

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET AND ATTESTATION**  
**Newport-Mesa Unified School District**  
**Trustee Area 5**

[https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1724346040/nmusdus/nmtqw21mevmztymr0v9y/NMUSD\\_Area5.pdf](https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1724346040/nmusdus/nmtqw21mevmztymr0v9y/NMUSD_Area5.pdf)

*Please complete and return by email no later than January 21, 2025 to [sbaltazar@nmusd.us](mailto:sbaltazar@nmusd.us) at the District office.*

*Candidates should make themselves available for a public interview with the Board of Education which is tentatively planned for January 27 , 2025 in the Board room of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District.*

Date: 1/13/2025

McElroy, Andrea D

(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

Home Address in Trustee Area 5: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]

Occupation and Employer: Self Employed

Number of Years Residing in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District: 23

Do you have school-aged children? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, what school(s) do they attend? . We have a senior in college in NYC. BFA Major and Journalism Major All of our children attended, K-12 in the NMUSD. Mariners Elementary, Newport Heights Elementary, Ensign and Newport Harbor High School.

1. Do you have prior experience serving on a school board? Please list such prior experience with dates of service.

SDSU Directors Cabinet (2019 to current)

2. Have you held any other public office – appointed or elected. If yes, please explain.

No

3. Please describe your familiarity with public agencies/ local government and share any experience working or volunteering with a public agency.

SDSU Alumni Board and Athletics Committee.

Additionally, consulted on SDSU branding and tagline “Transform your Tomorrow” and rebranding of Athletics program. My husband, Thom McElroy, is a guest lecturer and a mentor for the SDSU Entrepreneurship Program. He has also been a mentor for NHHS mentor program since it began.

## Candidate Information Sheet - Board Vacancy

### Page Two

4. Please describe your past and current involvement with NMUSD schools. Have you worked on school committees or participated in school activities recently. Please be specific.

I volunteered every week in classrooms from K-6 during my daughter's time at Newport Heights Elementary. Room mom for several years. I was the parent volunteer in charge of the Newport Heights Theater Program. My mother and I designed and sewed costumes for the school play in order to stay within budget. Volunteer for the Newport Heights Talent Show. After my daughter's time in elementary school, I introduced Newport Heights to Braver Players Theater program. This program has been an integral part of many NMUSD theater programs for the past 10 years. Volunteer for NHHS, Estancia and CDM Drama Department. NHHS Tennis Co-Team Mom.

5. Why do you want to be a member of the Board of Education? What do you understand to be the role of a Board member?

A child's educational experience plays a significant role in shaping their life. Board members should ensure every child receives an excellent education, learning the fundamentals of life that build them for success. Our schools must be a safe place for all, security-wise, structurally and socially. The Board should also establish a clear vision that aligns with the community needs while serving the best interests of the students. In addition to having a high-quality education, our students should be able to pursue their interests, that is why I strongly support the Arts and career trade classes. These are essential and confidence builders for students. My guiding principles are what I hope to convey to students as a Board member.

- .Surround yourself with good people
- .Follow your passion
- .Believe in yourself
- .Be willing to take risks

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

Primarily, the relationship needs to be positive and supportive. A Board member must adhere to the chain of command, addressing concerns and praise directly to the Superintendent.

7. Briefly describe your commitment to public education. What do you see as the purpose of public schools.

My entire educational journey, from kindergarten to college, has taken place within the public education system. I strongly advocate for public schools as they provide equal opportunities to students from all backgrounds, ultimately leading to a well-educated community, country, and world.

8. What do you see as the area(s) most needing improvement in the school district? At the end of your term what would you like to have accomplished?

It is important that children learn the fundamentals of real-world skills so whatever path they choose after high school, they are equipped to be successful. Life skills such as grammar, cursive writing and penmanship, managing and understanding personal finances and understanding taxes are essential. Providing career trade classes can help children discover new interests and pursue their passions. Arts education in schools can foster social skills and critical thinking and is an exceptional means of creative expression. These are the areas that I think we can further develop.

**Candidate Information Sheet - Board  
Vacancy Page Three**

9. Please share with us your understanding of NMUSD finances. How will you work to learn about our budgeting processes? What are your thoughts on public financing and/or bonds?

With a general understanding of NMUSD from reading through the budget, I aim to further educate myself. If our schools require enhancements, we need to explore financing methods. We should evaluate the costs and benefits to determine the best approach for our community.

10. Please share your thoughts on AB1955 and school district's adherence to federal and state laws.

I think it is essential to follow the state and federal laws well as educational codes.

11. Please share your thoughts on book censorship in schools.

Books in school libraries must be age appropriate for their grade level.

Applicants are urged to attach a resume/ CV and may attach an optional letter of recommendation. Anything included in or attached to the candidate information sheet and attestation is a public record.

Names of applicants, once verified, will be posted on the District's website.

Dear NMUSD Trustees,

January 13, 2025

My name is Andrea McElroy. Being considered for the NMUSD Board of Education for Trustee Area 5 is an honor.

I grew up in Huntington Beach and attended Burke Elementary, Sowers Middle School, and Edison High School. I played tennis and volleyball and ran track. After high school, I attended San Diego State University. After graduating, I moved to San Francisco and started my career. My first job out of college was with Enterprise Rent a Car. Although not glamorous or my passion by any means, I am grateful for my first job; it was an invaluable learning experience that instilled a strong work ethic and appreciation for hard work. This experience was a stepping stone to finding my real passion in marketing and design. Microsoft then hired me during the inception of the dot com era. My job was to design engaging advertising for businesses that purchased ad space on Microsoft websites. Many years later, I realized I wanted to start my own company to pursue my passion for design. When my daughter was born in 2002, I opened The Paper House, a Newport Beach retail custom stationery store, which I owned for 20 years. This decision gave me the flexibility of being available for my daughter. She was with me daily; we built a play area in the store for her and customers' children. I quickly understood the concept and challenges of small business owners. Because of my experience, I was approached by a customer to partner in a new small business retail and food hall concept. From 2009 to 2022, I ran both businesses. After retiring in 2022, my desire to continue designing was still there. After my husband's urging, in late 2023, I started a women's clothing brand, Flair Play, centered around my favorite sports: tennis, golf, and pickleball.

My husband, Thom McElroy, and I have three children, all of whom attended K-12 in the NMUSD. Thom also grew up in Huntington Beach and went to Edison. Our children had different interests: two heavily into the arts, one into computer science, and all into athletics. Thom's story, too, is relevant to one of my reasons for wanting to be on the school Board. He was a surfer and artist his entire life; he had to decide after high school to continue on the pro-surfer path or go to college. He chose college to please his parents and thought it would be wise to get a degree. Thom decided on a business major at SDSU, but in his heart, he wanted to be an art major. To his father's dismay, he changed his major to the Arts. Thom followed his instincts and combined his favorite things: surfing, art, and design. He is a founder of Volcom and drew the iconic Volcom stone.

Both of our experiences in life led me to my desire to be on the School Board. My guiding principles are what I hope to convey to students as a Board member.

- Surround yourself with good people
- Follow your passion
- Believe in yourself
- Be willing to take risks

A child's educational experience and time at school play a significant role in shaping their life. I want to ensure that all children have the same opportunities we experienced. We both came from humble beginnings, went to public schools filled with a diverse student body, and received an excellent education learning the fundamentals of life that built us for success. Our schools

must be a safe place for all, security-wise, structurally, and socially. All students deserve the opportunity to have a high-quality education while also being able to pursue their interests. That is why I support strongly career trade classes, the Arts, and the required curriculum. These are essential and confidence builders for students.

We have gone on to give back to our community. Since age 6, my daughter's passion has been singing and acting. Her least favorite subject in school was math. Because of that, I decided to volunteer as much time as possible to assist in those two areas. I was the parent volunteer in charge of the the school play throughout her elementary school years. After she went on to Ensign, I introduced the elementary schools to the Braver Players theater program. This fantastic organization has worked with several schools in NMUSD for the last 10 years. At the same time, I volunteered every week in the classroom, primarily working with children struggling with math. During my daughter's high school years, I volunteered for the Drama Department and was the team tennis mom. My husband decided to use his surfing experience and volunteered to be the NHHS surf coach. He has continued mentoring students at NHHS in their mentoring program and has been a mentor since its inaugural year. He mostly matches up with entrepreneurial students and relays his life story to follow your passion. You don't have to be an A student to succeed in life.

Both being graduates of SDSU, we have also given back to the SDSU community by serving on the Alumni Board, Directors Cabinet, and Athletics Committee and consulted on school branding and tagline, "Transform your Tomorrow. " Thom is a guest lecturer and mentor for the entrepreneur program. Our close connection with SDSU has helped facilitate great programs that connect elementary school students with SDSU. A 5th-grade class in Huntington Beach did a mock "application to SDSU" and was accepted. It was a great way to plant a seed about college to young students.

Being a parent who already has children grown and out of high school, my perspective on things is much different than it was while they were in school. I have had time to reflect on what is most important for students. Being on the NMUSD Board allows me to share my experience while making decisions in the best interest of all our students, which is my top priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A McElroy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrea McElroy