

THIS APPLICATION AND ANYTHING ATTACHED TO IT IS A PUBLIC RECORD

CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

Orange Unified School District

Please fill out and return by April 26, 2024 by 4:00 pm to cerich@orangeusd.org, or leave at the superintendent's office.

Date: April 16, 2024

Smoller, Fred

Business Address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Occupation and Employer: Professor, Chapman University

No. of Years Residing in the District: 40

Do you have children in the district schools? No (I have one son who is 36)

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

- I was on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Human Relations Commission for seven years.
- I have sat on numerous committees at Chapman University that have dealt with, among many other things, curricula and personnel issues.

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

- I made a video about OUSD school board gadfly, Steve Rocco, which emphasizes the importance of informed participation in school board elections. Please see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00q5cax96yU>
- I helped raise \$200,000 for a program--"Ecllosion"-- which supported Hispanic teachers' aides who wished to become full time teachers in the Santa Ana Unified School District.

- I am the co-founder of the Orange County Sustainability Decathlon. See OCSD23.com. Please see the video about Education Day. More than 5,000 K-12 students from Orange County attended.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuCBW9B_EIg

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.

- I was appointed by the city council to the committee which named the property which today is called Grijalva Park at Santiago Creek. This followed my volunteer effort as a member of the Santiago Creek Greenway Alliance to prevent the further channelization of this vital natural resource.
- I led the effort to build a Daycare Center at Chapman University. The Child Study Center was open to the community.
- I have participated in a number of beach and creek clean-up activities.
- As I said earlier, for seven years I volunteered as a member of the Orange County Human Relations board of directors.
- I frequently speak to community groups in Orange County about political issues.
- For six years, I held conferences at Chapman University on public policy issues such as housing and homelessness, transportation, the environment, the scandal in the City of Bell, and the future of Orange County.
- For a number of years, as part of my work as a political science professor, I conducted the Orange County Annual Survey.
- For three years in a row, I was selected as one of “Orange County’s 125 Most Influential People.”
- I’ve written a number of OPEDs for local media outlets (e.g., LA Times, Voice of OC, The Register) on public policy questions.

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

- I was disappointed to read a story in the Orange County Register that said that nearly half of the graduating seniors in Orange Unified were not qualified to attend one of the state’s four year colleges or universities. As a college teacher, I thought I could help improve this figure by helping advise the district about the skills needed to succeed in college.

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

- Democracy cannot function without a well educated citizenry. Public schools should provide educational opportunities that lead to inquiring, ethical and productive lives.

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

- I think the California School Boards Association (CSBA) says it best: “The role of the trustees who sit on locally elected school boards is to ensure that school districts are responsive to the values, beliefs and priorities of their communities. Boards fulfill this role by performing five major responsibilities. These are setting direction; establishing an effective and efficient structure; providing support; ensuring accountability; and providing community leadership as advocates for children, the school district and public schools.”

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

- The board’s job is to hire the superintendent and to help the superintendent implement his or her vision. The superintendent attends to the day to day administration of the district. The board sets long term policy, in consultation with the superintendent. Unlike the superintendent, the board represents the community in the formation of school policies.

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

- To listen and advise, if asked, and to be an advocate for the district.

9. Briefly describe your commitment to public education and our local school district?

- I am the son of an aircraft mechanic and a dental receptionist (who didn’t complete High School). I am the first person in my family to graduate from college. I received my High School diploma; BA, MA, and Ph.D. from public schools. I would like to see as many students as possible who graduate from Orange Unified have the same opportunities that I had.

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

- The community, staff, faculty, board and administration are devoted to OUSD’s continued success.

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

- As I said earlier, I would like to see a greater percentage of our graduates attend college.

ATTESTATION

I Fred Smoller, 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: Fred Smoller Date: 4/13/2024

Signature of Applicant:  B0967A097AEF4BF...

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)).