

Candidate Information Sheet - Board Vacancy
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5. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools?
Public schools serve ALL students and provide necessary support to ensure their educational success. They function not only to educate students but to ensure students become successful citizens who will contribute to our community and continue to innovate and improve our existing systems. Exposure to many diverse cultures help students learn valuable social skills that will assist them in functioning in society.
6. What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?
The school board's most important responsibility is to advocate for children, and ensure ALL students' educational needs are met. They support the district and are accountable to the community, help create and drive a vision for the school district, prioritize budget expenditures, provide direction for curriculum, and support teachers and staff through collective bargaining approval.
7. How does the board's role differ from that of the superintendent?
The Superintendent is hired by the board to manage the district, and the board supports the Superintendent by evaluating and monitoring student performance, policies and procedures. The board also hears appeals when needed.
8. What should be the relationship between the board members and the administration in the handling of school concerns?
There is a "chain of respect" within the school system, which starts with open communication between parents, teachers, staff, and administrators. The board should support this system and only serve as a judicial body in the case of appeals.
9. Briefly describe your commitment to public education and our local school district.
Having lived within the OUSD boundaries for 35 years, I began and ended my educational career in OUSD. I attended public schools (K-12) and have always been an advocate for schools who accept and serve ALL students, particularly those who provide support for underserved students and families.
10. What do you see as the strengths of the school district?
OUSD has schools in all socioeconomic areas of OC, and includes students of many different ethnic backgrounds. This environment provides opportunities and resources for students to learn about other cultures. There are numerous outstanding programs within OUSD schools.
11. What do you see as the area(s) most needing improvement in the school district?
Although OUSD has seen an increase in student achievement, there has not been the consistency needed to close the achievement gap. Systems must be put in place in all district schools, along with accountability for implementation and success. Resources must be allocated with the intention of closing the gap.

* Applicants may attach an optional letter or recommendation and/or resume. Anything included in or attached to the application is a public record.

Sara J. Pelly

April 17, 2024

Dear Superintendent Gonzalez and Orange Unified School Board,

It is with immense pleasure that I am submitting my application for Board Trustee Area #4. Please find my application attached.

I have been a resident of Orange Unified School District for 35 years. Since graduating from college with a degree in Elementary Education, I have only held jobs in education; as a college admission counselor, a preschool teacher, an elementary school teacher, then finally as an elementary school principal. I attended public schools from kindergarten through twelfth grade and have been a proponent for the public school system my entire life.

Growing up I learned how my grandparents struggled to support nine children having never learned English and therefore unable to participate in their education. As a result, I have been a persistent advocate for those without a voice, encouraging parents to become involved with the schools and speak out for their children. I will continue to be a champion for all OUSD students and families whether chosen to serve on the school board or remaining an engaged citizen of OUSD.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sara J. Pelly

ATTESTATION

I Sara Jane Pelly, am hereby applying for the vacancy on the Board of Education for Orange Unified School District Area #4.

Residency Requirement

I hereby declare that I reside within the boundaries of the Trustee area I am applying for pursuant to the statutory definition of residency provided in Government Code section 244 and applicant laws. If there is any change in the status of my residency. I agree to immediately notify the Superintendent of Schools in writing.

Qualifications

I hereby declare that I am eligible to be a Board member without further qualifications as set forth in OUSD Board Bylaw 9220. Board Bylaw states in relevant part:

Any person is eligible to be a Board member, without further qualifications, if he/she is 18 years of age or older, a citizen of California, a resident of the school district, a registered voter and not legally disqualified from holding civil office. Any person who has been convicted of a felony involving the giving, accepting, or offering of a bribe, embezzlement or theft of public funds, extortion, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any such crime, under California law or the law of another state, the United States of America, or another country, is not eligible to be a candidate for office or be a Board member except when the person has been granted a pardon in accordance with law. (Education Code 35107; Elections Code 20)

A District employee elected to the Board shall resign his/her position before being sworn in or shall have his/her employment automatically terminated upon being sworn into office. (E.C. 35107)

I understand that this application and anything attached to it is a public document and may be requested under provisions of the California Public Records Act.

I understand that upon appointment I would be required to comply with conflict of interest laws and policies and that I would be required to take an oath of office.

I attest the foregoing information is true to the best of my knowledge.

Print Name: Sara J Pelly Date: 4/17/24

Signature of Applicant:  _____

Provisionally appointed Board members hold the office until the next regularly scheduled election per Education Code section 5091(e)), unless terminated by petition per Education Code section 5091(c)).