

**ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

CANDIDATE APPLICATION AND INFORMATION SHEET

*****Please note: Candidates must reside within the boundary of the Alameda Unified School District to qualify for this appointment. AUSD Boundaries only include the City of Alameda. Candidates please ensure your home address is included below so that your residency can be verified.***

Please complete and ensure your application packet is received on or before 5:00pm on Monday, December 6, 2023 at:

Heather Little, Board President
 c/o Pasquale Scuderi, Superintendent
 2060 Challenger Dr.
 Alameda, CA 94501

OR emailed to **klonergan@alamedaunified.org**

Application packets should include a completed version of this form, a resume, and a letter of interest.

Date: December 2, 2023

Curry	Marnie	W
(Last Name)	(First Name)	(Middle Initial)

Business Address: N/A Phone: _____

Home Address: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Semi-retired educational researcher and property manager

Employer or Name of Self-Employed Business: Courtesy appointment at UC-Santa Cruz

No. of Years Residing in District: 25

Do you have children in the district's schools? Yes No

If yes, what schools? _____

1. Do you have prior experience serving on a governing board, including a school district board?
 Please list your prior board experience.

I served on the EJSHS site council 2018 - 2020. Additionally, I served on the College Park High School site council from 1993-1995 during my tenure as a Mt. Diablo Unified School District teacher.

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

Beyond the EJSHS site council, I have always been an active parent. At Maya Lin, my husband and I organized/implemented a parent-run motor fitness program for 5 years. Also at Maya Lin I volunteered as a carpool drop-off assistant for several years. Last year I accompanied the EJSHS Model UN club on their 5-day February 2023 field trip to NYC. Both of my sons were/are EJSHS athletes so I do my best to attend all games.

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

In 2020 I participated in Measure A canvassing in my neighborhood. I have also volunteered for the Writers Coach Connection tutoring students in Oakland Unified. In 2021 my book, Authentic Cariño: Transformative Schooling for Latinx was published by Teachers College Press. I also participate in an Alzheimer's Association Support Group and am an active fund raiser for the that organization.

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

I am a fierce advocate for public schooling and believe that schools are the cornerstone of a healthy, multi-racial democracy. As a former teacher, educational researcher, committed parent, and community member, I view school board participation as a way to facilitate our city's vitality, inclusivity, and wellness. I wish to contribute my time and expertise toward making our schools vibrant places for learning and discovery for all students.

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

Public schools play a vital role in developing educated, community-oriented and engaged citizens, who are capable of and invested in building and sustaining a functioning democracy. At their core our schools exist to ensure that all children receive the opportunity to develop their intellects, skills, creativity, and character to the fullest extent possible.

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

School board members work as a team with the superintendent to ensure optimal district performance. This role requires board members to: advance the district's vision and mission; promote efficiency and accountability; communicate clearly with stakeholders; and facilitate a positive culture to generate sustained support and enthusiasm for engaged learning throughout our community.

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

The superintendent is the district's instructional leader/CEO responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of strategic plans to advance the academic achievement and holistic development of ALL students in district schools. The superintendent handles day-to-day operations while the board governs and guides the district toward success by adopting district policies, monitoring performance, and interacting with stakeholders.

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

Given research findings suggesting that "Effective school districts are those whose school board and superintendent work together collaboratively in the best interests of stakeholders" (Weiss, Templeton, Thompson & Tremont, 2018), I am a proponent of transparent, respectful collaboration aimed at thoughtful analysis, problem solving, and the generation of creative new approaches to learning/schooling.

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

As an educator and avid lifelong learner, I am passionate about learning, education, and the potential of schools to fortify our multi-racial democracy. I will bring this passion and enthusiasm to my role as a school board member. In addition, I will bring my expertise as an educational researcher to the table, offering perspectives from research and analyzing issues in ways that honor community input and draw upon empirical, research-based knowledge.

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

I LOVE AUSD! I consider our cultural and racial diversity, our greatest strength. Immersed in diverse classrooms, my sons and granddaughters have flourished under the supervision of outstanding educators. They are becoming well-rounded, caring, and thoughtful people thanks to the holistic approach evident in their school. Finally, I believe the success of recent bond measures demonstrates that we are a community that cares deeply about our schools, our children, and our teachers.

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

Given Bay Area trends toward declining enrollment in public schools as families opt for private/charter options, recruiting and retaining students is paramount. This task requires publicizing the good work already happening in our schools while also continuing to pursue initiatives aimed at optimizing equity, inclusion, fiscal health, student achievement, community engagement, and desirable workplace conditions to support highly qualified educators.

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

I am a team player who values listening to diverse perspectives. My husband Steve Smith taught in AUSD for 14 years and currently sits on the Measure A & B Parcel Tax Community Advisory Committee. Our family staunchly supports local schools. If appointed I plan to undertake CSBA training and visit every school in the district.

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