

CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET
Orange Unified School District

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

Date: April 19, 2024

LANSDON, MARK J.
(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

Business Address: N/A Phone: _____

Home Address: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Occupation and Employer: RETIRED SURETY BOND UNDERWRITER; INSCODICO GROUP
No. of Years Residing in District: 35

Do you have children in the district's schools? Yes _____ No X
If yes, what schools? _____

ITEMS 1 THRU 11 - SEE ATTACHED
1. Do you have prior experience serving on a governing board, specifically a school district board? Please list such prior experience.

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

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

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

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Orange Unified School District – Board Vacancy
Application Attachment

1. Prior experience on a governing board.

During late 1990's through early 2000's, I served as a Board Member of Iron Smith, Inc. which is headquartered in Palm Desert, CA. This firm is an Ornamental Iron company that generated approximately \$4 million of annual revenues. During my tenure, the ownership was successfully transferred from a sole stockholder to an ESOP, Employee Stock Ownership Plan.

2. School committees and activities.

For over 30 years I have been regularly involved with all types of Educational Facilities. As a Surety Bond Underwriter, I assisted all types of contractors with all types of opportunities. Including legal solutions, architectural/design solutions, labor solutions, etc... These solutions invariably included input from all stakeholders, including; students, teachers, administrators, attorneys, district leadership, etc...

3. Other community or business activities.

For the last several years I have volunteered at Orange Street Fair, qualifying individuals to obtain wrist bands in order that they be able to purchase alcohol during the event. This volunteer effort was for the benefit of El Modena High School Alumni Association fund raising. The Alumni Association uses these funds to provide scholarship money to college bound ELMO Graduates.

4. Why a school board member?

Education, Education, Education! This is the primary foundation that will advance our society and community. I have been exceedingly fortunate in my life; my experiences were and continue to reflect opportunity and preparation. Now, I believe I can give back much of what I have learned over the past decades.

5. Basic purpose of public schools.

As with any organization, the primary mission is always to maximize shareholder wealth. In the case of public schools as organizations, my definition of shareholders are the students and their parents with wealth being defined as education. In other words, the basic purpose of public schools is to prepare students and their parents for this crazy world. Only through solid educational efforts will people be prepared for the opportunities that otherwise would pass them by.

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6. Role of the School Board.

The School Board should be the visionary. Trends in the latest and greatest plans and policies. Trends in the latest and greatest industries. Big picture overview of the education being provided. Making certain the cost benefit of the plans and policies are appropriate. Making certain that unintended consequences of plans and policies are none. It has taken years for the State of California to require some financial competence to graduate from High School, something that is second nature for all adulting decision making.

7. Board's role difference from Superintendent.

As discussed previously, the Board's role is a much grander perspective. It also includes steering, advising and mentoring the Superintendent. The Superintendent is responsible for implementing plans and policies in a manner that reflects the spirit of the Board's decisions.

8. Relationship between Board and Administration.

Administration should be eyes, ears, nose and hands for the Board. The relationship should be multifaceted with emphasis on achieving overall mission. What works and what needs improvement. Ideas and solutions, should always be part of the conversation – a two-way street with multiple lanes.

9. Commitment to public education and local school district.

I am a product of Public Education. I was never a great student – “I could do better” according to my Elementary School Teachers. They were correct. I graduated from El Modena High School in 1978. I was Captain of the Varsity Football Team, but I was not a great athlete. Coach Lester and his staff were instrumental in building character. The combination of this character building and the tutelage of the many great teachers prepared me to achieve excellent outcomes and successes throughout my life journey. My father instilled in me that success is the collision point of preparation and opportunity. Coach Lester instilled in me that fundamentals matter! Take care of the fundamentals and the scoreboard will take care of itself.

10. School District strengths.

Without hesitation the answer is the people – Students, Parents, Teachers, Administrators, Janitors, Librarians, et al. The combination of these stakeholders is the driving force of the School District's success.

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11. School District weaknesses.

I am very reluctant to comment on this question without having the opportunity to see first hand the operations, the procedures, the policies and the unintended consequences, etc... I believe that all organizations have weaknesses and I also believe weaknesses are opportunities in disguise.

ATTESTATION

I MARK J. LANSDON am hereby applying for the vacancy on the Board of Education for Orange Unified School District Area 7.

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: MARK J. LANSDON Date: 4/19/2024

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)).