

**Twin Hills Union School District Board
of Trustees Special Meeting
January 10, 2024
Agenda**

January 10, 2024 @ THUSD District Office and on Zoom

OPEN SESSION 4:30 pm

CLOSED SESSION approximately 5:50 pm

OPEN SESSION reopens approximately 6:00 pm

In compliance with Government Code § 54954.2(a), the Twin Hills Union School District, will, on request, make this agenda available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the American with Disabilities Acts of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof.

Individuals who need this agenda in an alternative format or who need a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact Laurie Brown, Administrative Assistant, Twin Hills Union School District, 700 Watertrough Rd, Sebastopol, CA 95472 Telephone (707) 823-0871.

AB2449 Virtual Meeting Requirements: Board Member and members of the public attending virtually must disclose whether any individuals 18 years or older are present in the same room and the nature of the relationship.

All open session documents distributed to the Board of Trustees are available for public review in the Twin Hills Union School District Office. The agenda is available at www.twinhillsusd.org.

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Call to Order | 4:30 |
| A. Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum | |
| B. Flag salute | |
| 2. Approval of Agenda | Action 4:32 |
| 3. Open Session - Public Comment | 4:35 |

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board values constructive community comments and welcomes your participation in the democratic process. The President may choose to limit comments on any topic if substantial numbers of people wish to address the Board. Public comments deemed by the Board President to be unrelated to district business or are offensive or hateful will not be permitted.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Anyone wishing to address the Board on any topic not listed on the agenda should make a request to the Board President at this time. The President will recognize those who desire to speak, allocating each speaker a maximum of 3 minutes. Please be advised that the Board may not discuss a topic not on the agenda although they may ask brief clarifying questions. Members of the public may also submit written or video-recorded comments to the Superintendent no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the board meeting and have those comments communicated at this time.

AGENDA ITEMS: If you wish to address the Board on a topic listed on the agenda, the Board President will offer an opportunity for public comment following the Board discussion on the topic.

- 4. Interview Candidates for open Board seat Discussion 4:40
 - A. Rebecca Houghton
 - B. Erin Nathan

- 5. Select and Approve New Board Member: Action 5:40
 - A. Vote on New Board Member Candidate
 - B. New Board of Trustees Oath of Office

- 6. Closed Session 5:50
 - A. Public Comment: At this time members of the public may express opinions or make statements regarding items in the Closed Session. Action may not be taken on statements or testimony made regarding any item not on the Agenda. In the interest of time, there will be a limit of two minutes placed on each individual making a statement. Comments for closed session are limited to ten minutes per item.

Public Zoom Meeting will be closed

 - B. Closed Session to Consider and/or take action upon the following items:
 - a. Personnel

Public Zoom Meeting reopens

 - C. Return to Open Session and report on any action in Closed Session

- 7. Adjournment 6:00

Dr. Anna-Maria Guzman of Twin Hills USD is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Special Board Meeting

Time: Jan 10, 2024 04:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://twinhillsusd-org.zoom.us/j/81222467429>

Meeting ID: 812 2246 7429

One tap mobile

+13602095623,,81222467429# US

+13863475053,,81222467429# US

Dial by your location

Dial by your location • +1 360 209 5623 US • +1 386 347 5053 US • +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose) • +1 507 473 4847 US • +1 564 217 2000 US • +1 646 876 9923 US (New York) • +1 646 931 3860 US • +1 669 444 9171 US • +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) • +1 689 278 1000 US • +1 719 359 4580 US • +1 253 205 0468 US • +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) • +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) • +1 305 224 1968 US • +1 309 205 3325 US • +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) • +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 812 2246 7429

Find your local number: <https://twinhillsusd-org.zoom.us/u/kXdKHwSMf>

Board of Trustees Questionnaire

Name: Rebecca Houghton

Phone – Home/Cell: [REDACTED]

Mailing Address:

[REDACTED]
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Ages of children in the district: 10, 14

How long have you been a resident of this area?

In April, it will be 10 years within this school district

Occupation: (briefly describe)

My previous occupation was an ICU and ER Registered Nurse. Currently, I am a full time independent study coordinator for my two sons, in addition to serving on the Orchard View School Advisory Board, and administrative volunteer at Orchard View School.

Explain why you would like to become a member of the THUSD Board of Trustees:

I went to the December THUSD Board meeting and became more acutely aware of the challenges facing our district. I am an active participant at Orchard View School, but Orchard View is not in this alone. Our district has 4 amazing schools, and I feel it is necessary for me to help beyond my individual school and serve at the district level.

What skills or experiences do you have that will help you be a good school board member?:

I am skilled at coordinating and balancing multiple models, using these skills as a nurse, serving on OVS's Advisory Board for 6 years, and coordinating my 2 son's polar opposite learning styles. I am also in a unique position to fully appreciate both OVS's evolution and changing model, and the four very unique schools within our district. I recognize the beauty of our district with Apple Blossom as our anchor school, giving a solid education to all of the families within our district, plus three additional charter schools offering our district families other options, in addition to drawing in families from the entire surrounding community.

Describe your past and present involvement in the school district:

As a young mother, I was amazed to learn all the in-district options available to me when my oldest entered school. Due to my husband's work schedule, we planned on homeschooling, but I quickly discovered I needed more support. At the time both SunRidge and OVS offered homestudy options, and we decided OVS was the right fit for us. For years we were happy in our OVS bubble and I led parent groups in planning field trips, gatherings, and a parent support network. I joined the Advisory Board at OVS and was available in any way possible. With the pandemic, and the new regulations that came about just before and in the wake of it, OVS went through a major shift. It is not the same school it was, and through this shift, it was no longer the right fit for my oldest child, however, it has become an even better fit for my youngest child. Because of this, I understand the challenges and the benefits of OVS's evolution. Through this I have also become aware of how OVS works within the district, and how we are not alone in the current challenges.

I continue to serve on OVS's Advisory Board coordinating closely with the parent community, teachers, and Principal DuVall. In addition, I have begun to guide newer parents to take on leadership roles, and planning field trips and gatherings. This year, I have also been volunteering my time at OVS 4 hours/week. I do whatever is needed: organize the front area of the office, transport books to the library for donation, make signs, reorganize curriculum. Also, of note, I have been instrumental in bringing in cost-saving curriculums to OVS that follows state guidelines, but are more homestudy friendly and gives the families at OVS different options.

List your involvement in community and/or youth activities:

In addition to the involvement stated above, I am also involved in the multiple activities my children are involved in: LARP, En Garde Fencing, Shiloh Step Irish Dancing, and Flying Frog Academy, KnightLizard Music, and members at the Pacific Coast Air Museum, to name a few. I have helped bring daytime charter school classes to Flying Frog, including OVS students. At any event or outing I can be found talking to other parents about school options, and finding the right fit for their child (whether it be traditional school, a more rigorous academic challenge, Waldorf, or a homestudy hybrid).

What strengths would you bring to the school board:

I clearly bring long-standing commitment and dedication to education. As an OVS parent it is clear I understand the state requirements and have chosen to work within them. The full support of the OVS parent community behind me shows that I am a team player. In addition, I bring a skillful use of resources, a mindfulness of the budget, an awareness of the financial crisis facing our district, and a willingness to serve and be available to all of the district's students.

Please share your thoughts on public education. Include your "vision" for our school district as it relates to meeting the educational needs of the children.

I was the daughter of a school teacher in the largest school district in the state, Bakersfield City School District. I spent the end of each summer helping set up her classroom, and the beginning of the next summer packing up that classroom. My mother graded papers at home while she simultaneously assisted my two brothers and I with our homework. I saw the dedication of a teacher first hand. At the same time, I also watched my brothers with unique needs and their educational journeys. One had their needs met and excelled in life. The other did not. The largest school district in the state, but they weren't able to adapt and meet the needs of all of their students.

Many years later, with my own child approaching school age, so afraid he would fall through the cracks like my brother did, I was introduced to the school district that we have just moved into. Yes, a little tiny district with only four schools, but there was something for everyone! This district's vision of a community where all children feel loved, respected, welcomed, and encouraged to develop to their fullest potential is such a powerful message to all parents and the mission to work together to build a safe, respectful, and nurturing environment focused on maximizing each child's sense of well-being and acquiring skills for life and learning is something I want to be a part of. Not only are we providing that for our district families, but we provide it to any family in our community through our charters, which is evidenced by the tiny number of OVS families who actually live within the district. I value the diversity within our small district and the way we are able to meet the needs of all of the students we serve.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Application Deadline is January 3, 2024



Twin Hills School District

APPLE BLOSSOM | K-5
ORCHARD VIEW | K-5
SUNRIDGE | K-8
TWIN HILLS | 6-8

700 Watertrough Rd. | Sebastopol, CA 95472 | tel (707) 823-0871 | fax (707) 823-5832 | www.twinhillsusd.org

Board of Trustees Questionnaire

Name: Erin Nathan

Phone - Home: 707 - [REDACTED] Cell/Work SAME

Mailing Address:

[REDACTED] Sebastopol CA 95472

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Ages of children in the district: 18, 19 (Both OVS graduates)

How long have you been a resident of this area? 9 years

Occupation: (briefly describe)

Residential Counselor - I work with adults with severe mental illness in a residential setting.

Explain why you would like to become a member of the THUSD Board of Trustees:

See attached typed pages

What skills or experiences do you have that will help you be a good school board

member?: See attached typed page

Describe your past and present involvement in the school district:

List your involvement in community and/or youth activities:

What strengths would you bring to the school board:

Please share your thoughts on public education. Include your "vision" for our school district as it relates to meeting the educational needs of the children.

Date: 1/2/2024

Signature: 

Application Deadline is January 3, 2024

I'm applying to become a member of the THUSD Board of Trustees because I want to serve the greater Sebastopol community, especially its children. Having children that graduated from Orchard View in 2022 and 2023, I have an understanding, through recent lived experience, of how important the experiences our kids have in school are to their well-being, emotionally and intellectually. Their education meaningfully affects the trajectory of their lives, for good or ill. I can't think of anything more important.

The skills and experiences that will help me serve the board effectively: My kids went to Apple Blossom, Twin Hills Middle School, Orchard View, and Analy High School, ultimately graduating from Orchard View. Finding the right fit for them in middle and high school was a struggle, but we found success for both at Orchard View. I have many friends and acquaintances in the area. Many of them and their children had very different experiences at the same schools during the same time period. The education of children has been a continual topic of conversation from my first pregnancy in 2003 to present. When I ask people how they are, I ask them how their kids are. How is the schooling going? What is working? What isn't? What are you concerned about? Let me tell you how it has been for us. That is how my community conversations go because I'm interested in what people have to say.

Other skills and experiences: I have an AAS in Paramedic Technology and a BA in Communication Studies. I have worked as an EMT and as an assistant advertising executive. I currently work with mentally ill adults, most of them having significant history of homelessness and/or with serious substance abuse problems. In my current position, I am sometimes responsible for managing crises while adhering to specific protocols and constraints. Same was true for working as an EMT. In advertising, I spent much of my time sitting in meetings, drafting emails, and herding metaphorical cats.

I applied for a THUSD board position in 2022. I attended a couple of THUSD Zoom board meetings in 2022 in order to stay informed about OVS related issues. When my kids were at Analy I attended a several WSCUHSD board meetings and wrote a couple of letters expressing support for specific causes. When my kids were at Twin Hills Middle

School, I wrote some emails and had in-person meetings with Cathy Bosch expressing concerns and opinions or asking for policy clarification. In truth I never attended a school board meeting unless there was a specific issue motivating me. I have been content to engage with board meetings in a sporadic way.

I have been involved in Ceres Community project for a few years working with both teens and adults in the garden and kitchen. I have been involved in Sebastopol World Friends - one of my kids was a student ambassador. I was the Analy Band uniform coordinator one year, fitting everyone with their uniforms for that school year. I volunteered for many years with Sebastopol Ballet helping with their annual Nutcracker production. I did a variety of things, selling tickets, helping fix costumes, selling concessions, etc. Currently I serve our community by working with a group of men with debilitating mental illnesses in a group home in Santa Rosa.

My strengths: I believe that I can maintain empathy without being naive or unrealistic. I can tolerate uncertainty. I understand the importance of details but don't obsess. I think analytically but know that peoples feelings are important. I hate saying no but I have lots of practice doing it. I stay calm but present in a crisis. I'm not scared of math or legal jargon even when I don't understand it. I'm willing to learn.

Quality public education is critical to a functioning democracy. We live in challenging times. What do people need to know to thrive as adults? What is the best way to impart that knowledge? I understand that the answers to these questions are neither simple nor obvious. I believe in working for greatest good for the greatest number of people, generally speaking. That said, we need to be protective of those who are most vulnerable. I value diversity in education, recognizing that more educational options means more cost. Resources are limited. The school district often has to make difficult choices. Funding is always an issue. We have to do the best we can with what we have, strive to be responsive to the community while knowing that we can't please everyone. There are legal parameters and guidelines in place that limit our choices and we need to accept that reality when looking for solutions. My "vision" is that a school district should seek to be responsive to the needs and wants of the community, while accepting the limitations that are built into the system.

Erin Nathan

Sebastopol, CA 95472
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Authorized to work in the US for any employer

Work Experience

Residential Counselor

Community Support Network - Santa Rosa, CA
October 2023 to Present

Providing support and assistance to adults under mental health conservatorship in a group home setting.

Residential Counselor

Progress Foundation - San Rafael, CA
July 2023 to October 2023

Providing support and assistance to clients of adult transitional residential treatment program

Relief Counselor

Progress Foundation - Santa Rosa, CA
March 2023 to July 2023

Providing support and assistance to clients of adult psychiatric residential treatment program.

Garden Volunteer

Ceres Community Project - Sebastopol, CA
March 2022 to June 2023

Helping grow food and flowers for the Ceres Community Project meal program.

Stay at Home Parent

Sebastopol, CA
February 2004 to March 2023

Cared for the kids and home for 19 years.

Food Prep Volunteer

Ceres Community Project - Sebastopol, CA
June 2018 to December 2022

Prepared healthy food in a professional kitchen for people with critical illness in Sonoma County.

Teen Mentor - Garden

Ceres Community Project - Sebastopol, CA
June 2018 to March 2022

Helped supervise teens in the Ceres Community Project garden.

Assistant Account Executive

T3 - Austin, TX
May 2001 to May 2003

Assisted in client-facing role at advertising agency.

Broadcast Coordinator

GSD&M - Austin, TX
June 2000 to May 2001

Assisted with media buying at advertising agency.

EMT-Paramedic

Williamson County EMS - Georgetown, TX
June 1994 to January 1996

Provided emergency care and transportation on an advanced life support unit.

Prep Cook

Martin Brother's Cafe - Austin, TX
January 1990 to January 1992

I was a full-time prep cook at a popular natural foods restaurant in the University area.

Summer Camp Counselor- Adaptive Program

Austin Parks and Recreation Department - Austin, TX
June 1988 to August 1988

Planned and led daily activities at an adaptive summer camp program for kids with varying disabilities.

Youth Activity Leader

Austin Parks and Recreation Department - Austin, TX
June 1987 to August 1987

Planned and led activities for children and youth at a city park

Education

Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies

St. Edward's University - Austin, TX
January 1996 to August 1999

Associate in Science (AS) in Paramedic Technology

Austin Community College - Austin, TX
August 1991 to June 1994

Languages

- English - Fluent
- Spanish - Beginner

(To be issued by School District and sent to County Superintendent of Schools)

Notice of Appointment of Governing Board Member

Sebastopol (City) California

01/10/2024 (date)

To: Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools

From: Twin Hills USD (District)

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that in accordance with the provisions of the Education Code of California, the Governing Board of the Twin Hills Union School District of Sonoma County, California at a (regular special) meeting held on January 10, 2024 (date) that _____ (name) of _____ (address) was provisionally appointed to the Governing Board to hold office until the next regularly scheduled election for district governing board members. A copy of the Oath of Office is attached.

Clerk or Secretary of the Governing Board

For County Office Use:

Registration check _____
(date and initials)

Appointment entered in record: _____
(date and initials)

(To be sent by appointee to County Superintendent of Schools)

Oath of Office

(E.C. §200, California Constitution, Article XX, §3)

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter.

Signed _____

Mailing Address 700 Watertrough Rd, Sebastopol CA 95472

State of California
County of Sonoma

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) before me this 10th day of January, 2024

By _____
Signature of Person Administering Oath

All code section references are to the California Elections Code unless stated otherwise.