



**OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA #1053**

NOTICE OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING - AGENDA #1053

Written notice is hereby given in accordance with Education Code Section 35144 that a special Meeting of the Board of Education of Oak Park Unified School District will be held:

DATE: Thursday, January 27, 2022

TIME: 5:30 p.m. Open Session

PLACE: **Oak Park High School Presentation Room – G9
899 N. Kanan Road, Oak Park, CA 91377**

The Board meeting room is open to the Public. Members of the public will have the right to observe the meeting in person and on www.opusd.org/livestream and offer public comment as provided on page 2 of this agenda. This OPUSD School Board Meeting is a meeting held in public, but it is not a public meeting. The Board encourages public comments and participation. Members of the public and the media are free to watch the board work, but please note the board will not be engaging in a discussion with members of the public. Since this is a special Board Meeting, the public comments are limited to items on this.

Call to Order _____

Roll Call

Flag Salute

Adoption of Agenda

Public Comments – Speakers on Agenda items

A. OPEN SESSION

1. [Interview and Selection of Candidate for Provisional Appointment to Fill Board Vacancy](#)

The Board will interview candidates, deliberate, and nominate and approve appointment of a provisional Board Member.

2. [Swearing-In of Newly Appointed Board Member if Appointed](#)

If the Board approves the provisional appointment of a Board member at this meeting, the Superintendent will administer the Oath of Office to make the appointment effective immediately.

Welcome to a special meeting of the Oak Park Unified School District Board of Education.

INDIVIDUALS WHO REQUIRE SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A BOARD MEETING, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO AN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER, DOCUMENTATION IN ACCESSIBLE FORMATS, OR ACCOMMODATIONS DUE TO THE ELECTRONIC FORMAT OF THIS MEETING, SHOULD CONTACT THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING TO ENABLE THE DISTRICT TO MAKE REASONABLE ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE ACCOMMODATION AND ACCESSIBILITY TO THIS MEETING. PHONE (818) 735-3206 or e-mail: raggarwal@opusd.org

Public Comments – Public comment is the opportunity for members of the public to participate in meetings by addressing the Board of Education in connection with one or more agenda items.

The following information is provided to help with understanding on how to follow and participate in the Board meeting. **Members of the Public can observe the Board of Education meetings in person (masks will be required in the board room or watch it streaming live at: www.opusd.org/livestream**

SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS AT THE MEETING

The President of the Board will inquire if there are any public comments with respect to any item appearing on the special meeting agenda. When You Are Recognized to Speak please step to the microphone and direct your remarks to the board members. Individual speakers will be allowed three minutes to address the Board on each agenda item. The Board shall limit the total time for public input on each item to 20 minutes. With Board consent, the Board president may increase or decrease the time allowed for public presentation, depending on the topic and the number of persons wishing to be heard. The speaker cards are available in the Board Room and must be completed and handed to Ragini Aggarwal, Executive Assistant, prior to the beginning of the meeting. In order to ensure that non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly address the Board, any member of the public who utilizes a translator shall be provided at least twice the allotted time to address the Board, unless simultaneous translation equipment is used to allow the Board to hear the translated public testimony simultaneously. (Government Code 54954.3)

SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS IN ADVANCE VIA THE ONLINE COMMENT FORM

Public Comments may be submitted via this link www.opusd.org/PublicComments. If you wish to make a comment regarding a matter on the agenda, please submit your comment via the form accessed by the above link before 5:30 p.m. on January 27, 2022. Although not required, please submit all the requested information. In keeping with the reasonable time regulations described below, every effort will be made for your name and comment to be read by the Board President, and your comment will be placed into the item's record at the Board meeting. **Please note since this is a special meeting public comments are limited to items on the agenda.**

This public comment form will be open to members of the public 3 hours (at 2:30 pm) prior to the meeting and will close when the board meeting begins at 5:30 pm. If members of the public are unable to submit a comment via the online form ahead of the meeting, they may attend the meeting in person and submit a comment as outlined below. Please note since the Board is holding the meeting in person and the Board room is open to the Public the online submission is not required by law but is an additional provision provided to members of the public to participate if they are unable to attend in person. The meeting is also being livestreamed for the public's convenience.

All comments received via the online form and during the meeting will be shared with the board and become part of the record. Your comments are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your cooperation and compliance with these guidelines.

All Open Session Board Actions and Discussions are electronically recorded and maintained for thirty days. Interested parties may review the recording upon request. Upon request by a student's parent/guardian, or by the student if age 18 or older, the minutes shall not include the student's or parent/guardian's address, telephone number, date of birth, or email address, or the student's name or other directory information as defined in Education Code 49061. The request to exclude such information shall be made in writing to the secretary or clerk of the Board. (Education Code 49073.2)

Adjournment

Date: January 26, 2022

Jeff Davis, Ed.D.
Superintendent and Secretary to the Board of Education

TO: MEMBERS, BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: DR. JEFF DAVIS, SUPERINTENDENT
DATE: JANUARY 27, 2022
SUBJECT: A.1. INTERVIEW AND SELECTION OF CANDIDATE FOR PROVISIONAL APPOINTMENT TO FILL BOARD VACANCY

DISCUSSION/ACTION

ISSUE: Shall the interview and select a candidate for provisional appointment to fill board vacancy?

BACKGROUND: On November 16, 2021, OPUSD Board Member Allen Rosen announced that he will be relocating from his residence out of Oak Park and will resign his seat on the OPUSD Board of Education. Mr. Rosen submitted his letter of resignation to the Superintendent of the Ventura County Office of Education effective January 19, 2022. On December 14, 2021, the Board voted to fill the vacancy by making a provisional appointment and selected Board President Drew Hazelton and Clerk of the Board Denise Helfstein to form a board subcommittee to work with the Superintendent's office on the process of advertising and screening candidates who are interested in serving on the Board. On December 17, 2021, OPUSD posted the vacancy notice and application packet and advertised it in the Acorn newspaper, on OPUSD social media outlets, and Nextdoor. The written application process to fill Mr. Rosen's vacancy closed on January 18, 2022 at 4:00 pm.

The following four Oak Park residents submitted applications:

Carmen Rosenberg
Deet Ezra (Yehudit Zucker)
Nicholas Johnson
Soyon Hardy

All four applicants met the requirements below as required by Education Code 35107.

- 18 years of age or older.
- A citizen of the state of CA.
- A resident of Oak Park.
- A registered voter.
- Are not disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state to hold a civil office.

The Board members have received a copy of each candidate's application which includes candidate information, references, and answers to candidate application questions. Candidate application materials (with address and phone numbers redacted) are included in the posted Board packet as well.

Candidates will be interviewed one at a time and the other candidates will be requested to wait in the adjoining room out of earshot. Each candidate will be asked the same nine questions.

The Board will deliberate, vote (majority vote required for appointment) for a candidate to fill the Board vacancy.

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING, JANUARY 27, 2022

Interview and selection of a candidate for provisional appointment to fill board vacancy

Page 2

FISCAL IMPACT: None

BOARD POLICY: Pursuant to Board Bylaw 9223 Filling Vacancies - When authorized by law to make a provisional appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board, the Board shall advertise in the local media to solicit candidate applications or nominations. A committee consisting of less than a quorum of the Board shall ensure that applicants are eligible for Board membership and announce the names of the eligible candidates. The Board shall interview the candidates at a public meeting, accept oral or written public input, and select the provisional appointee by a majority vote.

GOAL: Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION: At the Board Discretion/Determination

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Davis, Ed.D.
Superintendent

On nomination of _____, seconded by _____, approve the nomination and election of _____ as the Provisional Member of the Board of Education.

VOTE:	AYES	NOES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Hazelton	_____	_____	_____	_____
Helfstein	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ross	_____	_____	_____	_____
Wang	_____	_____	_____	_____

**OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD CANDIDATE APPLICATION
Posted December 17, 2021**

To be eligible for consideration (Education Code 35107), applicants must:

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Be a citizen of the state of CA.
- Be a resident of Oak Park.
- Be a registered voter.
- Not be disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state to hold a civil office.

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Home Address _____

Phone _____

Occupation _____

Employer & Work Phone if applicable: _____

Educational background: _____

Number of years residing in Oak Park: _____

Do you have any children who attend schools in the District: _____

Ages and Schools if any children attend schools in Oak Park: _____

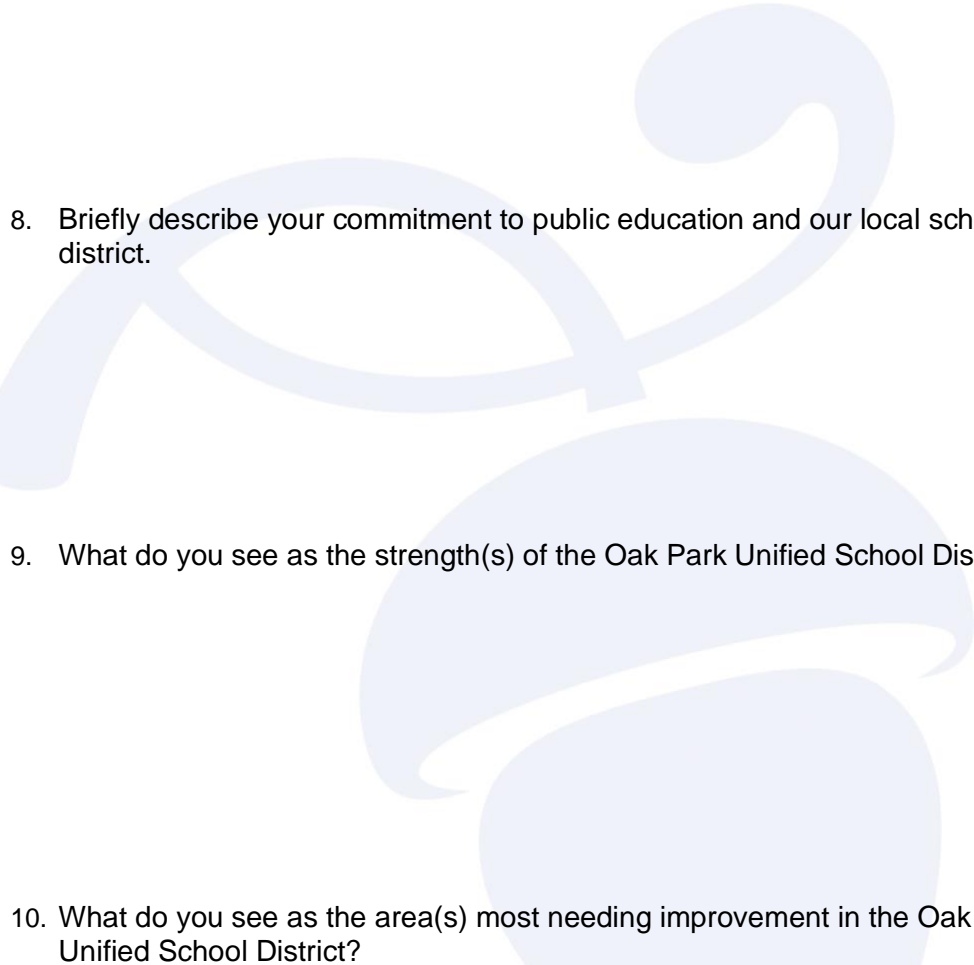
Are you currently employed by the Oak Park Unified School District:

_____ Yes _____ No

PLEASE NOTE: The appointee will hold office until the next governing board member election, which occurs at the next general election on November 8, 2022. Information contained on this application may be subject to verification and is considered a public record.

Please answer the following (you may attach a separate sheet if desired):

1. Do you have prior experience serving on a governing board, specifically a school district board? Please describe such prior experience.
2. Have you worked on any school committees or participated in any school activities? Please list them.
3. Please describe any relevant community or business activities in which you have participated. Describe your role, duration, and whether your work was volunteer, or employment related.
4. Why do you want to be a school board member?
5. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools? What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?

- 
6. How does the board's role differ from that of the Superintendent?

 7. Describe the relationship between board members and the administration in handling school concerns?

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

 9. What do you see as the strength(s) of the Oak Park Unified School District?

 10. What do you see as the area(s) most needing improvement in the Oak Park Unified School District?

PLEASE NOTE: The appointee will hold office until the next governing board member election, which occurs at the next general election on November 8, 2022. Information contained on this application may be subject to verification.

11. List references of people who reside within the District that have knowledge of your character, experience, and abilities (Name, Phone, e-mail). You may attach letter of reference from those listed if you wish

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS:

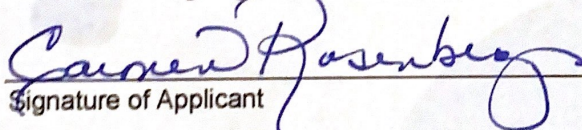
I understand that this application is a public document and may be requested under provisions of the Public Records Act and/or be available to the public on the Oak Park Unified School District website.

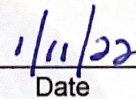
I understand that upon appointment I would be required to file a Conflict of Interest Statement Form 700 (available for viewing at <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/Form700.html>) and take an Oath of Office.

I certify that I am not disqualified from holding this office because of a conviction of any of the crimes on the listed on the next page and further certify I am not otherwise disqualified under the California Constitution or statutes from holding public office.

I certify that I am a citizen of California, a resident of Oak Park, and a registered voter.

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


Signature of Applicant


Date

PLEASE NOTE: The appointee will hold office until the next governing board member election, which occurs at the next general election on November 8, 2022. Information contained on this application may be subject to verification.

The following is a list of crimes, convictions of which precludes a person from holding public office in the State of California. Conviction of these crimes renders a person "forever disqualified from holding any office in this state."

Penal Code Sections:

- Bribing executive officer (Penal Code § 67)
- Officer asking or receiving bribes (Penal Code §§ 68, 88)
- Receiving gratuity for appointment to office (Pencil Code § 74)
- Judicial Officer who asked for or received emoluments, gratuities, rewards, or the fee of a stenographer (Penal Code § 94)
- Giving or offering bribe to Councilman or Supervisor (Penal Code § 165)
- Misappropriation of public funds (Penal Code§ 424)
- Interface with work or discipline of, or giving certain articles to prisoners (Penal Code § 2772)
- Interference with or giving certain articles to convicts (Penal Code § 2790)

Government and Elections Code Sections:

- Officer making contracts in which he or she is interested (Government Code§ 1097)
- Members of the Legislature convicted of any crime (Government Code § 9055)
- Corrupting the voting process (Election Code§ 18501)

Please note that aside from the above restrictions, Government Code § 1126 prohibits any local agency official from engaging "in any employment, activity, or enterprise for compensation which is inconsistent, incompatible, in conflict with, or inimical to his or her duties as a local agency officer or employee or with the duties, functions, or responsibilities of his or her appointing power or the agency by which he or she is employed.

If you have any questions, please contact Communications Coordinator and Executive Assistant Ragini Aggarwal at raggarwal@opusd.org or (818) 735-3206.

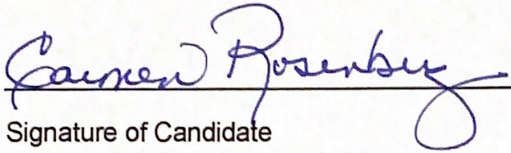
Applications are due no later than 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

PLEASE NOTE: The appointee will hold office until the next governing board member election, which occurs at the next general election on November 8, 2022. Information contained on this application may be subject to verification.

RESIDENCY DECLARATION

Carmen Rosenberg

I, _____, hereby declare that I reside within the boundaries of Oak Park, CA 91377, pursuant to the statutory definition of residency provided in Government Code Section 244 and applicable law. If there is any change in the status of my residency, I agree to immediately notify the Oak Park Unified School District in writing.



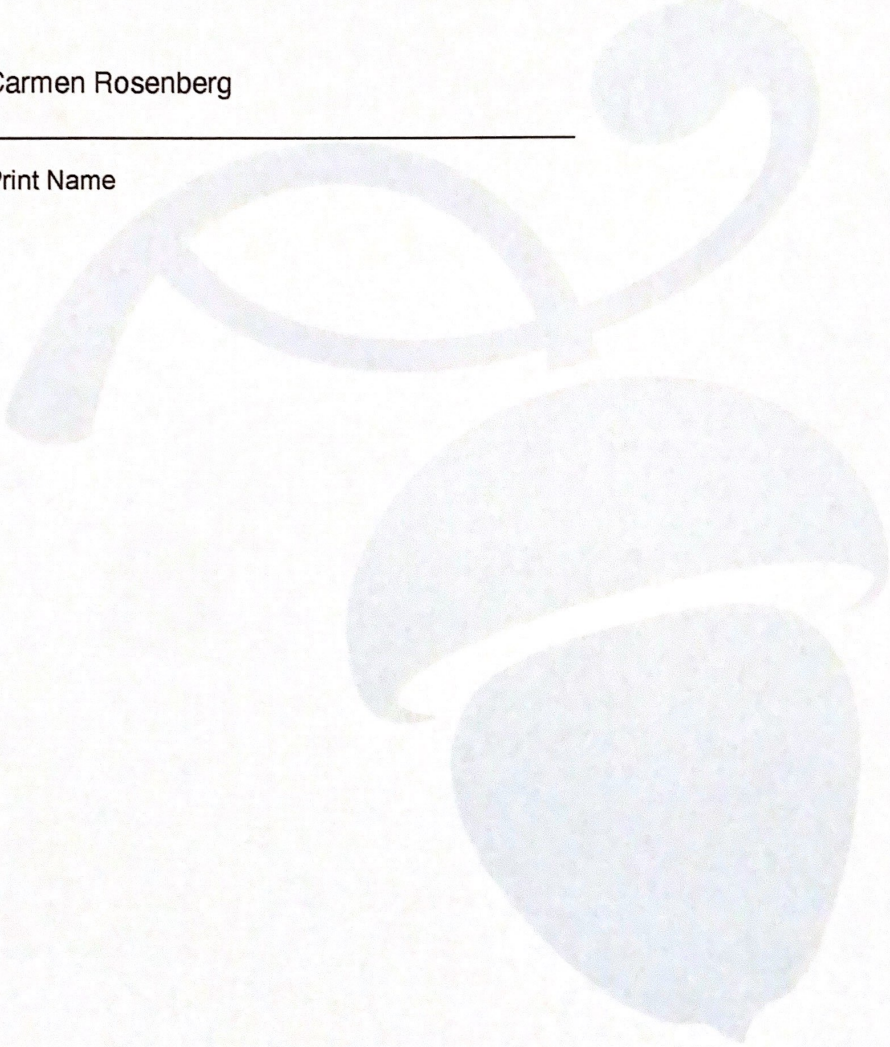
Signature of Candidate

1/11/22

Date

Carmen Rosenberg

Print Name



Governing Board Candidate Application Questions

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

I served on the Executive Board of the Oxnard Student Support Association (union) as the Corresponding Secretary for three years.
No experience serving on a school board.

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

I worked on the following committees as a school employee.

- Student Attendance Review Board (SARB)
- Safety Committee
- Emergency Operations/Disaster Preparedness Committee
- Wellness Collaborative
- Plan and implement staff development programs for staff and health personnel
- Collaboration in the creation and implementation of policies and procedures related to student health
- Networking with appropriate agencies, organizations, and institutions related to school health issues

3. Please describe any relevant community or business activities in which you have participated. Describe your role, duration, and whether your work was volunteer, or employment-related.

The following are volunteer activities.

- National Association of School Nurses (NASN)
Member: 1998 – present, National Conference Presenter, July 2017
- California School Nurses Organization, Southern Section – *Excellence in School Nursing Administration Award*, March 2017
- California School Nurses Organization (CSNO): Annual Conference Presenter
February 2018 – Riverside, CA
March 2016 – Fresno, CA
February 2015 – Anaheim, CA
- California School Nurses Organization (CSNO): Board Member
November 2020 – Present: Co-chair – Government Relations
July 2016 – June 2019: Communications Chair – Southern Section
July 2011 – June 2016: Member At Large – Southern Section
- Ventura County Office of Education - Health Services Standards and Practice Committee, Member 1998 – Present
- Oxnard Support Services Association (OSSA) Executive Board Member, Corresponding Secretary, 2009 - 2012

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

- Advocate for students, families, and schools
- Improve student achievement
- Provide support and leadership
- Collaboration with district administration to best serve our students
- Ensure accountability
- Better understanding of educational budgets and curriculum

5. What do you see as the basic purpose of public schools? What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?

The basic purpose of public schools is:

- Well-rounded students
- Productive members of society
- College and job preparation

Role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose:

- Focus on student achievement and narrow the achievement gap
- Understand the factors that affect student performance
- Collaboration with school staff, community, and stakeholders to develop effective realistic goals for improvement
- Data-driven decisions to improve student success

6. How does the board's role differ from that of the Superintendent?

School Board's role:

- Governs the school district, establishes rules and policies
- Adopt and monitor district finances
- Represent the concerns and needs of the students, parents, school administration, and community
- Creates a positive image for the school district
- Provide education leadership for the community and implement the vision of the school district
- Ensuring safety

Superintendent's role:

- Manages the school district and advises the Board
- Oversees the day-to-day duties/activities of a school district
- Leadership in implementing Board Policy
- Collaborative comprehensive planning for student achievement
- Collaboratively works with school administration to prepare, administer, and monitor district budget/finances
- Identifies the needs of the school district
- Educational leadership to the Board, staff, students, and community

7. Describe the relationship between board members and the administration in handling school concerns?

It is vital that a school board and school administrators develop effective communication and a collaborative relationship. The Superintendent and school administration are responsible for reporting to the school board. Since the school board governs policies and rules, it is significant that the school administration is implementing board policy and regulations. Concerns that breach board policy is presented to Board and are discussed to reach a resolution. Ultimately, a top concern is advocacy for high achievement and healthy development of all students in the community.

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

I have been a full-time school nurse for 25 years and worked in Ventura County schools for 23 years. I recently accepted an administrative position with the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE). I am an active member of the National Association of School Nurses and the California School Nurses Organization (CSNO). I have served as a board member for CSNO and on their Government Relations Committee. Since 1998, I have been a member of the VCOE Health Services Standards and Practice Committee (HSSPC). I currently co-lead the VCOE HSSPC. I provide health and legislative information, guidance, and support to the Ventura County schools and school nurses. Although I have not had much of an opportunity to volunteer in Oak Park schools, I feel my commitment to education in the capacity of a school nurse, has given me the ability to serve my community, and county, with my extensive knowledge and dedication to many students, families, school administrators, and school staff. My family has resided in Oak Park since 1997.

9. What do you see as the strength(s) of the Oak Park Unified School District?

- Strong curriculum
- Parent involvement
- High graduation rates
- College preparation
- High college acceptance rates
- Safety

10. What do you see as the area(s) most needing improvement in the Oak Park Unified School District?

- More Family & Consumer classes such as, Home Economics, Nutrition, Culinary, Auto mechanics
- Wellness Centers – Focuses on mental health, socialization, learning to balance school, extracurricular activities, sports, friends, and family

11. List references of people who reside within the District that have knowledge of your character, experience, and abilities (Name, Phone, e-mail). You may attach a letter of reference from those listed if you wish

1. Patti Pape: Phone: (805) 428-5180, Email: ppape13@gmail.com

2. Rebecca Rosenberg: Phone: (818) 903-0748, Email: rebecca.rosenberg@calsb.org

3. Vanita Star: Phone: (858) 361-6842, Email: vanita.star@att.net

OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD CANDIDATE APPLICATION
Posted December 17, 2021

To be eligible for consideration (Education Code 35107), applicants must:

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Be a citizen of the state of CA.
- Be a resident of Oak Park.
- Be a registered voter.
- Not be disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state to hold a civil office.

Last Name Zucker (aka Ezra) First Name Yehudit (aka Deet)

Home Address [REDACTED] Oak Park 91377

Phone [REDACTED]

Occupation Mom, Wife, Interior Designer, Licensed GC/Electrical Contractor

Employer & Work Phone if applicable: self-employed

Educational background: CSUN

Number of years residing in Oak Park: 4.5

Do you have any children who attend schools in the District: Yes

Ages and Schools if any children attend schools in Oak Park: Age 6 & Age 8

Oak Hills Elementary School

Are you currently employed by the Oak Park Unified School District:

Yes No

PLEASE NOTE: The appointee will hold office until the next governing board member election, which occurs at the next general election on November 8, 2022. Information contained on this application may be subject to verification and is considered a public record.

Please answer the following (you may attach a separate sheet if desired):

1. Do you have prior experience serving on a governing board, specifically a school district board? Please describe such prior experience.
No school district board experience. I sat on Executive Board as Director of Finance for the Epsilon Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Phi International Fraternity from 2000-2001.

2. Have you worked on any school committees or participated in any school activities? Please list them.
Yes, I have been room mom and room treasurer at OHES for my daughter's classes since kindergarten (except when paused for COVID).
This year is my third year as PTA Spelling Bee mom at OHES. I am also Ambassador to OHES for OPEF.

3. Please describe any relevant community or business activities in which you have participated. Describe your role, duration, and whether your work was volunteer, or employment related.
I was part of the community volunteer team effort to save Deerhill Tennis courts from becoming a dedicated pickleball facility. Along with a core group of participants, we prepared and presented an in-depth PowerPoint presentation to the RSRPD board, and according to the USTA, we were the very first tennis community in California to succeed in stopping the transfer of our tennis courts into pickleball courts

4. Why do you want to be a school board member?
I am genuinely invested in our children's futures. I believe that all children should benefit from the whole-child, whole-community approach that OPUSD epitomizes. I can offer my experience both as a parent and as a seasoned business owner and vested member of our community.

5. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools? What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?
Public schools, on the most basic level, are here to educate our children in how to best navigate the world around them, from how to be a member of society and on to forming future great minds who actively contribute to and shape our society for generations to come. It is the school board's role to find suitable measures to implement these whole-child/whole-citizen ideals, sometimes by focusing on the academically rigorous paths, and other times encouraging the social-emotional bonds that encourage all our children to connect and succeed.

6. How does the board's role differ from that of the Superintendent?

To my understanding, the board's role is to define the parameters of the whole-child education, while the Superintendent implements said parameters. Both the board and the Superintendent may bring their long range planning ideas and goals to the table in order to make a more cohesive union for the benefit of our students and the general community.

7. Describe the relationship between board members and the administration in handling school concerns?

To my understanding, administration also implements the board's plans, but on a more day-to-day basis, and must bring unexpected issues that may arise to the attention of the board and Superintendent in a timely manner, so that everyone may work together to find a prompt and equitable solution.

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

Public education the most basic investment we can make as any democratic society to ensure our ideals are achieved and that we can, hopefully, leave the world in an even better and more equitable state than the one we were born into. As a parent to two elementary school children in OPUSD, I am actively invested in their success and the success of all our school children. As an "education destination", and I hope we can grow and continue to model our system to other districts so their children could also benefit from our knowledge and experience.

9. What do you see as the strength(s) of the Oak Park Unified School District?

Our strengths are many: like-minded community members dedicated to educating and enriching children's lives; teaching staff dedicated to embracing both time-tested and new educational methods; purposeful inclusion of children who until just recently were marginalized, Club Oak Park for parents who need before and after care they can depend upon and trust to continue in the whole-child methodology; active partnerships with real world corporations with some of the high school groups (ex. Rocket Club) that can lead into life-long careers.

10. What do you see as the area(s) most needing improvement in the Oak Park Unified School District?

We still lack more diversity that would genuinely reflect our society as a whole. Diversity and inclusion with team building will ensure our future is promising. Continued academic excellence (exceeding state requirements and inclusive of pursuing even more technological advancements) combined with diversity and inclusion is what needs to continue to happen.

PLEASE NOTE: The appointee will hold office until the next governing board member election, which occurs at the next general election on November 8, 2022. Information contained on this application may be subject to verification.

11. List references of people who reside within the District that have knowledge of your character, experience, and abilities (Name, Phone, e-mail). You may attach letter of reference from those listed if you wish

1. Lisa Solny 818-571-3734 Isolny@opusd.org
2. Caryn Yarnell 818-517-9267 caryn@martinyarnell.com
3. Angela Xi Hong (617) 270-3358 hong_xi@hotmail.com

*****please see attached extended list of references, and individually attached letters of reference from nine families**

CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS:

I understand that this application is a public document and may be requested under provisions of the Public Records Act and/or be available to the public on the Oak Park Unified School District website.

I understand that upon appointment I would be required to file a Conflict of Interest Statement Form 700 (available for viewing at <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/Form700.html>) and take an Oath of Office.

I certify that I am not disqualified from holding this office because of a conviction of any of the crimes on the listed on the next page and further certify I am not otherwise disqualified under the California Constitution or statutes from holding public office.

I certify that I am a citizen of California, a resident of Oak Park, and a registered voter.

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

Yehudit Z Ezra
Signature of Applicant

18 January 2022

Date

PLEASE NOTE: The appointee will hold office until the next governing board member election, which occurs at the next general election on November 8, 2022. Information contained on this application may be subject to verification.

RESIDENCY DECLARATION

I, Yehudit Zahavah Zucker, hereby declare that I reside within the boundaries of Oak Park, CA 91377, pursuant to the statutory definition of residency provided in Government Code Section 244 and applicable law. If there is any change in the status of my residency, I agree to immediately notify the Oak Park Unified School District in writing.

Yehudit Zahavah Zucker
Signature of Candidate

01/18/2022
Date

Yehudit Zahavah Zucker
Print Name

Yehudit Zucker (aka Deet Ezra)

List of References

Alison Batten 510-725-8455 Alison.batten1@gmail.com (see attached letter of recommendation)

Inga Jones 818-400-4921 rxjones@sbcglobal.net (see attached letter of recommendation)

Caryn Yarnell 818-517-9267 caryn@martinyarnell.com (see attached letter of recommendation)

Angela Xi Hong 617- 270-3358 hong_xi@hotmail.com (see attached letter of recommendation)

Namrata Kalekar 310-366-6452 namratarahul84@gmail.com (see attached letter of recommendation)

Wendy Wilhite Chatley 818- 522-8674 wcwilhite@gmail.com (see attached letter of recommendation)

Lisa Solny 818-571-3734 lsolny@opusd.org (see attached letter of recommendation)

Lawrence & Shinina Nance 215-668-3702 shinina.butler@gmail.com (see attached letter of recommendation)

Julie Ruttenberg England 310-308-6753 jruttenberg.england@yahoo.com (see attached letter of recommendation)

Rebecca Furman 323-620-4852 Rebecca.Furman@gmail.com

Nina Burr 818-917-6034 nina@goodhabit.com

Maureen Frey 818-707-4224 mfrey@opusd.org



Alison Batten

Alison.batten1@gmail.com

January 17, 2022

OPUSD Board of Education
Drew Hazelton
Denise Helfstein
Allen Rosen
Derek Ross
Tina Wang
Cc: Jeff Davis, Ed.D., Superintendent

Dear OPUSD Board Members,

I am writing to recommend Yehudit Zucker (Deet) to the board member seat that has recently been vacated by Allen Rosen. Deet is energetic, smart, and deeply committed to the children, parents, and teachers in the Oak Park Unified School District. Beyond being a parent of two Oak Hills Elementary School children, one in 3rd grade and one in Kindergarten, she serves as the Oak Park Education Fund ambassador to OHES. She is the Oak Hills PTA spelling bee mom and has been room parent and room treasurer for the past four years. She was also a part of the team who saved the community Deerhill tennis courts from becoming pickle ball courts. As a student of Paul Garron, our local tennis pro, I know what an arduous process this was and how much finesse and campaigning it took to convince Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District to keep the tennis courts. This is a prime example of how Deet will go to bat for a cause about which she is passionate; and she is most passionate about OPUSD. I cannot think of a better emissary for the parents of our district.

Although I cannot remember the exact date or time I met Deet (several years ago by now), it was due to our daughters being on campus together. I have two children at Oak Hills, one at the Neighborhood School and one in third grade. Since we moved to distance learning in the second half of first grade, I have communicated with Deet often about classroom and school wide issues, and she is always ready to roll up her sleeves and problem solve along with her fellow parents. She has always made herself available to her daughters' teachers and is one of the most genuinely helpful, action oriented people I have ever met. Deet seems to know everybody and to know her is to befriend her. Not only is she intuitive, empathetic, and progressive minded, but she is also someone who isn't afraid to state her personal opinions. She has a knack for maintaining her own

integrity and morals while still exhibiting great diplomacy. Deet will meet everyone where they are, and find a way to form a genuine connection and compromise. It is precisely this set of attributes that makes her a fantastic candidate for the OPUSD School Board representative because she already has the trust of her very wide social network of parents. Her tenacious attitude and initiative will make her an invaluable team member and steadfast leader...one who will collaborate well with everyone to achieve our district goals.

I sincerely hope you will consider Deet for school board member and would be excited to see the viewpoint she will certainly bring to our already well rounded board. Thank you for your time.

Best,

Alison Batten

January 16, 2022

Oak Park Unified School District Board of Education
5801 Conifer Street
Oak Park, CA 91377

Dear Board Members,

Without any hesitation, Yehudit Zucker aka Deet Ezra is an excellent candidate for replacing the recent vacancy on the Oak Park school board. She and her husband have two young daughters at Oak Hills Elementary School and is an advocate and an active member of our beautiful Oak Park community. Deet is a warm and deeply caring person and values education, the experience, and is supportive and actively involved and invested in the Oak Park school system. Deet is a full-time business professional and is efficient, effective, and excellent communicator with her colleagues and sees her projects to timely completion. Over the past 4 years since the Ezra family moved to Oak Park, we have had the great privilege to get to know Deet and her family both personally and professionally and feel strongly that Deet will be a great asset to the community as a school board member. Deet epitomizes determination, fairness, and compassion. Through these qualities, Deet will be able to balance the Oak Park school district vision, academics, extracurricular & athletic opportunities, and will work to continue to foster inclusive and safe campuses. I give my full support in recommending Yehudit Zucker aka Deet Ezra for Oak Park School Board.

Sincerely,

Inga Jones, PharmD
Clinical Pharmacist Specialist
Los Robles Regional Medical Center

Oak Park resident since 1993 & proud parent of two children who attended Oak Park Schools K-12 who will both be receiving their doctorate degrees in '22 & '23.

CARYN J YARNELL, MS.,RD



January 17, 2022

Dear Oak Park Board of Education,

The purpose of this letter is to recommend Yehudit Zucker (aka Deet Ezra) for appointment to the Oak Park Unified School District School Board.

As a former Oak Park Unified School District parent and volunteer, a prior educator, and a current community member, neighbor and friend, I strongly recommend Deet.

Through our friendship, Deet has demonstrated that her values and character align with the moral imperatives and goals of our district. Serving as Class Parent at Oak Hills Elementary School where her children attend, she is already an active part of the school district. Deet's dedication to her role as Class Parent demonstrates her desire to ensure a positive educational experience for all children, especially during these difficult times. I admire her work ethic and selflessness.

Deet attended a similar school district as a child, and therefore understands the many unique educational characteristics that make Oak Park desirable. This includes ensuring each student's personal growth, as well as diversity, and inclusivity for all students. This has already been demonstrated by Deet's service as Ambassador to the Oak Park Educational Foundation. Deet's goal to serve our district is both genuine and personal.

Deet is a strong communicator, dependable friend, and has a mild yet firm demeanor. She has always been mindful when engaging in conversations of differing opinions. Deet has demonstrated resourcefulness and a strong business

mindset through her interior decorating business. Most importantly, she is positive and energetic, which will surely benefit the community at large. She has become my go to person for many household projects.

Deet Ezra will be an important asset to the Board of Education. She will become a longtime friend of parents and children alike, and I feel comfortable as a 24-year community member to place a piece of the future of the OPUSD with her as a member of the Board.

Sincerely,

Caryn J. Yarnell, MSRD

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Carynyarnell@gmail.com

January 18, 2022

Angela Xi Hong

[REDACTED]

Oak Park Unified School District

Board of Education

Dear Board Members,

I am supporting Yehudit Zucker (aka Deet Ezra) in her candidacy for the OPUSD School Board.

I came to know Deet in the spring of 2018 when there was a debate on the Deerhill park tennis court usage, we worked together to express opinions of the local residents, collect actual tennis court usage data, collaborate with coaches and meet with the Rancho Simi Park & Recreation board members. Deet's passion and dedication to the community and willingness to serve impressed me. With her help working with the Chair of RSPR, the community was happy to see the tennis courts landed on a fair and reasonable usage plan that benefit a broad community residences with all interests well balanced.

As a PTA board member of Oak Hills Elementary School where I have been serving as the Financial Secretary the past two years, I also have witnessed and benefited from Deet's excellent volunteering work at OHES. She has been the chair for the Spelling Bee program in the past three years, which both of my daughters (7th and 5th) participated. Deet not only did an amazing job in organizing the in-person program end-to-end before pandemic, she also overcome the unparalleled challenges last school year when everything was moved on-line. The 1st ever virtual Spelling Bee event turned out very smooth and successful. Not only the students and parents were well prepared with procedures and what to expect, but also the volunteers and judges managed it quite well as if they had been doing it for a long time. Without Deet's timeless effort and thoughtful preparation, it would not have been such a great experience for the 1st virtual Spelling Bee event.

I am faithful that Deet will work very well with parents, teachers, staff, board members and other citizens on a wide variety of topics with her open-minded attitude, dedication to serve and enthusiasm in education. As a parent of young children, I think she'll be especially sensitive to the concerns of parents. For all of these reasons, I endorse Deet's application of this board position.

Thank you!

Angela Xi Hong

theezras@live.com

From: namrata rahul <namratarahul84@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 16, 2022 8:11 PM
To: theezras@live.com
Subject: Reference for the school board candidate

Hello

I Namrata kalekar resident of Oak park would like to provide reference for Yehudit Zucker (Deet Ezra) who wants to run for the position of school board for the seat of Mr. Rosen . I know Yehudit Zucker since 5 years and our daughters have been friends since kindergarten.

She is a very caring parent,supportive person and a wonderful friend. She is very responsible, honest and kind . She has been our Room parent who loves to organize school class parties and takes care of teachers gift card and everything. I can confidently recommend her for this position that she would like to pursue.

Regards,
Namrata kalekar
Sent from my iPhone

Wendy Wilhite Chatley

wcwilhite@gmail.com

January 18, 2022

OPUSD Board of Education
5801 Conifer Street
Oak Park, CA 91377
(818) 735-3200

Dear Board Members,

Yehudit Zucker (aka Deet Ezra) is a dedicated parent and community member who would be a great addition to the school board. Her passion for education, advocacy for children, and commitment to our schools and community make her a natural choice for such a position.

As a parent, Deet has always taken an active role in our schools. She has participated in the classroom as a room mom and treasurer since her oldest was in Kindergarten. In addition, Deet is the OPEF ambassador to OHES and the Oak Hills PTA Spelling Bee mom.

As a member of the community, Deet has been involved in projects to ensure our parks remain the asset they were intended to be for our children, families, and all members of this wonderful neighborhood. She keeps an eye out for all of us in the neighborhood.

As a business owner, Deet brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that would benefit the board. She is skilled in working within budgets while also maximizing them. Deet understands how people and groups must work together and coordinate their actions. She knows how to prioritize and get things done in the most efficient way possible.

Deet is interested in the concerns of parents, teachers, and other community members regarding our schools. She wants to gain a better understanding of what is working and what may be broken in our district. She will continue to gather this input to make the best decisions possible to ensure our children go to schools we are proud of. Deet's passion, energy, and knowledge would serve the board well.

As the parent of a 1st grader at Brookside, a teacher of 27 years, and a community member most of my life, I fully support Deet Ezra as a board member that will work diligently. Her commitment and passion are to be admired.

Sincerely,
Wendy Wilhite Chatley

From: Lisa Solny <lsolny.educatius@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 6:24 PM
To: Theezras@live.com
Subject: Personal Reference for Yehudit (Deet) Zucker

I have been an employee of the Oak Park Unified School District for the past 14 years. I am the Kindergarten Aide at Oak Hills Elementary. It is there that I had the pleasure of meeting and knowing Yehudit (Deet). I have known Deet for the past 3 years

Deet is one of the most dedicated, hardworking and innovative people I know. She has never missed an opportunity to help out in the classroom or for the school as a whole. Her ideas and thought processes are genius. She always has amazing and creative ideas that benefit the kids and the school. She is an active and involved volunteer in our school community and is well liked by staff and parents. From the moment her daughter started in Kindergarten, Deet has been an active parent in both of her daughter's classes.

Deet openly loves her community and loves the school district. I know that she would only be an asset to a team of leadership for the district. She is knowledgeable in her words and brilliant in her thought processes.

I hope that you consider her for a board position in The Oak Park Unified School District. Please feel free to contact me with any other questions you might have. I would be happy to answer them.

Warmly,
Lisa Solny

lsolny@opusd.org

██████████



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Lawrence and Shinina Nance



January 16, 2022

Oak Park Unified School District Board of Education
5801 Conifer Street
Oak Park, CA 91377

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Yehudit Zucker

Dear Board Members:

We are writing this letter of recommendation in support of the appointment of Yehudit Zucker (aka Deet Ezra) to the OPUSD Board of Education. Our nine-year old daughter, Malaya, has been attending Oak Hills Elementary School (OHES) since DK, and she met Deet's daughter, Naomi, in the kindergarten. They have been best friends ever since, and we have gotten to witness Deet's service and leadership throughout the years.

A true servant leader, Deet cares deeply about the children and families in the district, and she consistently goes above and beyond on their behalf. As 3rd grade Class Parent this year, she has been a critical communication link between the OHES staff and other parents as we navigated the challenges of COVID-19. Using conflict resolution skills, as the moderator of our online parent forum, she has patiently provided information and calm during a time of extreme uncertainty and anxiety.

With humility and determination, she confronts difficult issues and provides space for honest conversations. After the killing of George Floyd, she was not silent. She recognized the pain of the moment and reached out to provide a listening ear and support. She has worked tirelessly to uplift those around her, going above and beyond to support our family through health issues and a military deployment. We've witnessed her display this same spirit of selflessness and generosity with other families in the district who needed support.

We want someone on the school board who works tirelessly for the kids and supports their families. We want someone on the school board who is empathetic, recognizes racial and ethnic disparities and is not afraid to facilitate hard conversations. For all these reasons and more, we wholeheartedly and enthusiastically support Deet's appointment to the OPUSD Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Shinina Butler Nance in blue ink.

Shinina Butler Nance, Esq.

Handwritten signature of CDR Lawrence Nance in blue ink.

CDR Lawrence Nance, U.S. Navy

Julie Ruttenberg England

jruttenberg.england@yahoo.com

January 17th, 2022

Dear Oak Park Unified School District Board of Education:

I am writing this letter of recommendation and in support of Yehudit “Deet Ezra” Zucker who intends to run for a position on the OPUSD Board of Education. I have known Deet and her family for the last three years as we are both parents with children at Oak Hills Elementary. Deet is an active member in school, the Oak Park Education Foundation as well as the community at large. Additionally, Deet is smart, very forward thinking, and passionate about OPUSD and our children.

As a parent of two girls (kindergarten and 3rd grade) Deet has been lead room mom and class treasurer (prior to COVID) for the last four years. She has also organized the Spelling Bee and acted as the administrator for the class chat via What’s App. Her communication and organization skills are excellent, and she possesses a no-nonsense attitude which commands a deep respect from other parents. Deet is also the ambassador for the Oak Park Education Foundation helping to raise awareness and funds for this much needed organization that benefits the students of OPUSD.

Deet’s dedication to activism extends to her community at large where she played a pivotal role in saving the Deerhill tennis courts. Deet successfully advocated on behalf of the residents with Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District which required much diplomacy and coalition building among community members.

One of Deet’s greatest strengths is her inherent ability to connect people together. Deet treats everyone she meets like family and her direct approach creates an environment of acceptance, honesty, and inclusiveness – which is a key value within our Oak Park community. It is these qualities along with her commitment to the district, community and our children that make her a strong candidate.

Sincerely,

Julie R. England

OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD CANDIDATE APPLICATION
Posted December 17, 2021

To be eligible for consideration (Education Code 35107), applicants must:

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Be a citizen of the state of CA.
- Be a resident of Oak Park.
- Be a registered voter.
- Not be disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state to hold a civil office.

Last Name Johnson First Name Charles Nicholas

Home Address [REDACTED]

Phone [REDACTED]

Occupation Planning and development consultant

Employer & Work Phone if applicable: Johnson Aviation, Inc.; 818-606-3560

Educational background: Master of Public Administration, Aviation Administration

Bachelor of Science, Aviation Management; Aviation Flight Program - Private Pilot

Number of years residing in Oak Park: 26

Do you have any children who attend schools in the District: Yes

Ages and Schools if any children attend schools in Oak Park: 18 - Oak Park High School

14 - Medea Creek Middle School

Are you currently employed by the Oak Park Unified School District:

Yes No

PLEASE NOTE: The appointee will hold office until the next governing board member election, which occurs at the next general election on November 8, 2022. Information contained on this application may be subject to verification and is considered a public record.

Please answer the following (you may attach a separate sheet if desired):

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

No prior experience on a school board. I regularly support and interact with public boards such as city councils, planning commissions and special district boards. In this professional role I provide technical guidance, policy support and strategic analysis for consideration by these elected and appointed policy bodies. This experience and interaction with a broad array of perspectives allows for a deep understanding and appreciation for public service and work in the public good.

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

OPUSD Needs Assessment Committee Chair; "Yes on Measure S" bond campaign Co-Chair; OPUSD Needs Subcommittee (project implementation oversight); School Architect Selection Committee; Oak Park Education Foundation (OPEF) Development Retreat; OPEF fundraising activities; funding support for the Oak Park Rocket Club

3. Please describe any relevant community or business activities in which you have participated. Describe your role, duration, and whether your work was volunteer, or employment related.

I have the opportunity to volunteer for civic fundraising activities for organizations and communities supporting those in need. Our family business regularly supports the Oak Park Education Foundation along with other civic and local charities. Recently I participated as a City of Perris, CA, Holiday Toy Drive volunteer. I helped to organize members of the development community to make toy and financial donations for their local holiday toy drive.

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

I feel a citizen's duty to continue serving the Oak Park community interests while providing support and direction to OPUSD Superintendent and leadership team. OPUSD is our most important community asset and it would be an honor to continue the stewardship of it as a board member.

5. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools? What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?

The basic purpose of public schools is ensuring education, child welfare and civic engagement in the public interest. The school board's role is to represent the entire community's interests in preserving, protecting and advancing the function of our schools to the betterment of our society.

6. How does the board's role differ from that of the Superintendent?

The school board selects, guides and supports the Superintendent from the local community's perspective. It does so through setting policy, adopting a budget and making decisions that shape the primary direction of the District. It is up to the Superintendent to select and oversee a team of administrators, teachers and support staff to successfully carry out the will of the community.

7. Describe the relationship between board members and the administration in handling school concerns?

Through mutual professional respect with administration, the Board is able to bring its specific knowledge, skills and experience to solve the shared problems facing our students and schools. Administration has a duty to provide thoughtful information and sound recommendations on school district matters and the Board has a duty to be open and inquisitive about school district matters. Together, these entities should be on the path of student engagement and school improvement.

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

I am a firm believer in public education as a critical foundation of our society. I have volunteered my time and my family has committed its financial support to this endeavor.

9. What do you see as the strength(s) of the Oak Park Unified School District?

1. Local support and commitment by Oak Park residents and parents
2. Continuity and stability of student enrollment as a result of District of Choice
3. Talented and committed teachers and counselors who love their students
4. Knowledgeable and experienced administrators and staff
5. Legacy of stewardship by previous OPUSD leadership who built the base of our District within the community.

10. What do you see as the area(s) most needing improvement in the Oak Park Unified School District?

1. Long-term funding security for educational programs and educators
2. Adequate funding for class size maintenance and planned class size reductions
3. Adequate funding for ongoing facility maintenance and operations
4. Adequate funding for facility renovations, improvements and expansion

PLEASE NOTE: The appointee will hold office until the next governing board member election, which occurs at the next general election on November 8, 2022. Information contained on this application may be subject to verification.

11. List references of people who reside within the District that have knowledge of your character, experience, and abilities (Name, Phone, e-mail). You may attach letter of reference from those listed if you wish

1. Mark Phillips, 818-907-3035, mphillips@lewitthackman.com
2. Traci Woo, 818-421-4024, traciwoo@gmail.com
3. Lori Getz, 818-804-8232, lori@lorigetz.com

CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS:

I understand that this application is a public document and may be requested under provisions of the Public Records Act and/or be available to the public on the Oak Park Unified School District website.

I understand that upon appointment I would be required to file a Conflict of Interest Statement Form 700 (available for viewing at <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/Form700.html>) and take an Oath of Office.

I certify that I am not disqualified from holding this office because of a conviction of any of the crimes on the listed on the next page and further certify I am not otherwise disqualified under the California Constitution or statutes from holding public office.

I certify that I am a citizen of California, a resident of Oak Park, and a registered voter.

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

Charles N Johnson

Digitally signed by Charles N Johnson
Date: 2022.01.04 09:49:23 -08'00'

1/4/2022

Signature of Applicant

Date

PLEASE NOTE: The appointee will hold office until the next governing board member election, which occurs at the next general election on November 8, 2022. Information contained on this application may be subject to verification.

The following is a list of crimes, convictions of which precludes a person from holding public office in the State of California. Conviction of these crimes renders a person "forever disqualified from holding any office in this state."

Penal Code Sections:

- Bribing executive officer (Penal Code § 67)
- Officer asking or receiving bribes (Penal Code §§ 68, 88)
- Receiving gratuity for appointment to office (Pencil Code § 74)
- Judicial Officer who asked for or received emoluments, gratuities, rewards, or the fee of a stenographer (Penal Code § 94)
- Giving or offering bribe to Councilman or Supervisor (Penal Code § 165)
- Misappropriation of public funds (Penal Code§ 424)
- Interface with work or discipline of, or giving certain articles to prisoners (Penal Code § 2772)
- Interference with or giving certain articles to convicts (Penal Code § 2790)

Government and Elections Code Sections:

- Officer making contracts in which he or she is interested (Government Code§ 1097)
- Members of the Legislature convicted of any crime (Government Code § 9055)
- Corrupting the voting process (Election Code§ 18501)

Please note that aside from the above restrictions, Government Code § 1126 prohibits any local agency official from engaging "in any employment, activity, or enterprise for compensation which is inconsistent, incompatible, in conflict with, or inimical to his or her duties as a local agency officer or employee or with the duties, functions, or responsibilities of his or her appointing power or the agency by which he or she is employed.

If you have any questions, please contact Communications Coordinator and Executive Assistant Ragini Aggarwal at raggarwal@opusd.org or (818) 735-3206.

Applications are due no later than 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

PLEASE NOTE: The appointee will hold office until the next governing board member election, which occurs at the next general election on November 8, 2022. Information contained on this application may be subject to verification.

RESIDENCY DECLARATION

I, Charles Nicholas Johnson, hereby declare that I reside within the boundaries of Oak Park, CA 91377, pursuant to the statutory definition of residency provided in Government Code Section 244 and applicable law. If there is any change in the status of my residency, I agree to immediately notify the Oak Park Unified School District in writing.

Charles N Johnson Digitally signed by Charles N Johnson
Date: 2022.01.04 09:49:46 -08'00'

01/04/2022

Signature of Candidate

Date

Charles N. Johnson

Print Name



LEWITT | HACKMAN
SHAPIRO | MARSHALL | HARLAN
A LAW CORPORATION

16633 Ventura Blvd., 11th Floor
Encino, CA 91436-1865
P: 818.990.2120
F: 818.981.4764
lewitthackman.com

MARK J. PHILLIPS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
mphilips@lewitthackman.com
(818) 907-3035

December 27, 2021

Drew Hazelton
OPUSD Board President
5801 Conifer Street
Oak Park, CA 91377

Re: OPUSD Board of Education

Dear Mr. Hazelton:

I am a resident of Oak Park, where I have lived with my family since 1998. All three of my children are graduates of Brookside Elementary, Medea Creek Middle School and Oak Park High. Their exceptional education in those schools afforded them the opportunity to go on to Ivy League colleges, demonstrating the quality of our school district. I am committed to continuing that excellence, which has made Oak Park the envy of surrounding communities.

I write this letter in support of the appointment of Nick Johnson to the vacancy on the OPUSD Board of Education. Nick is smart, a longtime resident of Oak Park, and committed to our neighborhood. He has over the years been involved in numerous civic activities. Out of respect and friendship we call him "The Mayor," both for that involvement and his ability to talk meaningfully to people of all viewpoints. His three children all went to Oak Park schools and his wife, Paula, is a teacher.

Nick has my unqualified endorsement to fill the vacancy on the Board. Please call me directly with any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

LEWITT, HACKMAN, SHAPIRO,
MARSHALL & HARLAN

By:  Mark J. Phillips

cc: Ragini Aggarwal, OPUSD Communications Coordinator and Executive Assistant
to the Superintendent/Board raggarwal@opusd.org

Traci J. Woo

Oak Park, CA 91377

January 10, 2022

Drew Hazelton
OPUSD Board President
5801 Conifer Street
Oak Park, CA 91377

Dear Mr. Hazelton,

It is my pleasure to recommend Nick Johnson for a position on the Oak Park Unified School District Board of Education. He has the character, sense of ownership, skills, and talents to serve our district and community well.

I have known Nick and his family for about 20 years. We first became acquainted as neighbors. He has always been genuinely kind and friendly to everyone he meets. In 2014, I started working for Nick and his wife Paula, providing care for their three children on a part-time basis. I got to know Nick as a man of character who loves his family and his community.

Nick is hard-working, collaborative, and dedicated. He successfully runs his own business and leads his family of five (seven if you include their dogs). Some of the keys to Nick's success are his intelligence, affable personality, strategic thinking, and efficiency. These gifts and traits would be valuable assets to the school board.

As an Oak Park resident, a parent of two children who have graduated from Oak Park High School, and a current OPUSD employee, I highly recommend Nick Johnson to the Oak Park Board of Education.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for further discussion.

Sincerely,

Traci J. Woo
traciwoo@gmail.com
818-421-4024



Ragini Aggarwal <raggarwal@opusd.org>

RE: Nick Johnson for school board reference

Lori Getz <lori@lorigetz.com>

Thu, Jan 6, 2022 at 9:09 AM

To: Ragini Aggarwal <raggarwal@opusd.org>

To whom it may concern,

I had the pleasure of meeting Nick Johnson nine years ago when we first moved to Oak Park. As a mom with two young children and new to the district, I was excited by Nick's passion as he talked about his three children and how the school district has served each of them in different ways. It was that first conversation with Nick Johnson that sparked my own interest in getting involved.

In the fall of 2016, I had the opportunity to work with Nick on the bond measure campaign which we successfully passed in our community. Throughout the process Nick listened with interest to all of the different constituents, giving each member of our community an opportunity to express their concerns and hopes around the bond measure, the community at large and the direction of the school district. Nick took each interview as an opportunity to learn more about other families' experiences and was open to a variety of perspectives. And he was always well received.

Nick's shrewd business prowess enables him to see the big picture while able to devise an action plans in order to implement initiatives successfully and efficiently.

The Oak Park Unified School District would greatly benefit from Nick's professional and personal experience both in and out of the district.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to reach out.

Best regards,

Lori Getz
818-414-5674

—
Lori Getz
Cyber Education Consultants
Author of The Tech Savvy User's Guide to the Digital World

OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD CANDIDATE APPLICATION
Posted December 17, 2021

To be eligible for consideration (Education Code 35107), applicants must:

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Be a citizen of the state of CA.
- Be a resident of Oak Park.
- Be a registered voter.
- Not be disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state to hold a civil office.

Last Name Hardy First Name Soyon

Home Address [REDACTED] Oak Park, CA 91377

Phone [REDACTED]

Occupation Attorney

Employer & Work Phone if applicable: Self-employed

Educational background: UCLA School of Law - J.D.; Cornell University - B.A., magna cum laude; St. John's High School (Guam) - valedictorian, U.S. Presidential Scholar

Number of years residing in Oak Park: 9 years

Do you have any children who attend schools in the District: Yes

Ages and Schools if any children attend schools in Oak Park: One child, age 11, 6th grade at MCMS

Are you currently employed by the Oak Park Unified School District:

Yes No

PLEASE NOTE: The appointee will hold office until the next governing board member election, which occurs at the next general election on November 8, 2022. Information contained on this application may be subject to verification and is considered a public record.

Please answer the following (you may attach a separate sheet if desired):

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

Served on Brookside Elementary PTA Executive Board from 2019-2021 (Historian, Auditor). Currently serving as Secretary of MCMS PFA Board. No prior school district board experience.

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

In addition to the PTA and PFA board positions mentioned above, currently serving on MCMS Site Council, OPUSD Curriculum Council and Oak Park Citizens' Oversight Committee. Since 2015, have volunteered at various OPUSD school activities as a parent volunteer and PTA board member, including book fairs, Jogathon, Reflections, Bingo night, BES PTA Nominating Committee, Measure S drive, and volunteering in the classroom and school office.

3. Please describe any relevant community or business activities in which you have participated. Describe your role, duration, and whether your work was volunteer, or employment related.

See attached.

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

See attached.

5. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools? What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?

See attached.

6. How does the board's role differ from that of the Superintendent?

See attached.

7. Describe the relationship between board members and the administration in handling school concerns?

See attached.

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

See attached.

9. What do you see as the strength(s) of the Oak Park Unified School District?

See attached.

10. What do you see as the area(s) most needing improvement in the Oak Park Unified School District?

See attached.

PLEASE NOTE: The appointee will hold office until the next governing board member election, which occurs at the next general election on November 8, 2022. Information contained on this application may be subject to verification.

11. List references of people who reside within the District that have knowledge of your character, experience, and abilities (Name, Phone, e-mail). You may attach letter of reference from those listed if you wish

1. Benson and Judie Berro - (818) 451-7505; texasjudie@yahoo.com
2. Scott and Vanita Starr - (619) 887-0027; sstar@bradfordbarthel.com
3. Tyrone Avendano - (213) 689-2718 yrone.avendano@aig.com 4 Tina Kadner - (818) 307-9738 kadland4@gmail.com

CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS:

I understand that this application is a public document and may be requested under provisions of the Public Records Act and/or be available to the public on the Oak Park Unified School District website.

I understand that upon appointment I would be required to file a Conflict of Interest Statement Form 700 (available for viewing at <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/Form700.html>) and take an Oath of Office.

I certify that I am not disqualified from holding this office because of a conviction of any of the crimes on the listed on the next page and further certify I am not otherwise disqualified under the California Constitution or statutes from holding public office.

I certify that I am a citizen of California, a resident of Oak Park, and a registered voter.

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



Signature of Applicant

01/14/2022

Date

PLEASE NOTE: The appointee will hold office until the next governing board member election, which occurs at the next general election on November 8, 2022. Information contained on this application may be subject to verification.

The following is a list of crimes, convictions of which precludes a person from holding public office in the State of California. Conviction of these crimes renders a person "forever disqualified from holding any office in this state."

Penal Code Sections:

- Bribing executive officer (Penal Code § 67)
- Officer asking or receiving bribes (Penal Code §§ 68, 88)
- Receiving gratuity for appointment to office (Pencil Code § 74)
- Judicial Officer who asked for or received emoluments, gratuities, rewards, or the fee of a stenographer (Penal Code § 94)
- Giving or offering bribe to Councilman or Supervisor (Penal Code § 165)
- Misappropriation of public funds (Penal Code§ 424)
- Interface with work or discipline of, or giving certain articles to prisoners (Penal Code § 2772)
- Interference with or giving certain articles to convicts (Penal Code § 2790)

Government and Elections Code Sections:

- Officer making contracts in which he or she is interested (Government Code§ 1097)
- Members of the Legislature convicted of any crime (Government Code § 9055)
- Corrupting the voting process (Election Code§ 18501)

Please note that aside from the above restrictions, Government Code § 1126 prohibits any local agency official from engaging "in any employment, activity, or enterprise for compensation which is inconsistent, incompatible, in conflict with, or inimical to his or her duties as a local agency officer or employee or with the duties, functions, or responsibilities of his or her appointing power or the agency by which he or she is employed.

If you have any questions, please contact Communications Coordinator and Executive Assistant Ragini Aggarwal at raggarwal@opusd.org or (818) 735-3206.

Applications are due no later than 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

PLEASE NOTE: The appointee will hold office until the next governing board member election, which occurs at the next general election on November 8, 2022. Information contained on this application may be subject to verification.

RESIDENCY DECLARATION

I, Soyon Hardy, hereby declare that I reside within the boundaries of Oak Park, CA 91377, pursuant to the statutory definition of residency provided in Government Code Section 244 and applicable law. If there is any change in the status of my residency, I agree to immediately notify the Oak Park Unified School District in writing.

Soyon Hardy

01/14/2022

Signature of Candidate

Date

Soyon Hardy

Print Name



3. Please describe any relevant community or business activities in which you have participated. Describe your role, duration, and whether your work was volunteer, or employment related.

I believe my business and professional experience will be relevant and may be helpful to the district and board. I've been a corporate lawyer for almost 20 years, representing primarily healthcare providers, and my husband is a physician partner (ER) at Kaiser. Both of us have lived and worked in the Los Angeles area for over 20 years, and trained/attended graduate school at UCLA, so we both have a strong network in the healthcare industry and in both northern and southern CA. We've been Oak Park residents since 2013. I've worked closely with and advised the boards of directors and senior management of startups and Fortune 500 companies and attended numerous board meetings, so am very familiar with corporate governance and how boards function. As a corporate lawyer, I'm also very comfortable reviewing and analyzing financial statements and reports, which I think will be helpful when doing budget and financial reviews. Prior to law school, I worked for Citigroup for 4 years and developed strong sales, management, and financial skills during that time. I've also been the treasurer for my daughter's girl scout troop from 2015-2021.

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

I've been actively involved with OPUSD schools and other community activities since moving here in 2013, and have come to know and love the community during this time. With the unprecedented challenges that governing a school district during a pandemic brings, and with the transition to a new leadership team at OPUSD, I believe this board vacancy provides a unique opportunity for me to give back, to bring my experience, skills and love of the Oak Park community to bear on the current issues and challenges facing the school district, and to continually improve upon the strong foundation of OPUSD.

5. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools? What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?

While I believe there are many purposes to public schools, I believe that their basic purpose is to provide the communities they serve with equitable access to a well-balanced public education in accordance with state and federal guidelines, and to prepare students to be productive and compassionate citizens in an ever-changing world. A good public education in my view shouldn't just focus on one purpose, but rather should be a multi-pronged approach to educating the whole child, helping them reach their potential, and preparing them for life, whatever path that may take. Ultimately, the school district should strive to meet the relative priorities and needs of the community it serves. OPUSD's mission statement sums it up well: "To provide students with a strong foundation for learning which meets the challenge of the present and of the future through a balanced education which includes academic achievement, personal growth, and social responsibility."

As elected public officials entrusted with governing the school district and accountable to the constituents who elected them, the role of the school board is to ensure that the school district is responsive to and reflective of the values, beliefs and priorities of the community it serves. The school board does this by setting long-term goals for the district, establishing budgets and policies in line with those goals and in compliance with state and federal laws, and working with the Superintendent and the administration to implement those goals with a level of accountability.

6. How does the board's role differ from that of the Superintendent?

The role of the board is to provide high-level direction, management and oversight over the school district, and is ultimately responsible for governing the district and accountable to its constituents, much like a company's board of directors is responsible for providing the high level, strategic direction and management of a company and is accountable to its shareholders. The school board must approve all contracts and legal obligations of the school district. The Superintendent is hired by and answers to the school board, and it's the Superintendent's role to manage the day-to-day affairs and staff of the district and to execute on and implement the goals, direction and policies set by the board, just as a company's CEO is hired by a corporate board to manage the day-to-day affairs of a company at the direction of the board.

7. Describe the relationship between board members and the administration in handling school concerns?

While the entire administration is accountable to the board at some level, it is really only the Superintendent who is a direct report of the board. The other administrative staff report to the Superintendent (or their immediate supervisors). School concerns for the most part should be handled at the school site level and elevated as appropriate to the site leader (principal), and if necessary, up the chain to administrative leadership (Superintendent) based on the district's policies and procedures. The board provides high level guidance and direction to the extent a school concern is important enough to have an impact on the district, and it is the administration's responsibility to implement the board's directives.

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

My husband and I are big proponents of public schools and public education. While public schools really weren't a viable option for me growing up on Guam, my husband is a product of CA public schools, and both he and I attended CA public universities. My husband and I moved to Oak Park from the Westside 9 years ago for the Oak Park school district after having researched many other communities and school districts in Orange, Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Both my children attended kindergarten at Brookside

Elementary, and my oldest is now a 6th grader at MCMS. We love the small, close-knit and down-to-earth community of Oak Park where your neighbors are your friends and don't hesitate to help one another, and where parents are so involved and invested in the school district. Even while working full-time, I always felt it was important to volunteer and give back where I could, especially in a public school district where funding is a perennial challenge, by volunteering in my children's classrooms to joining PTA/PFA boards and district committees. No school district is perfect, but I believe one should volunteer and get involved to truly understand the unique challenges faced by a public school district like Oak Park, and to try to be as constructive and proactive as possible to help improve it.

9. What do you see as the strength(s) of the Oak Park Unified School District?

- The commitment of the parents, students, administration, teachers and staff in making OPUSD a better place
- Its talented and dedicated teachers
- Supportive, close-knit community
- Long-standing reputation and commitment to academic excellence, social/emotional wellness, and global citizenry
- Motivated and involved student and parent population

10. What do you see as the area(s) most needing improvement in the Oak Park Unified School District?

- A process and management structure for more consistent data-driven policy and decision-making, informed by more rigorous and inclusive stakeholder input
- An immediate need is to advocate for the additional funding and adequate state/federal support needed to (a) identify the curriculum gaps, cumulative learning loss and impact on social-emotional health brought on by the pandemic; (b) develop a long-term plan to close those gaps as best as possible over time, (c) make the necessary and timely adjustments to curriculum, homework load and testing (especially during key transitions from elementary, to middle to high school) taking such learning/curriculum loss into account; and (d) provide teachers and staff with the tools and support they need to implement that plan
- Instilling a culture of continuous improvement

January 13, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Soyon Hardy. I have known Soy and her family for many years as neighbors and friends. Soy has a very pleasant demeanor and is warm and outgoing. She really cares about all the kids in the OP schools, not just her own and both she and her husband are very involved in our community. Soy and I have served together on Brookside PTA, Medea Creek PFA, Medea Creek School Site Council and many various other programs and committees over the years. Listed below are just some of the ways Soy has given back to OPUSD:

- Served on Brookside Elementary PTA Executive Board from 2019-2021 (Historian, Auditor). Currently serving as Secretary of MCMS PFA Board.
- In addition to the PTA and PFA board positions, currently serves on MCMS Site Council, OPUSD Curriculum Council and Oak Park Citizens' Oversight Committee.
- Since 2015, have volunteered at various OPUSD school activities as a parent volunteer and PTA board member, including book fairs, Jogathon, Reflections, Bingo night, BES PTA Nominating Committee, Measure S drive, parent volunteer in classroom and school office.

During my two years as Brookside PTA President, Soy was someone I could count on. She would often step up and volunteer to make the programs and activities run smoothly. Soy is a great listener and a problem solver. She would think outside of the box to present creative solutions as issues arose.

My husband, Benson Berro, has served on The Oak Park Education Foundation Executive Board for several years. He has seen examples of the Hardys not only giving back by volunteering but also by making financial contributions to OPEF to help support the school district.

I hope you will consider Soy Hardy to be a member of the OPUSD Board of Education. I believe her strengths listed above make her a strong candidate to fill the vacancy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Judie Berro


Brookside PTA President

2018- 2020


Benson Berro

OPEF Executive Board

January 11, 2022

Oak Park Unified School District
Board of Education
5801 Conifer Street
Oak Park, CA 91377

Dear Board Members:

Please accept this letter of recommendation for Soyon Hardy to serve on the Board of Education for Oak Park Unified School District.

We have had the pleasure of living in the neighborhood with the Hardy Family since 2013 and have found Soy to be an asset to Oak Park and our schools.

Soy has volunteered with at various OPUSD school activities such as book fairs, Jog-a-thon, Reflections, Bingo Night, the BES PTA Nominating Committee, Measure S Drive and has spent time in the classroom and school office. In addition, she has served on the Brookside Elementary PTA Executive Board as Historian and Auditor and is currently serving as the Secretary of the MCMS PFA Board.

Her professional experience as a Corporate and Healthcare Transactional Attorney has provided her with experience advising Board of Directors and senior management of various companies. She is a skilled negotiator and a team leader.

We believe her experience and willingness to engage with the schools will prove to be useful on the Board and bring in additional prospective. As President of OPEF, I would highly recommend Soyon Hardy to serve as a Board Member.

Sincerely,



Vanita and Scott Star

January 12th, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

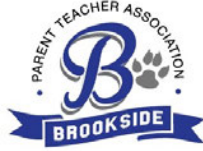
I'm writing to endorse Mrs. Soyon Hardy to be appointed to the OPUSD School Board. I first met Mrs. Hardy as a member of Oak Park Citizens Oversight committee and I immediately recognized many of her qualities. Mrs. Hardy is energetic, smart and deeply committed to the children, parents and schools at OPUSD and she is excellent in paying attention to details. She is dedicated, level-headed and works well with a wide variety of people. She takes her time to do her homework and fully understands the issues at hand. That t is one of the many reasons why I nominated her to be part of MCMS Site Council as well as appointing her to be the secretary for MCMS PFA.

If appointed, Mrs. Hardy will bring a great wealth of knowledge to the board due to her professional background which has allowed her to become the person I have described. She will be a great asset to the OPUSD School Board. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Ty Ayendano
MCPS PFA President
OPHS PFA Co-President



January 12, 2022

Dear OPUSD Board Members,

It is with pleasure, that on behalf of the Brookside PTA executive board I submit this letter of recommendation for Soyon Hardy to be considered to serve on the Oak Park Unified School district board.

Soyon has served on our executive board for more than three years. During her time on the board she exemplified dedication to both Brookside and her roles. Aside from her position on the board, she spent countless additional hours volunteering for different events going above and beyond most.

Her thoughtfulness and loyalty to Brookside was greatly appreciated and would be of great value to have her on the OPUSD Board of Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tina Kadner'.

Tina Kadner
Brookside PTA President

TO: MEMBERS, BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: DR. JEFF DAVIS, SUPERINTENDENT
DATE: JANUARY 27, 2022
**SUBJECT: A.2 SWEARING-IN AND ADMINISTERING THE OATH OF OFFICE
TO THE NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER IF APPOINTED**

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

ISSUE: To administer the Oath of Office to newly appointed provisional Board member if applicable.

BACKGROUND/ The Superintendent shall administer the Oath of Office to newly appointed provisional Board Member to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Allen Rosen on January 19, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Davis, Ed.D.
Superintendent