and understanding the educational environment, challenges and strengths in my community.

10. What do you see as the strengths of the school district?

The districts strengths include sustained leadership by an experienced superintendent; a strong commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion; a commitment to implement district-wide mental health and wellness; and an investment in a strategic plan designed to articulate and align the district's educational focus, time, resources, and organizational design, with an intentional focus on providing equitable opportunities and access to all of our students.

11. What do you see as the area(s) most needing improvement in the school district?

Not unlike other districts, AUSD faces numerous challenges related to budget, systems and equity. These include not having the structures and resources in place to provide universal, differentiated support for individualized student needs. Outcomes and opportunities for our students continue to differ based on race, disability, and socio-economic status. This is chronic and widespread and requires significant commitment, investment and reform to remedy.

12. What other pertinent information would you like the board to consider?

I am a white cis-gendered lesbian woman with two grown children who attended AUSD schools. I am also a mental health therapist and education consultant working locally to bring trauma-informed practices to individuals, families, and organizations in my community. It would be my great pleasure to serve on this board.

Thank you for completing the Candidate Application and Information Sheet.

Please note that the information provided here becomes public information and may be open to public inspection, including through a California Public records Act Request.

If you have questions about this application, please contact
Kerri Lonergan: klonergan@alamedaunified.org or 510.337.7187