



Santa Barbara County Education Office

4400 Cathedral Oaks Rd, PO Box 6307, Santa Barbara, CA 93160-6307
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Susan C. Salcido, Superintendent of Schools

Santa Barbara County Board of Education

APPLICATION TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE BOARD – TRUSTEE AREA 2

Important Dates

August 8-17, 2022 – Window to submit application

August 17, 2022, 5 p.m. – Deadline to submit application

August 26, 2022, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. – Interviews of candidates (alternate date, if needed: Aug. 29)

September 1, 2022, 2 p.m. – Board meeting at which a provisional appointment will be made

Application Process

Completed applications should be submitted, along with a resume, to the Superintendent's Office at 4400 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110, or via email to afreedland@sbceo.org no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, August 17, 2022.

Once applications are submitted, candidates will be contacted regarding next steps in the process. If a candidate is selected for an interview, interviews will be held on Friday, August 26, 2022, between 9 a.m.-12 p.m., at a special board meeting. An alternate date for interviews, if needed, is Monday, August 29, 2022.

Note: Board meetings are audio recorded, so candidate interviews will be recorded during the August 26, 2022 special board meeting.

The board will make a provisional appointment to fill the vacancy at the regularly scheduled board meeting on Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 2 p.m.

Eligibility Information

Interested applicants must be at least 18 years of age and a registered voter residing within the boundaries of Trustee Area 2 that existed prior to redistricting in 2022. Trustee Area 2 encompasses most of Goleta and a portion of western Santa Barbara.

Requirements per Education Code 1006: Any registered voter residing in Trustee Area 2 is eligible to be a member of the county board of education except the county superintendent of schools or any member of their staff, or any employee of a school district or charter school that is within the jurisdiction of the county board of education.

Interested applicants must be able to attend regular board meetings, which are held on the first Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. in person at the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) located in Santa Barbara. Additionally, they must be able to serve on one to two board committees, which typically meet between once a year to three times a year.

Note: Under the California Public Records Act, copies of an application received by the County Education Office must be made available for public inspection and copies provided upon request. Contact information will be redacted.

APPLICATION FORM

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name		
Home Address (Physical Address, no P.O. Boxes)		
Mailing Address if Different than Above		
Cell Phone	Home Phone	Business Phone
Personal Email Address		
Business Address		

OTHER INFORMATION

Occupation and Employer
Number of Years of Residence in Trustee Area 2*

*Candidates must reside within the boundaries of Trustee Area 2 that existed prior to redistricting in 2022. This is because the provisional appointment is to fill the seat that has a term that began in 2020 and ends in 2024. So, the candidate must reside within the boundaries that existed when the term began in 2020. In the November 2024 General Election, all trustee areas on the ballot will be defined by the boundaries set after redistricting in 2022.


Candidates may call the Santa Barbara County Elections Office to confirm they reside within the correct boundaries: 1-800-722-8683.

REVIEW ITEMS

Review the following items and put a checkmark or "X" in the column on the right after you have reviewed them.	Reviewed
1. The video (2 minutes, 45 seconds) on the SBCEO homepage called, "What does a County Office of Education do?" http://www.sbceo.org	
2. The "About the Board of Education" section on the SBCEO board webpage: http://www.sbceo.org/board	

QUESTIONS (You may attach/enclose additional pages to provide more information if needed)

<p>1. Do you have prior experience serving on a board (non-profit or for-profit) or on a governing board, including a school district board or a county board of education? Please list such prior experience.</p>
<p>2. Why do you want to be a county board of education member?</p>
<p>3. What are the challenges you see facing public education in the county and what role do you feel the County Board of Education can play in addressing such challenges?</p>
<p>4. Describe any skills and experience that you may have, from your personal or professional life, that would benefit the County Board of Education.</p>
<p>Please be sure to submit your resume along with this application form.</p>

Applicant Signature:		Date:	
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1. Do you have prior experience serving on a board (non-profit or for-profit) or on a governing board, including a school district board or a county board of education? Please list such prior experience.

President, University of California Student Association (UCSA) (August 2022 - present)

Elected to lead the UC Student Association, which represents 220,000 UC undergrads to the systemwide administration as well as state and federal governments. Chaired UCSA's executive committee, which oversees personnel matters and a budget of \$1.4 million. Worked with stakeholders throughout development and incorporated policy responses to their issues into the board's platform. Chiefly responsible for representing student interests to the UC President, UC Regents, and the rest of the systemwide administration.

Government Relations Chair, UCSA (August 2021 - August 2022)

Oversaw budget and personnel matters as an executive committee member of UCSA. Directed the organization's legislative advocacy efforts, including co-sponsorship of a landmark Cal Grant reform bill and tens of millions of dollars in new state budget funding for auxiliary resources for underserved student communities. Worked with stakeholders to develop legislative and budget priorities. Lobbied systemwide administrators as well as state and federal policymakers on behalf of UC students.

Chair, UC Santa Barbara Lobby Corps (June 2020 - June 2022)

Managed a \$39,000 budget to represent UCSB students to the state and federal government. Organized logistics, communications, policy portfolio, and policy training for a lobby trip to Sacramento.

2. Why do you want to be a county board of education member?

I've dedicated my professional life and free time to doing advocacy on behalf of public university students, but the values and passion that drive this work for me apply to public education universally. Serving on this board is about serving my community, which suffers from deep inequities in the abundance and quality of resources available to students. I believe that public education is the most important investment a community makes, and that it's essential to continue working toward realizing the full potential of equity of opportunity in our schools.

I've personally lived the experience of attending a small, underfunded rural school district. Both my elementary and middle school districts suffered from shortages of teachers, staff, textbooks, and other materials, as well as relatively low salaries. Their small size made it so that special enrichment programs like music classes were often out of the question. The variable costs of providing special ed could constitute a significant share of the district's total general fund and deeply strained their finances in some years. More than once, my elementary school faced closure if it failed to pass an additional parcel tax.

I also saw how the amazing teachers, staff, and community were able to compensate for these things by their dedication to the school. I felt firsthand how these schools were the foundation of the strong rural communities I grew up in. When voters did pass those parcel taxes (the majority of whom naturally did not have students enrolled), they did so in recognition of how the school brought people together and what they meant for the families that lived there.

3. What are the challenges you see facing public education in the county and what role do you feel the County Board of Education can play in addressing such challenges?

The biggest challenge is the wide disparity in funding between districts across SB county, including between North and South County schools broadly as well as between some schools in the same general area. Within schools, I know that there is often inequitable access to various enrichment programs or advanced classes -- large shares of funding go toward programs that disproportionately serve children of certain racial or class identities. I believe these issues could apply to Goleta and Isla Vista schools, given the stark divides each has in the levels of wealth among their residents. I think that given the Board can use its power to approve the SBCEO budget and LCAP to highlight these issues and press for solutions to these issues.

Most importantly, I would attend school board meetings in Area 2 and do other research to learn thoroughly what the Goleta and Isla Vista communities say are the most important issues impacting their schools, while also seeking advice from other folks familiar with the county board and ensuring I have a thorough knowledge of the Board's policies and bylaws to be able to most effectively use that seat to address those issues.

4. Describe any skills and experience that you may have, from your personal or professional life, that would benefit the County Board of Education.

I am deeply familiar with reading budgets, including the state budget for the University of California and the internal budget of the UCSA. My work for UCSA centered on working with community members and stakeholders to deeply understand their needs and issues, and then be able to analyze a wide array of policies and make determinations about how said legislation would relate to the needs of the community; I have the ability to deeply understand policy and how it relates to the expressed needs of community members, and also make policy accessible to stakeholders. I approach my work from a place of humility and strongly believe in serving the expressed needs of the community. From my university coursework I understand many of the ways in which inequities can manifest in school budgets. My experience living in a small, underfunded school district gives me an awareness of the unique financial challenges that smaller districts face.

Alex Niles

Alex Niles



Skills

Stakeholder Engagement, Communication, Policy Analysis, Budget Analysis, Project Management, Understands legislative and budget processes.

Experience

UC Student Association / President

August 2022 - Present, University of California

Elected to lead the UC Student Association, which represents 220,000 UC undergrads to the systemwide administration as well as state and federal governments. Chaired UCSA's executive committee, which oversees personnel matters and a budget of \$1.4 million. Worked with stakeholders throughout development and incorporated policy responses to their issues into the board's platform. Chiefly responsible for representing student interests to the UC President, UC Regents, and the rest of the systemwide administration.

UC Student Association / Chair of Government Relations

August 2021 - Present, University of California

Engaged with stakeholders to develop UCSA's legislative and budget priorities and led subsequent advocacy on said priorities. Tasks included policy analysis, developing messaging, writing press releases, position letters, and social media posts, and representing students in meetings with legislative offices and coalition partners. Served as a lead organizer of the 2022 UC Student Lobby Conference, and led advocacy trainings and subsequent lobby day attended by over sixty students.

Office of the AS UCSB External Vice President for Statewide Affairs / Legislative Director

June 2020 - June 2022, UC Santa Barbara

Represented UC Santa Barbara students' legislative interests to the state and federal governments and the UC Student Association board of directors. Identified priority legislation and oversaw related advocacy. Developed messaging, conducted policy analysis, and led lobby meetings with legislative offices. Coordinated advocacy with partner organizations and regularly briefed colleagues on policy details and talking points. Led UCSB student delegation to the 2021 UC Student Lobby Conference.

AS UCSB Lobby Corps / Co-Chair

June 2020 - June 2022, UC Santa Barbara

Organized logistics and crafted legislative agenda for a twenty student lobby trip to the state Capitol. Trained members in advocacy skills and legislative process. Managed a \$35,000 budget. Organized student

turnout for public comment for local and state legislative hearings.
Recruited UCSB delegation for the 2021 and 2022 UC Student Lobby
Conferences.

Education

UC Santa Barbara / B.A., History of Law & Public Policy

Fall 2019 - Present (ongoing)