

**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 4, 2023

Nelsen	David	H
(Last Name)	(First Name)	(Middle Initial)

Business Address: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

Home Address: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Chief Executive Officer

Employer or Name of Self-Employed Business: Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association

No. of Years Residing in District: 7.5

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 am currently the President of the California Association of Public Retirement Systems (CALAPRS). We are a 10 member non-profit board representing the 100+ governmental pension systems throughout the State. Our mission is to provide education and share best practices within the pension community. I am also Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Statewide Association of California Retirement Systems (SACRS), which is run by a Board of Directors. I have also held volunteer positions on various sports league boards when by son was active in youth baseball. In my current position, much like Superintendent Scuderi, I report to a governing board of 11 pension trustees, am very familiar with Board governance, and in fact, teach effective Board governance as part of our CALAPRS education for new trustees.

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.

No

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

As a long-time executive in the pension community, I have held many positions, including CFO, Legal and legislative liaison, head of Customer Service. I have written pension legislation, worked with the legislature to get laws passed, created and implemented budgets, presented to large groups, and to the media. In my current role as CEO at ACERA, I oversee all aspects of delivering pensions to 25,000+ active and retired members as well as manage the investment of a nearly \$11 billion pension trust fund, with an annual operating budget of \$75 million.

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

Myself and all of my children are products of public schools. Several of mine struggled to succeed due to different reasons, but I saw firsthand the hard work of the district to try and create an environment where all students can thrive, in spite of mental health issues, developmental delays, or being a member of the LGBTQ+ community. It would be a privilege to step in to this interim position to lend my skills to this Board in this important work in my community.

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

In an increasingly complex world, the basic purpose of public schools is expanding. It is no longer enough to simply teach the "three R's". Public schools are where children are also taught respect for others, how to compromise, taught inclusion, taught not to fear the "other". It is the training ground for future citizens. Unfortunately, for some children, it is also their only safe space, the only place they feel unconditional love.

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

The Board publicly sets the vision for what the schools should be, hires staff to fulfill that vision, and ensures staff is following through on that mission. They provide support and guidance to staff and the community in the fulfillment of that vision.

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

The Board is oversight and decision making at the policy level. The Superintendent and staff implement that policy and provide information and expert advice to the Board in developing policy. Superintendent advises, the Board decides.

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

The Board is responsible to the community. When issues in the schools occur it is the Boards responsibility to ensure the public's interest is being addressed by the administration. The Board should be ensuring that the administration is reacting appropriately, and provide support and resources if necessary.

ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

New Board members often struggle with the role of the board v. role of staff. I am very skilled in that area, and could hit the ground running. Also, while I am not an educational expert, I am married to an educator and have several children working in schools in Washington, so I am familiar with the environment and decision points. As a team member on the Board, I will bring the capacity to listen and learn, and a work ethic that has allowed me to fit in quickly in many different environments. Lastly, I will bring passion to do the right thing for our children and staff.

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

As my wife is a new educator with AUSD (go Beavers!), I am impressed by the staff in the district. They are committed and passionate about their students. I also see the investment in facilities being made, which positions the District well to handle any growth. Finally, I see that AUSD has a solid reputation, it is a desirable place to work and to have your children attend.

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

Funding is always an issue, particularly in California. I see the current effort to maintain the funding levels as is, and applaud those efforts, but eventually additional funds may be needed. We have gone through a period of hyper inflation, and the status quo may be falling behind.

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

While I don't have direct School policy experience, I understand governance, decision making, policy analysis, politics, and team dynamics all within the hyper transparent environment of a public entity. I believe I could add value to this team during this interim period and hopefully beyond.

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