



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM San Mateo-Foster City School District

Please complete and return this form by 4:00 pm on Friday, March 9, 2018. Applications may be emailed or mailed to: San Mateo-Foster City School District

Attn: Amber Farinha

1170 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA 94404

afarinha@smfcsd.net

All applicants will be reviewed for eligibility and interviews will be held starting at 5:30pm on March 21, 2018

Date: March 9, 2018

Carter, Mollie, M

(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

- Co-chair, Fundraising, Highlands Rec 4th of July Committee. Coordinated efforts reaching out to the community to secure sponsorships.
- Art in Action Docent and Garden Coordinator, Highlands Elementary. Coordinated parent teams and teachers to plan and deliver bi-weekly lessons plans.
- Advisor to the Board of Grassroot Soccer, a non-profit reducing the spread of AIDS through sports-based education. Advised board on long term vision and organizational design.

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

- I am extremely passionate about how we are preparing all of our kids to have the cognitive, creative, and social skills that will be needed to best contribute to a rapidly changing world. Education is the key to creating a stable, thriving, just, democratic society. I want to contribute my knowledge, skills and dedication as a school board member, where I believe I could have the most positive impact on our public education system.
- I come from a family of educators, I work in education as an executive team member at Edmodo (a San Mateo based education technology company) and I am a parent and advocate in the San Mateo-Foster City School District. I have skills developed over 20 years in business and through my community involvement that span business planning, opportunity analysis, budgeting, communications and relationship building, that I believe could be put to productive use working with the current board.

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

- Public education is the foundation of our society, and direct community oversight and involvement is critical to make it work. The school board members are the representatives, the voice, of the community and should be held accountable - working with the Superintendent and district - for whether our local public education system is delivering on the needs of our community. Key roles the school board plays: 1) listening, understanding, involving and reporting back to the community, 2) advising and guiding the district on the long term vision, 3) acting on key decisions for budgets, policies, and infrastructure improvements.

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

- Our district has passionate, intelligent, engaged people who believe in the power of education at every level - teachers and principals in our schools, administrators in our district, families at home, and a wider community of businesses and organizations.
- We live in an area rich in diverse cultures, races, beliefs, and languages. This diversity makes us stronger and more prepared to contribute to a global society.
- While we have economic challenges throughout our district, and rapid growth has created challenges for our teachers, families and the district, we are fortunate to live in an economically strong community.

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

- Long term planning to ensure we have the infrastructure and resources to support our students and teachers.
- Processes to better inform and involve the larger community in the district's vision planning, critical needs identification, solution development, and reports of progress. We need stronger relationships leading to real support and action between the district, and our families, organizations and businesses.

- Providing an excellent, well supported education for all students in our district, and providing the differentiated learning opportunities for each student to reach their full potential.
- The use of technology and the associated professional development for that technology, to support the district's vision and curriculum. We need to determine how best to equip our schools and teachers with 21st century tools and instruction to continuously improve our delivery of education.



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Date: March 8, 2018

Chi, Karen

(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

I am currently serving on the Board of Directors for FMS (Friends of Mandarin Scholars) for College Park/Bayside STEM Mandarin programs serving as the Director of Mandarin Curriculum Liaison I have also been a Room Parent for 2 consecutive years at College Park

I am also serving on the Board of Directors for NPMS (Northern Peninsula Mandarin School)-a weekend Chinese school going on its 40th year

Previously I have been on the Board of Directors for Association of Woman MBAs (Vice President) and Society of Asian Woman Leaders (Vice President)

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650.312.7700 tel
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Board of Trustees
Noelia Corzo, Rebecca Hitchcock, Audrey Ng, Shara Watkins

Superintendent
Joan Rosos, Ed.D.



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

I would like to help make San Mateo Foster City school district one of the most desirable districts in the Bay Area that people want to move to the district in order to send their kids to school here. This could be due to the schools' rankings, cultures, openness to diversity and learning differences, and the strong sense of community.

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

As a board member, I would like to help create and execute consistent visions, strong programs, culture of acceptance and inclusion, and safety across all the schools in the district.

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

SMFC school district has a diverse set of neighborhoods and school offerings. With the increase in San Mateo and Foster City real estate prices and property tax collection, there are many opportunities to improve the schools and creating a diverse set of magnate programs to meet different needs of families and students.

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

I would like to assist in attracting and retaining quality teachers. Aside from monetary rewards, teachers just as any professionals in the workforce want to feel appreciated and that they are making a difference in students' lives. This can be done by fostering the spirit within each school and its parent and student community to show respect and appreciation towards teachers and to support teachers in whatever they need help in. This has to come from deepest respect and appreciation for what teachers do for our children



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Chin, Cynthia J.
(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

Please see attached documents

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Superintendent
Joan Rosas, Ed.D.



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

Please see attached

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

Please see attached

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

Please see attached

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

Please see attached

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

I am a principal of a K-8 school in the Ravenswood City School District. Our district serves the students of East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park. I have been a member of the school site council for ten years. I have served as secretary on the school site council. I was a member of the district's health committee. I also served on the East Palo Alto Kids Foundation board and as secretary and allocations chair.

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

I want to be a school board member because I think that school boards can make decisions at a larger level that will impact the classroom. School boards have the ability to help make systemic change.

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

I believe the role of the school board is to give direction to the superintendent so that all of the needs of the community can be addressed.

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

I believe the strength of the district is that there are various pockets of success. This success is at different schools and areas across the district. This is also with different subgroups. That success has been measured through state measures. I think the steps the school board has taken in terms of learning about being more culturally responsive is a move in the right direction to address needs.

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

I think the biggest area of need for the district is to close the achievement gap that exists within various demographics within schools and the achievement gap that exists across schools in the district. Schools need to be culturally responsive to meet the needs of all students in the community.



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Chin, Kenneth, P.

(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

In 2015, I left a successful local government career with the City of San Mateo to be a Stay-at-Home Dad for my 2 young children. During this time, I have remained very involved and active in the community. The following are organizations I am currently involved with:

- Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition Board Member & Chair of the Policy Committee
- City of San Mateo Parks and Recreation Foundation Board Member & Vice-President
- County of San Mateo Measure K Oversight Committee Member
- San Mateo County Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee Member
- County of San Mateo Office of Education's Safe Routes to School Community Advisory Committee Member
- Baywood Elementary Site Council Member, Room Parent and PTA Member
- Leadership Program sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce (2017 Graduate)

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Prior to becoming a Stay-At-Home-Dad, I spent 20 years working in local governments, serving in various capacities in the San Francisco Planning Department, City of San Mateo Planning Division and the City of San Mateo Department of Public Works. Through those roles, I have developed a deep understanding of how the government and governing boards operate. Working in local governments has given me the opportunity to make various presentations to numerous boards, commissions, school committees and neighborhood groups, and I have successfully facilitated a number of divisive issues with neighbors, community groups and special interest groups over the course of my career.

Outside of the government realm, I love coaching children and am currently a Little League Baseball coach for my son and soon to be an AYSO Soccer coach for my daughter. I also love volunteering at my children's school and am there at least once every couple of weeks. I volunteer in the classes, at recess, on field trips, at science workshops, at the talent shows, and in the dream lab. Additionally, I was an annual participant and speaker on former Trustee Lori Lawson's Tour de San Mateo-Foster City Schools where we promoted bicycling to school at every school in our district.

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

Raising my children and being part of the school community has been my life for the past three years. My children have now grown and matured to a point where I can, and would like to, take on a larger role in our community. I am a strong believer and supporter of public education and believe the District is maneuvering through a number of challenges, including but not limited to, a funding gap from a failed tax measure, new school construction, an influx of new students with a possible exodus of teachers, and an almost entirely new school board. These challenges appeal to me, and I am interested in helping the District overcome these challenges.

Throughout my local government career, my main focus was in the development and transportation fields. During this time, I drafted environmental documents, managed development projects, and obtained and managed the financing of public improvement projects. Part of my job (and something that I am truly passionate about) when I was employed by the City of San Mateo was to advocate for student safety - not only safety while on school campus, but the safety of students getting to and from school as well. One of my responsibilities at the City was to apply for grants, and while there, I successfully obtained over \$15 million of state and local funding for the City, including a \$2.5 million grant I received from the State of California to improve the infrastructure around San Mateo schools, provide educational safety programs to students, and provide funding for a School Traffic Safety Officer to patrol the schools during drop

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off and pick up. It has been extremely fulfilling to see those dollars put to work, and I would like to put my efforts toward similarly rewarding endeavors with the school board.

In addition to my previous experience with the City, I have phone banked for successful tax measures for the City of San Mateo, understand future development impacts to our schools and as a local kid (Aragon High School graduate) and longtime local government professional, I am connected to some of our community leaders which will help maintain the often frayed relationship between the school district and our cities/county.

Ultimately, I want to be a school board member to have a positive impact on the future of our children and community.

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

The school board is the governing body for the school district and supports its public schools by leading, supporting, and providing accountability. The board needs to set direction for the future while also understanding and accounting for past board decisions. Based on metrics, statistics and demographics, the board determines how the school district will move forward in the future to provide the best educational experience possible. Recent examples of this direction are the move to Common Core and the future addition of two new schools to the district. These decisions were made with all of the students and overall District in mind.

I believe one of the biggest ways the board supports the public schools is supporting the District and individual school staff members. Each board member cannot be an expert in every academic and school operational field, so they need to rely on its staff for advice and guidance. Staff needs and deserves to be supported as much as possible. There are of course limitations to this support for illegal or illicit activity, but all staff should be supported as best as possible. This includes financially, emotionally and with additional training or resources. Without great staff we cannot have great schools.

Accountability is another major way the board supports schools. The board needs to make the difficult decisions when it comes to expulsions, firings and disciplinary actions. It also needs to be accountable for the overall success of the school district and the success of the students. There is no greater profession than educating the youth and the board needs to support the schools and its staff and be accountable for its decisions.



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

In addition to great schools and great staff, the diverse nature of the district is a major strength. The size of the district, with its 20 schools in 2 cities and 1 county, might seem like a challenge, but it is one of its greatest strengths. Due to the district's size, it is able to provide a diversity of programs to over 12,000 students. These programs include the immersions programs in Spanish and Chinese, Montessori based schools, STEAM and STEM programs, IB, LEAD, etc. This ability to provide a diversity of programs to serve a variety of students' interests, needs and desires is a major strength.

The district also has great teachers and staff. In order to have great schools, you need to have great people educating our children and SMFC has them. The staff often goes out of their way to make sure that the best interests in the students are in mind. Their caring and supportive attitudes, while also providing structure and discipline, ensures that the students not only grow up to be ready for higher education levels, but are socially and emotionally ready for the world.

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

I believe student achievement and success can always be improved in the district and schools, but finding the right solution for each and every student can be difficult. We should address the equity issue and provide more resources to the English Language Learners. If we help those students earlier, they will be more successful as they mature through our school system. However, I don't believe this can be accomplished in the classroom alone. We need to be more proactive and reach out to the community as much as we can to accelerate their learning.

Additionally, I am a strong believer in Early Education and believe that if we reach out to the future parents and students of our district at our local daycares, preschools and parent's groups and provide early outreach and assistance, this can help to ensure they are ready for Kindergarten, and we will see exponential results as the students progress through the system.

On a larger scale, affordable teacher and staff housing is a major issue in our community. If we don't have affordable housing for our teachers and staff, we can't attract and keep the most talented people. This issue can't be resolved by just the school district, but we need to reach out to our local governments and explain that if we don't have good staff, we can't have good schools, and if the schools take a turn, then the community at large hurts. Student success, great teachers and affordable housing are all linked, so we need to find a solution, or we will have a hard time attracting and retaining talented staff for our schools in the future.

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Chou, Catherine

(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

I am a full time mom of 2 girls and I run my own importing business. I am also on the board of our Homeowners Association which deals with budgeting and plan approval. I am on the San Francisco Advisory Board for a non profit organization called International Leadership Foundation.

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

I would like to become a school board member because I have benefited so much as a parent for having both of my children enrolled in the Foster City public schools. I feel I would like to pay my gratitude by giving my time and effort to assist our school district to continue its excellent work and possibility making it greater.

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

In my opinion the role of the school board is to assist public schools to run smoothly and efficiently so the schools itself can focus on the students. The board members acts as a good liaisons between the board and the stakeholders. That way better ideas can be formed to created better solutions. The main goal is to create a safe and learning environment for the students.

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

The strengths of our school district lies in our community involvement, diversity and wonderful teachers and administrators. We created a safe and inviting environment for our residents. And we are also strong with a variety of schools offered to fit our residents needs.

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

Due to the growing number of population in the bay area, I feel the district should improve in maintenance of the schools and managing the growing student population.

San Mateo Foster City School District

School Board Candidate Responses

Date: 3-9-18

Name: Douglas, Christine A

Home Address: 974 Chestnut Hill, E. A. St. San Mateo, CA 94403

Questions/Responses

1. **Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.**

I have an active volunteer history, including many years serving within the SMFC community on a variety of boards and committees. The majority of roles are listed here.

Board Member

San Francisco Council of Co-op Preschools
2008-2010, 2 years

Counselor

San Francisco Suicide Prevention
1992-1994, 2 years

General & Executive Board Member/Admissions Director

Village Nursery Parent Participation/Co-op Preschool
2005-2010, 5 years

PTA & Site Council Member

Garden Village Elementary School
2009-2010, 1 year

Board Member

Montessori Parents Committee at Parkside Elementary
2010-2011, 1 year

Advisory Board Member

Galileo Learning Camps, Education
2012, 1 year

Volunteer Art Facilitator

Art in Action
2011-2015
5 years

Co-Fundraising Chair

North Shoreview Montessori PTA
2014-2016, 2 years

Vice Chair, Site Council

North Shoreview Montessori School
2014-2015, 1 year

Chair, Site Council

North Shoreview Montessori School
2015-2016, 1 year

Executive Vice President

North Shoreview Montessori, PTA
2016-2017, 1 year

President

North Shoreview Montessori, PTA
2017-Present

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

The role of school board member fits with my background in psychology/child development (BA) and business (MBA). Having this knowledge would inform my approach and enhance my contributions to the SMFC community.

I have also been serving within different capacities in the SMFC school district for many years, have experienced the journeys of my own children, and have learned a lot along the way. As a school board member, I would be able to contribute my time and experience at a district level, working collaboratively to address needs across the district.

And, I believe in turning skills, experience and passion into purpose. Becoming a school board member is a way to give back with purpose.

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

The role of the school board in supporting public schools is to receive input at the local level across all facets, find the shared ideals that transcend competing priorities, and lead the way toward an agreed upon vision with measurable results. This happens through communication, process and accountability, in partnership with the superintendent, and within the context of state and federal frameworks.

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

Currently, my view is that the SMFC school district is strong when it comes to the breadth of innovative choices available for instructional methods. These choices accommodate different learning styles and assist with achieving several of the objectives in our district mission.

The availability of these choices is so valuable, in fact, it led our family to the SMFC school district. After applying for an out of district transfer, and gaining a spot, we sold our home to become part of this district, have access to these options for our children, and contribute to making it available for future generations.

Our district is also strong in providing training to administrators. I have been impressed when hearing from them about how they are given training beyond the textbook, that speaks to the newest thinking in education, such as brain development and the implications for learning.

And, while our district has room for improvement, we also have areas of strength in our achievement measurements. Having served on Site Council for several years, I have seen strong scores at my children's school in some segments, but also as a district when I look at the collective numbers that have been shared out.

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

In terms of improvement, parity across the district is an area that needs attention. This affects many aspects, including.

- Emotional health and special needs
- Increases in achievement for all students, especially our English language learners & lower socio-economic groups
- Resources for school sites
- Equitable arts education
- Technology
- Parent and community engagement

Another area that we need to look at further is creative ways to develop an attractive environment to recruit qualified and experienced teachers to our district, and to retain them.

All of this is impacted by challenges around finances. While we have many resources, there is more we would like to do and we need funding to do it. We need to explore ways to address this.

As a board member, I would take steps to expand my understanding around strengths and areas of improvement, beyond my own perspective, through dialogue, research and visitations.



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Business Services Division
650 312-7269

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<u>Dunwoody,</u>	<u>Garrett</u>	<u>A</u>
(Last)	(First)	(Initial)



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

I have a variety of professional and volunteer experience that makes me a good choice to fill this role within the SMFCSD Board of Trustees. I have spent 16 years of my career working and managing local government programs and services. I have worked at all levels of local government to include program manager, budget/policy analyst, and department manager. Additionally, I have a master's degree in public administration and management from San Francisco State University where I graduated with Honors. Additionally, I am volunteer weekly with my son's class specifically to help with his class garden. I am also a member of two advisory boards.

Foothill De-Anza Community College District – Advisory Board Member GIS Technology Program

I have been serving as an advisory board member for the Foothill De-Anza Community College District since 2009. This role is for the Geospatial Technology Certificate Program. Students can receive a certificate or an associates (A.S) degree in this field from Foothill College. In this role I advise on technology trends in the geospatial industry and how the program can map curriculum to align with these trends in the workforce. I also serve as an adjunct faculty member in this program.

San Francisco State University (SFSU) – Institute for Geographic Information Science Committee

In this role at SFSU I serve as a standing committee member for the Institute for Geographic Information Science. I have been in this role since 2011. This program is part of the Department of Geography and offers curriculum for both Bachelor's degrees; as well, as classes taught through the College of Extended Learning. In this role I work with the institute's Director and other committee members to build new class offerings and curriculum that align with industry needs in the geographic information science space.

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

There are a variety of reasons I would be honored to be a board member. Most importantly I am passionate about creating opportunities for children to be successful in their lives. School offers an unprecedented opportunity to develop children socially/emotionally; as well as, intellectually. I am a firm believer that the public school system is one of our most valuable common goods. We are preparing our children for a future that is unclear. As a result, it is imperative that we develop strong policies and agendas that support our children and the District's administration to prepare our children as best we can for the future. I want to be part of that process.



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3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

The role of school boards in supporting public schools fall into five primary areas:

- Maintain alignment with State Constitution and Education Code
- Development of local policies and agendas
- Serve the District constituency (students, parents, members of the public)
- Fiduciaries of public funds
- Staff Support (executive, certificated, and classified)

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

I believe one of the District's greatest strengths is in the District's diversity. As an earth and social scientist it is widely known that diversity in ecosystems make a more resilient and vibrant environment. I think this tenet plays true with the District. The SMFCSD is made up of an extremely diverse group of people. According to the 2010 Census there are census tracts in the District where up to 50% of the population listed is foreign born. What an amazing opportunity to leverage this variation in perspective and ideas to the benefit of the District.

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

There are a few areas I would like to address once appointed. The one area I would like to discuss is about community outreach and engagement.

Community Outreach and Engagement

I see community outreach and engagement being an area that needs greater attention. While I feel the District does due diligence in notifying appropriate citizen groups and students I feel the effort is often seen as lacking a level of sincerity and pro-activeness. I believe there are ways the District can become more thoughtful and clear about the District's needs and how to better solicit help from the students, parents, and citizens. In the end the Board; as well as, the administration are in place as fiduciaries of the public trust. With better communication and marketing I think we can make some progress on a needed parcel tax to provide better opportunities for the District.

Date: 3/9/18

Fernandez, Nicole A.
(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

I have been a public servant for the last 13 years, working for three Members of the California State Legislature where I worked on community relations and a broad range of policy issues including public education. I am currently in charge of outreach and education for San Mateo County's Aging and Adult Services, where I build relationships daily to increase awareness of issues facing older and dependent adults in our community. Additionally, for the past four years I have served as a member and past chair of the City of San Mateo's Community Relations Commission (CRC), which provides oversight of federal community development block grant (CDBG) funds that support a range of public services and programs that serve our neediest residents in our community.

Beyond that, I have spent the last 10 years on the board of directors of the Peninsula Democratic Coalition, one of the largest and oldest Democratic clubs in the Bay Area, serving as president for a two year term (2014-2016). I also spent a number of years on the executive board of the Peninsula Young Democrats, serving as political director for a number of years. I currently serve as treasurer of the Grand Terrace Homeowners Association, where I reside in San Mateo's North Central neighborhood.

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

I am incredibly proud to call the City of San Mateo my home for the past 6 years, and am myself a product of San Mateo County public schools. My professional experience has allowed me to serve greater San Mateo County over the last decade, while my time on the City of San Mateo's Community Relations Commission (CRC) has allowed me to get to know our local community in depth. Through my service, I understand that the bedrock of our community is our public school system that teaches, molds and inspires our next generation of productive residents and leaders.

With my experience in public policy, in legislative process, as a city commissioner working with local nonprofits and other agencies coupled with my keen knowledge of our community and breadth of existing relationships I know that I can add tremendous value to the board and help the district connect to new and needed resources. I am excited at the prospect of applying these skills and leveraging my relationships to maintain and improve the district's many goals.

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

The school board is first and foremost the advocate for the district's stakeholders including the students, parents, staff and the broader community. The board must balance and prioritize the needs of all stakeholders in order to develop policy that will provide the greatest benefit to all. While meeting the competing or at times conflicting needs of stakeholders within the limitations of budget and resources is always challenging, a school board must take the time to listen, research and engage in robust dialogue to ensure fair allocation of resources and benefits while focusing on providing the best educational opportunity the district can deliver for students.

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

The strength of our school district lie in the individuals that make up the district: our students, our families, our staff and our greater community. There is beauty in the diversity that makes up San Mateo Foster City School District. The district continues to offer innovative programs, including magnet schools Mandarin immersion program and exemplary special needs services among many bedrock programs and services offered through the district

With four new school board members taking on their roles in the last six months, the school board has an opportunity to have new and dynamic policymakers to maintain and improve existing programs and services and bring new vision for how to address persistent challenges. The district has tremendous new energy available and I look forward to the opportunity to be a part of that.

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

Some of the areas most needing improvement include: developing curriculum and program improvements that close the achievement gap, increasing communication and engagement with our parents and families, staff, stakeholders and greater community - particularly our partner cities of San Mateo and Foster City - ensuring that construction projects are delivered on time and on budget, and securing the necessary resources to ensure that the district has adequate funding to offer the quality education it has traditionally provided.



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM San Mateo-Foster City School District

Please complete and return this form by 4:00 pm on Friday, March 9, 2018. Applications may be emailed or mailed to: San Mateo-Foster City School District

Attn: Amber Farinha

1170 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA 94404

afarinha@smfcsd.net

All applicants will be reviewed for eligibility and interviews will be held starting at 5:30 pm on March 21, 2018.

Date: March 7, 2018

Garriott, Omar P.

(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

For the past 2.5 years I've passionately served on the board of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation (N. CA chapter). I'm a former board member of LinkedIn for Good for Employees & the Craigslist Foundation. I've raised nearly \$1K for George Hall, helped SFMC Ed Foundation explore a new fundraising platform, am a regular classroom volunteer, and active in our local church (UUSM). I was selected for the inaugural class of the Aspen Institute/Pahara's Next Gen Fellowship (a 2-yr program) for emerging education leaders of color. I also spent a year shadowing the Washington, D.C. school board, where I was a teacher. I'm intimately familiar with education policy, and both the promise as well as the limitations of reform efforts including edtech.

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Board of Trustees
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Superintendent
Joan Rosas, Ed.D.



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

In a career that has straddled both education and business, I bring unique insights to both sectors. I'm a former 3rd-grade teacher through Teach for America, and my entire job currently is to support schools & districts in their strategic use of technology--a space I've been in for the past decade since my MBA from UC-Berkeley, formerly in K-12 roles for Adobe and Apple. My passion is equitable access to teaching & learning. I can't imagine a harder job than that of classroom & school leaders of a high-performing under-resourced school. My child is new to the system, and health issues have kept me from engaging substantively in the workings of the district & board. I don't know you all, as others applying surely do. I think that's an asset. What I offer is a deep & influential network, strategic thinking & probing questions (and a roll-up-my-sleeves approach to answering them!), an always-palpable passion, and the perspective of an outsider who is not a newbie in the world of education.

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

Primarily oversight but also sparking and scaling / sharing innovation. Most fundamentally I think it's about empowering and enabling the seasoned school & classroom leaders to do their jobs (sometimes that may mean getting out of the way). The board must be the entity, in concert and as a check to district leadership in some cases, to systematically address strategic issues across sites effectively and in a way that positions the district for sustainability. This ideally requires diverse skill sets on the board, and it starts with asking the right questions, digging into what the data is indicating, and listening deeply to stakeholders.

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

I think the district is starting from an enviable place in that everything I've heard and seen corroborates that its employees are top-notch--from educators to administrators, program coordinators, classified staff including custodial staff, etc. Staff seem to care genuinely about their jobs and understand how they contribute to a larger, meaningful whole for kids and families. I've been super impressed with the frontline, and behind-the-scenes, staff I've interacted with. Hiring and retention, at least in the pockets with which I'm familiar, seem to be strengths. There also seems to be healthy curricular innovation across sites--with varying focus areas across them so that parents & learners truly have options. From what I understand there have been multiple new curricula adopted across Literacy and Math, and the district seems to be doing a good job at supporting schools through these transitions via trainings, demos, mentors, and materials. The current curriculum seems to be a real improvement.

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

Meeting the needs of a diverse population including English language learners and special needs students, especially as community dynamics change and resources are strapped (so adding classrooms aren't an easy option). Classrooms also feel a bit too large--it's amazing what a teacher can do with a class size of 20 versus 26-30! From what I've heard the district can perhaps allocate resources it does have better--for example investing in after-school programs, technology, books, and student instructional materials vs. clocks/soap and paper towel dispensers. My other priorities are around teacher quality and retention across the district, the related issue of affordable housing for educators & school staff (I'm actually working on a startup idea around this), facilities (incl. school security protocol), arts programs, instructional differentiation, after-school options, and what many see as a burdensome school calendar on parents. Thank you for your consideration!



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Date: 2/21/18

Goodman, Katherine L.

(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

2017 - Present: FGIS PTA President, SMFC PTA Council VP of Legislation, Superintendent's Fiscal Advisory Committee Member

2016 - 2017: FGIS PTA Communications Coordinator, Measure Y Campaign FGIS Site Coordinator

2015 - 2017: FGIS School Site Council Member

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Joan Rosas, Ed.D.



**SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

While I feel that I have made a difference at FGIS as a PTA volunteer, I believe that ALL children deserve an excellent public education. This is something that can't be achieved by the PTA at a single school, hence my interest in serving on the school board.

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

I believe the school board supports public schools by identifying and analyzing problems in the district, recommending and adopting policy solutions, and evaluating outcomes so policy adjustments can be made. Additionally, school board members serve as ambassadors to the community and as leaders for the school district.

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

The school district's strengths include incredible student diversity; a wide variety of schools and academic programs for parents to choose from; excellent teachers; and a group of very engaged parents and community members.

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

We need to identify what kind of education we want our children to have and how to fully fund that education, and then we need to communicate the plan to parents and community members so they are supportive and involved.



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM
San Mateo-Foster City School District

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Date: 3/9/2018

Kim, James, S

(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

I volunteer regularly with the Asian American Bar Association to help the indigent population receive pro bono legal services.



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

I want to serve the students by being responsive to the values, beliefs, and priorities of the educational institutions within our school district. My diverse background as an attorney and working for local government will translate well in making informed decisions, functioning well within a team environment, and communicating well with the public.

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

To develop a plan that maintains a focus on student achievement, preparedness and well-being by creating and monitoring the effectiveness of policies and implementation plans. Furthermore, in order to move forward the goals of the schools, the board creates/monitors budgeting, ensuring that funding is aligned with the board's priorities for improving student achievement and well-being.

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

Our school district strengths include providing an appropriate and challenging curriculum, meeting basic proficiency levels in core subjects, and offering a high-quality educational experience.

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

Project-based learning is an area that seems to have positive impacts to study more complex topics based on real-world issues, such as the water quality in their communities or the history of their town. Schools that implement new ways of teaching have seen improvements in the ability to solve problems effectively, think critically, and communicate effectively. Students develop and grow key identified skills over time, both within and across subjects.



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY
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Date: March 9, 2018

McCullough, Ian M.

(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

George Hall PTA – Volunteer Events, Yearbook Committee, Fundraising Committee, Art in Action
Started journalism effort live-blogging SMFCS Board of Trustee meetings to 40+
engaged families across half of the district's schools

Former Chapter Board Member for Northern California Chapter of the American Liver Foundation

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SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Friends and neighbors have expressed that they have confidence in my commitment to both service generally and education specifically, that they find my perspectives insightful, that they appreciate my pragmatic & diplomatic approach to overcoming challenges, and that they trust my judgment. They have valued me attendance at, participation in, and reporting back of SMFCSD Board of Trustee meetings and have encouraged me to apply to fill the vacant seat. I want to honor the faith that my personal community has placed in me and to embrace the opportunity to more actively serve the much larger San Mateo-Foster City School District community.

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

The San Mateo-Foster City School District is given charter by San Mateo County, which is in turn given charter by the State of California, which itself is given charter by the people of California under the Constitution of the State of California. Within the constraints of the laws of the State of California and San Mateo County, the members of the Board of Trustees have been delegated the power & authority by voters to oversee the activities of the District's institutions; to set policies that govern the District's operations; to serve as a point of appeal in disciplinary matters and resolving grievances; and to assess, evaluate, and hold to account the District's Superintendent in service of the Board's best assessment of the public interest.

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

(1) The clear hard work and dedication of the District's employees - teachers, staff, and administrators alike. Everyone I've encountered - from the Superintendent on down - commits an admirable amount of time.

(2) The mixed magnet model that makes it straightforward for parents to either prioritize neighborhood school or transferring into the school that they believe will best serve their child(ren)'s needs while still at least striving for equitable opportunities and excellence for all.

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

When holistically considering "the school district" as a community, the biggest opportunity area I see is creating a context where more parents are both able to and choose to actively engage on the big challenges facing us beyond their own children's day-to-day school experience. I see school and district administrators creating opportunities for engagement - e.g. Board of Trustee meetings, coffee chats, town halls, Learning Advisory Committee meetings, ELAC meetings, email newsletters, etc. - but every one I've been to has been either thinly attended and/or has the same comparatively small set of regular attendees. There was a surge of public attention when SMETA threatened a January strike (which thankfully didn't come to fruition), but that attention seems to have largely waned. Figuring out how to create sustained public engagement - which is essential for the upcoming parcel tax campaign, future political initiatives, and the fundamental pursuit of excellence for all - is an issue I've been working on as a civically-minded individual and which I would continue to focus on if selected to become part of the Board of Trustees.

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Superintendent
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SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Date:

3/8/18

MORGAN, THOMAS R.

(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

Please See Attachment

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SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Please See Attachment

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

Please See Attachment

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

Please See Attachment

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

Please See Attachment

1. I have been serving on the board of my HOA at Arbor Rose in San Mateo since 2014. Here I have worked well with two other board members to set priorities for the association and ensure the funds are spent in accordance with approved budgets. In addition, we have issued several RFPs for service providers to ensure we receive high quality service at a reasonable value. I have also participated in the Citizens and Civics academies held the City of San Mateo and San Mateo County. Participating in these programs have provided a better understanding of what services and where to access them. I have also built strong relationships in the Beresford Hillsdale Neighborhood Association, Fiesta Gardens, Baywood and Sunnybrae neighborhoods. I have also met and regularly communicate with several San Mateo City Council Members and Board Commissioners. I also worked for the City of San Jose and I am very familiar with budgeting and accountability. I have also executed the RFP process, so I am aware of some of the pitfalls that exist when considering the scope of work.
2. I am a product of public schools and the CSU system. I feel I received a quality education and I am tremendously grateful for the opportunities I've had. I have two young daughters, and would like to ensure they and their cohorts receive the education possible. To afford all of them the best opportunities in their bright futures. To pursue new innovations and industries only the best education can prepare them to achieve. And to be citizens the rest of the world will aspire to be. While my background is not in education I believe my experience from the financial side, which I feel is extremely important now. We do have board members with education, so I am confident with their abilities to make suggestions regarding direction and curriculum in the near term as myself and other new board member learn our role and become better able to make thoughtful and relevant contributions.
3. The school board has many roles the main roles are:
 - Setting the direction of the Schools
 - Establishing an effective and efficient structure for the district
 - Providing support
 - Being accountable to the public
 - Being a community leader

Within these roles there are tasks such as employing the superintendent, setting policies for hiring personnel, developing and adopting policies, providing direction and adopting curriculum, adopting and overseeing budgets, and evaluate and monitor effectiveness of policies and student achievement. While I do not profess to have all experiences, I would like to express a deep curiosity for information and making our schools work for everyone. As a CPA I would audit bio tech and high-tech companies, while not being a chemist or engineer I was able to successfully learn and ask the right questions of clients in these industries and compare results in accordance to contracts and defined metrics.

4. I feel the strengths of the school district is its ability provide school choice and having great staff. School choice is achieved through the availability and access to various programs that keep our students engaged. The district offers two language immersion programs (Mandarin and

Spanish), STEAM and STEM, International Baccalaureate, Social Emotion Learning, and a very popular Montessori program. Our teachers do a tremendous amount of work educating our student, organizing school and PTA events, and planning out and executing curriculum. We ask a lot of our people and should compensate them as such. We need to keep our people as having too much churn leads to higher and more training cost which ultimately goes to neighboring districts and other students, instead of our own.

5. While we do many things well, we as many other districts face head wind. The first and most challenging is funding. We can come up with the best curriculum, but what good are they if we do not have sufficient classroom space, teachers, and learning supplements to be executed? Being involved in public matters there seems to be a couple initiatives we may look to craft our arguments for better and equitable funding. First is the waste treatment plant. Previously sewer charges were based on a volumetric basis, now we are being moved to a hybrid model with a fixed amount. Schools do not seem that different from a utility so a funding model with a fixed and variable amount per student would help per student funding. Second look at transportation agencies they are gaining revenue, power, and influence we should look at what they are doing a modify their game plan for our schools.

Second is keeping our staff and addressing the affordability crisis. I would like to commend Foster City's council for establishing a program to establish an assistance program to help City Staff with security deposits for apartments in the area. I would like to work with the City of San Mateo and see if there is a way for the district to collaborate with both programs to ensure our staff can live in the region.

Third, is being one district I have become acutely aware of the tensions that exist between San Mateo and Foster City, Highlands also feels left out and that they are not having their needs met. We need to think and act as one district. People do and are paying different portions of taxes, those paying more want to see more while those paying less want to keep their taxes low. Unfortunately, schools are not part of the county government so do not have access to the same revenue sources, but have for the large part refused to work within the constraints of prop 13, which was passed 40 years ago. I believe we can come up with good and intelligent arguments to achieve funding and creating new facilities in our district in all neighborhood which will allow our student.

Fourth, is closing the achievement gap. We do have quite a sizeable budget, and the current achievement levels are not acceptable to many in our community. We need all students to perform better and be prepared to fill all the jobs to ensure a thriving and prosperous community. While I do value being fiscally conservative and shopping for value, I do not subscribe to being pennywise and pound foolish. As a board we need to be honest and evaluate what is needed to make curriculum work versus trying to make it pencil out.

Thank you,

Thomas Morgan



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Business Services Division
650.312.7269

CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM
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Date: February 21, 2018

Paynter, Randi A

(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

While living in San Mateo for the past decade, I have contributed to my local community in several ways. In my local faith community, I have volunteered for two semesters as a children's Religious Education teacher. Additionally, I organized and led a discussion group for senior women in the same organization for over eight years. I served a two-year term on the Board of Trustees for the same faith community, at which time I focused on revamping the governance model and bylaws for our organization.

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SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Business Services Division
650-312-7269

As soon as my oldest child entered SMFCSD as a K student, I quickly became an involved parent as classroom representative for the Montessori Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). Later that year, I took on a leading role as part of the fundraising committee for the joint “Montessori United” effort between North Shoreview and Parkside Montessori. For the next three years, I served (and continue to serve) as Treasurer of Parkside Montessori’s PTO. This year, I additionally serve on the executive board of Parkside PTA as the VP of Membership.

In addition to attending SMFCSD board meetings, I began to get more involved on the district level during summer 2017 when planning for a new parcel tax ballot measure after the failed Measure Y. I worked on a committee to evaluate and plan communication strategies for a new parcel tax measure, until the committee suspended its work while time was taken to convene the Superintendent’s Fiscal Advisory Committee.

Finally, I helped to organize an informal network of San Mateo and Foster City parents and community members who care about our school district and its issues, to connect online and discuss issues in a format that can’t be accommodated in SMFCSD board meetings and that can’t be accomplished in school-specific PTA meetings. In only a few days, over 1,400 community members gathered online and they continue to engage in issues in a format that was not previously available.

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

First, I’ll start off by saying that I never had my sights set on being a school board member, or actually serving in any public office at all. I still have no aspirations for serving in any other public office, and do not ever plan on running for any other office. What I see right now, locally, with Trustee Hsieh’s departure, is a need. We have three new, uniquely qualified Trustees who have earned their seats and have served dutifully and well since taking office in December 2017. We have one Trustee who has served for six years on the Board, who brings institutional memory and history, as well as continuous experience of over 12 years as a parent in SMFCSD. The need I see is to bring on a board member – similar to Trustee Hsieh – who brings history with the district, both in terms of active involvement in district issues as well as involvement as a parent in district schools. The replacement Trustee should have a broad-reaching view, seeking to meet the needs of all students. Ideally, this active history would extend over several years, lending context to the issues facing the district currently. I believe that I can fill the vacancy effectively, coming up to speed quickly. I know that my role as a Trustee will be very different from that as an advocate; however, what will remain constant will be my commitment to putting students first. The specific skills that I bring are the abilities to view and analyze things at the big-picture level, as well as to understand details and to know how and when to drill down as necessary. I bring a collaborative, data-driven view with my approach to teamwork. I don’t come to this role with an agenda beyond how we can best meet the needs of all of the district’s students. I do come to it with a commitment to hard work as a team member with the other Trustees.



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

The school board is the elected governing body that, according to csba.org, “ensure(s) that school districts are responsive to the values, beliefs and priorities of their communities.” In order to fulfill that role, authority is only granted to the board acting as a whole, not to each member acting as an individual. There are five major responsibilities listed by csba.org to fulfill the stated role: (1) setting direction; (2) establishing an effective and efficient structure; (3) **providing support**; (4) ensuring accountability; and (5) community leadership. The school board works with the superintendent at all points to fulfill their joint role, and ultimately is the body to whom the superintendent is accountable. So “providing support” is called out as something *in addition* to setting vision and strategy, *in addition* to the business of running the district, *in addition* to accountability, and *in addition* to communication and advocacy. In my view, providing support to the public schools in SMFCSD means actively supporting the superintendent as s/he enacts the board’s direction. Providing support means making the best decisions possible, in line with board policies and vision. Providing support means considering and respecting the needs of all stakeholders when making difficult decisions amidst competing priorities. Providing support means communicating effectively with the constituency. Providing support to the public schools in SMFCSD most importantly, in my opinion, means identifying and removing barriers that students, families, teachers, neighborhoods, and communities may face in having access to all opportunities that SMFCSD offers.

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

In no particular order, I see the following as clear strengths in SMFCSD:

- A great superintendent! Dr. Rosas, whom I often refer to as “the hardest working woman in education,” took on this very challenging role. She presses on with determination, love for the students, willingness to collaborate, and a focus on the future.
- A school board focused on student achievement and well-being. Each Trustee brings a unique and much-needed perspective. I think the electorate has done a great job in selecting its representatives.
- Committed teachers who show up day after day, year after year. Our district benefits from great teachers, their organizing union (SMETA), and all of the support personnel. Our students count on them every day.
- San Mateo and Foster City community members, including parents. We have a richly diverse and knowledgeable community that comprises the interconnected web that includes our district. Our diversity is a strength.
- Diverse program offerings, including dual language immersion, Montessori, STEM/STEAM, IB, and GATE. It is amazing that there are so many customized options available in a single public school district.



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

The most pressing needs in our district, in my view, are the following:

- The student achievement gap. Student groups that historically have done well, continue to do so. However, vulnerable student groups are dropping in achievement at accelerating rates. The gap is increasing. This problem is inextricably linked with “equity.”
- Attracting and retaining the best teachers. Our district’s main asset is its human capital – our teachers.
- Communication. The media landscape is constantly changing and it takes active surveillance and work to keep up with the best methods to share information. Additionally, extra effort is required to adequately reach all of our diverse population.
- Continuing financial challenges. California school districts are severely underfunded. Although SMFCSD recently got a reprieve by turning from LCFF to Basic Aid, there remains much work to do in the immediate future to act on a parcel tax and to plan ahead responsibly.



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Date: 3/9/2018

Sinha Ruchita
(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

At Audubon, I am involved with the PTA and help organize several events in the school.

I have been on the Spelling Bee organizing committee for 2 years and also have done Art in

Action for the last 3 years. I was also a member of Foster City Mother's Club for several years.

As a venture investor, I also serve on the boards of multiple private startups.

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SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

When my two young kids first started school at Audubon, I realized the importance of strong policy and initiatives on the future of our children. As an investor sitting on the boards of private startups, I know the importance of strong leadership & governance at the board level, and I want to bring this experience to supporting & creating policies to build a strong future for our kids.

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

The board plays a key role in guiding the appropriate programs, initiatives, and policies to support the elementary and middle school educational curriculum, budget, facilities, etc. The board maintains a strong connection with the District's Philosophy of Education in doing this. The board also creates and learns from best practices of educational programs at a similar level as the San Mateo-Foster City School District.

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

We have one of the strongest school districts in terms of the caliber of teachers, student performance, and transparency of the school district. Our students differentiate themselves not only by their well-rounded performance but also their strong values and sense of community. I have gotten a chance to compare this with another school district in the past year and I truly believe that our students are high quality.

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

The two areas that I would like to see more improvement in the school district are (1) more support and incentives for teachers to continue to attract and retain the best talent in the district (2) programs to support students at the 'fringes', meaning students that need extra support because they learn differently from the majority.



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM
San Mateo-Foster City School District

Please complete and return this form by 4:00 pm on Friday, March 9, 2018. Applications may be emailed or mailed to: San Mateo-Foster City School District

Attn: Amber Farinha

1170 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA 94404

afarinha@smfcsd.net

All applicants will be reviewed for eligibility and interviews will be held starting at 5:30 pm on March 21, 2018.

Date: 03/08/2018

Thiel, Jacob P

(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

I was a candidate during the last school board election. I then became a member of

the superintendent's fiscal advisory committee. I look forward to the opportunity to serve

on this board.

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www.smfcsd.net

Board of Trustees
Noelia Corzo, Rebecca Hitchcock, Audrey Ng, Shara Watkins
Superintendent
Joan Rosas, Ed.D.



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

I want to improve our school district not only for my own children, but for all the students and for our community

at large. While the school district does many great things, I have observed significant opportunities for

improvement and felt compelled to share my skills in organization process improvement.

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

1 - Set the vision and provide direction and oversight of the district through policy and working with the superintendent.

2 - Ensure financial security to retain good teachers, programs, and opportunities for all students to thrive.

3 - Make what can sometimes be difficult decisions while keeping in mind what is best for all students, parents,

district staff, and the community.

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

1- Programs - language immersion, Montessori, STEAM, and others.

2- Diversity of the community that supports a more well-rounded environment and education.

3- District size and location - provides the opportunity to innovate and learn from bright and talented people.

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

The greatest areas for improvement are the achievement gap and inspiring and enabling all students to

enjoy learning and be prepared for the future. To improve in those areas, the district needs to improve: 1- how it

communicates and listens 2- manages the budget 3- supports parents 4- operating efficiency 5- innovation.



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Date: February 16, 2018

Tsai, Annie

(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.

I volunteer with the Peninsula Humane Society on their fundraising committees and animal advocate. I actively mentor startups, entrepreneurs, executives, and women in the software industry as they work through navigating mostly male-dominated environments. As I have been a C-level executive at companies over the years, I have reported to and collaborated with corporate boards and understand well the nuance of support and influence at the board level. I'm an active part of the community, and have engaged with City Council and Dept. of Public Works on programs impacting residents over the past 5 years of being a resident in San Mateo.

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SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

I've been looking for opportunities to get involved with the public school system for the past three years, and am thrilled to see this opportunity arise. I believe having a child that is newly entering the public school system offers a fresh perspective that takes the long view of investments into account. I am a strong advocate for public education, have spent hundreds of hours observing and volunteering in my teacher friends' public classrooms, and believe that public education is reaching an inflection point that requires the thoughtful balance of strong & engaged community and a competitive & distinct differentiation that retains high socioeconomic and ethnic diversity within the public system. My background is in customer experience, marketing, and business management and operations - I believe there is a lot that I have learned over the years that can be transferred into the public education system to support our kids and this district.

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

The school board should at its core act as the representative voice for the community and translate the community's stated and unstated needs for the future into a vision that the district can bring to life. With SMFCSD being one of the largest districts in the heart of the SF Bay, I also believe there are unique responsibilities and opportunities for the board and staff, which include working together to establish a vision for how this school district can be a model of success in diversity in education, and that this district can deliver education to transformative future generations of children where both the future of work and knowledge will likely be dramatically different from how their parents view it. We have an opportunity to create a vision for public education that can re-inject new confidence and energy into Silicon Valley. That energy and vision do not have to come from charter or Khan Labs. I believe we can do it together.

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

There is so much that's simply incredible about this district. I absolutely love the variety of programming in neighborhood and magnet schools. The inclusion of language immersion and Montessori instruction is truly differentiating. District and school staff I have had the pleasure of engaging with so far have sense of positivity about both the challenges that face the district budget-wise as well as the opportunity to do something special for our kids. The staff is wonderful. But when I look at the community - I see a real strength. We are diverse - ethnically and socioeconomically, so there is opportunity to show that diversity is a strength. We are large, so there is opportunity to impact at scale. We are engaged - in this last cycle of teacher contract negotiations. I saw more parents come together in a unified and thoughtful voice than I had seen in years past, and I think it made a difference.

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

The primary area of improvement seems to be around fiscal balancing. Having been responsible for large budgets and negotiating for and against programs in the private sector for many years, I have really honed my skills around facilitating parties to mutual agreement and believe I can provide value here in the coming years for the district.

This is a guess, but my sense is that employee retention in an increasingly challenging cost-of-living situation is likely presenting a challenge for the district when it comes to retaining high quality teaching talent. Having run HR and worked on several corporate initiatives around retention, performance, culture, and compensation, there may be areas I can contribute here.

As a parent, I also do not hear much about the San Mateo Education Fund and when I asked about it, not many parents were aware of the non-profit. Initially, the collaboration and proactive communication between parents, board, staff, and formal groups such as PTA and the Education Fund presents as an opportunity, but that is an outside-in view so I may very quickly be proven wrong there.

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SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM San Mateo-Foster City School District

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2/24/2018

Date:

Zack Shiraz

(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

1. Please describe your past/current experiences working on a governing board, school committee, or other community involvement.
Served as Room Mom, in the PTA, and as President of Bowditch Site Council.

Currently serve on the Board of Friends of Foster City Library.

An active member & committee chair of Rotary Club of Foster City. Support Interact Club students at San Mateo High School. President of non-profit Light of Life - educating orphan, single parent, and underprivileged children in rural parts of India.

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SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

LIVE • LEAD • LEARN

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

I care deeply about the education and all around development of ALL children.

I would like to serve on the Board to ensure a great education and equity for our diverse student body.

3. What is the role of the school board in supporting public schools?

The school board acts as the voice of the community in adopting school district policy.

The school board also reviews and adopts the annual budget for the district.

They are ambassadors for ensuring successful student development, education, & safety.

They are also responsible for oversight of facility development and site operation.

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

Our school district has wonderful magnet and specialty schools.

The Long Range Strategic Plan provides a good foundation as the Board looks to

update it for the next 5 years. I am happy that the new Board negotiated a

teacher's pay raise. Great job!! We also have great teachers, staff and administrators.

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

As a new Board member I want to learn more about our district before determining areas that need improvement. I am interested in ensuring that our district is meeting the needs of children and families in under-served areas or don't speak English, and who may not know about our magnet and specialty school programs. I am also interested in ensuring that our students with special needs are successfully served. Regular communication between our school district, parents, and the communities of San Mateo and Foster City is also a strong interest of mine.

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