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06/25/19 PM 2:19

Name: Gregory Shibley

Address: _____

Address 2: _____

City: Lemon Grove

State: CA

Zip Code: 91945

Home Phone: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Business Phone: same

Years of residence within the boundaries of the 6 years
Lemon Grove School District:

****Please attach or include an updated resume and any other materials you feel are relevant to assist the Board of Trustees in their decision-making for the appointment process.**

Please answer the following questions:

1. Describe your educational, work and public service background.

I obtained my BA in Linguistics from UCSD in 1995 and my JD from California Western School of Law in 2007. I worked as a teacher of English as a Second Language for four years and as an attorney for over five. I currently own and run my own entertainment company, which I started in 2013.

As the son of two high school teachers, I grew up with an appreciation for the importance of education-- not only in what the students need to do their best, but what the teachers need to get them there.

I have always been interested in public service. As an attorney, I often did *pro bono* work for the underprivileged and volunteered at the California Innocence Project. Even now with my entertainment company I often donate my time and skills to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

Since moving to Lemon Grove, I have heard many of my neighbors and fellow citizens complain about it. In an effort to light a candle rather than curse the darkness, I have been exploring ways to contribute what I can to my community. That is why I am now an active member of the local Lions Club, I participate in trash cleanup days, and I produce a podcast just for Lemon Grove, where we highlight local events, talk with business owners and officials, and provide an informational resource. It is through doing these things that I hope to have a positive local impact. Applying for a position on the school board is one more step in that process.

2. What skills, abilities, and experiences would you bring to the Board to assist in carrying out its responsibilities?

HARD WORK. I have always thrown myself into whatever I do. Not only am I willing to put in the hard work necessary for the position, but I thrive on it. In the context of being a school board member, I anticipate this will mean not only educating myself on policy and procedure, as well as attending meetings, but also being regularly and directly engaged with our schools, our teachers, and our community.

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY. Facts are only useful if one is willing to accept their logical conclusions. As humans we tend to have difficulty overcoming, or even recognizing, our own biases, but it is something for which we should always strive. To the best of my ability, I always put my own ego aside when faced with a set of data or with a particularly persuasive argument, even if it leads me to conclusion I emotionally resist.

CIVILITY & RESPECT. It would be foolish to think we can get to the point where everyone agrees with each other; in fact, that probably wouldn't even be ideal. In a decision-making body such as a school board, it is important to have differing perspectives, but only if everyone treats each other respectfully and in good faith. I admit that, at the first few school board meetings I attended, I was caught up in some of the high emotions that many of the teachers and fellow parents were expressing, but pretty quickly I realized that giving in to too much of that emotion is counter-productive and, frankly, disrespectful. Since then, I try to maintain a more conciliatory approach and a willingness to compromise.

COMMUNICATION. As some of the current members have doubtlessly observed, I love to talk. But there's more to communication than talking; to be effective, it also involves a lot of listening. Honest, transparent and respectful communication is necessary for members of a school board to work together, and it is also something every member of the community should rightfully expect of us.

3. List your involvement in the schools of Lemon Grove (memberships on committees and/or organizations, offices held, volunteer work, etc.).

I have always taken an interest in our children's school careers. At Mt. Vernon Elementary, I was an active member of the PTA, I chaperoned every field trip I could attend (which was most), and I volunteered at nearly every school event from bingo night to fun runs to school dances.

4. State briefly your philosophy of public education.

I see public education like any other vital utility to which every member of society has a right. However, simply providing it in its most basic form is not enough. Drinking water, for example, is absolutely essential to life and society as we know it, and we expect it to be both readily available and as clean and health-promoting as possible. So it is with education. We should see a good education as equally essential, and we should demand it is of the highest quality it can be.

5. List, in order of importance, the major issues confronting public education in general.

1. RESPECT. It has become too easy to take our school systems for granted. We all know how to say the right things about how important it is for our children to get a good education, and yet in practice it is often rendered a political afterthought. But education is not a luxury. It is the foundation of our children's minds, of our values, and of the community writ large. It is therefore imperative that we elevate our schools back to a place of prominence and priority. Without a deep respect and appreciation for our schools (and not just a place to store our children while we're at work!), none of the other items on this list, however important, stand a chance.
2. FUNDING. This, of course, is fundamental. In fact, it is corollary to *RESPECT*, above. If we truly value our schools and our teachers, we have to provide them with the resources they need. That means not just securing funding, but managing and allocating it with great care to ensure it is used more effectively.
3. THE BASICS. I was appalled last year when I discovered that my third grade son did not know his basic multiplication tables, and even more so when his teacher told me he was actually farther along than the other children. This seems to be part of a general downward trend in our country. Experimental techniques in the classroom are all well and good-- even,

arguably, necessary to stay on the cutting edge-- but if our children don't have the basics (*the three R's*, as they say: "reading, riting & 'rithmetic"), they won't be prepared for the more substantive subjects to come, and they certainly won't be competitive in the adult world that awaits them.

4. A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT. Diversity is something we hear a lot about nowadays, but that can mean so many things, especially in a school setting. Whether it is sensitivity to racial and ethnic backgrounds, religious views, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical disabilities, or anything else, we need to continue seeking ways to provide a learning environment where our children can thrive.
5. WELL-ROUNDEDNESS. We are not robots, and neither are our children. Those fundamental academic skills are vital, but they are far from everything our kids need to be well-adjusted, fully formed members of society. Physical education, the arts, positive social interaction, and development of high moral and ethical standards are often forgotten when our schools focus too much on test scores and statewide rankings.

6. List, in order of importance, the major issues confronting public education in the Lemon Grove School District.

All of the above, plus:

COMMUNICATION. Being on a school board is surely a difficult job, and often a thankless one. It is one of those positions where the only thing you can be sure of is that every decision you make is going to upset at least someone! I have tried to keep that in mind this last year, but I also cannot help but think that if there were more direct and frank communication between the board and the community, much of the animosity we saw on both sides could have been avoided. Sometimes just explaining your own good intentions, or sincerely acknowledging the concerns of others, can go a long way even if neither side is ultimately persuaded.

7. As a Board member how would you determine the priorities of the District?

Coming in as "the new guy," I would first seek to benefit from the knowledge and experience of those around me. Rather than reinvent the wheel, I would likely talk with other board members to get up to speed on what they think the priorities are, why they think so, and what they see as being the best paths forward.

I would then engage with the staff and faculty of our schools as much as I could to get a "boots on the ground" perspective of what is and isn't working, what areas need improvement, and what the priorities are of our educators who are doing the work day in and day out.

From there, together with whatever self-education I can manage through online and other written resources, I would synthesize a clearer vision of the District's priorities.


8. Why do you wish to serve on the Board and what do you hope to accomplish?

As discussed above, I am increasingly interested in having a positive effect on my local community and with my interest and experience in education, together with my personal philosophy of honesty, integrity and communication as the keys to resolving disagreements in public policy, serving on the Board seems a natural fit.

Lemon Grove is a small city, which means we often have few resources and limited options. But it also means that small actions of individuals can have a relatively large impact. I intend to serve on the Board with that in mind, with the ultimate goal being a school district we can all be proud of and a city that benefits from it.

I understand, upon appointment, I would be required to file a Conflict of Interest Statement and to take an Oath of Office.

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



Signature of Applicant

10.25.19
Date

Certification of Qualifications:

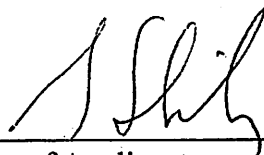
☒ I understand that this application is a public document and may be requested under provisions of the Public Records Act and/or be available to the public on the Lemon Grove School District website.

☒ I understand that, upon appointment, I would be required to file a Conflict of Interest statement and take an Oath of Office.

☒ I certify I am not disqualified to hold this office because of a conviction of any of the crimes on the attached list and further certify I am not otherwise disqualified from holding public office under the California Constitution or statutes.

☒ I certify I am a registered voter in the Lemon Grove School District and that I reside within the Lemon Grove School District boundaries.

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



Signature of Applicant

10.25.19
Date

Information contained on this application is subject to verification.

GREGORY D. SHIBLEY

EDUCATION

California Western School of Law, San Diego, CA

J.D., Cum Laude, April 2007

- Justice Kennedy Scholar (top scholarship awarded)
- Distinguished Advocate, Moot Court Honors Board

University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA

B.A., General Linguistics, emphasis on Language in Society, June 1997

WORK EXPERIENCE

G Sharp Entertainment, LLC, San Diego, CA

2013-present

Owner, Musician

- Providing live music and DJ services for private events
- Managing approximately 100 events per year and over 20 contractors

Law Office of Gregory D. Shibley, San Diego, CA

2008-2013

Owner, Attorney

- Prosecuted and defended a variety civil cases, from breach of contract to personal injury
- Represented defendants in both criminal and immigration courts to ensure their rights were protected

Wolfe Legal Group, San Diego, CA

2007-2008

Associate Attorney

James Cooper, Esq., San Diego, CA

2007

Research Assistant

Shout! Factory, Santa Monica, CA

2006

Legal and Business Affairs Intern

County of San Diego District Attorney, San Diego, CA

2006

Certified Legal Intern

California Innocence Project, San Diego, CA

2006

Pro Bono Intern

Mulligan & Banham, San Diego, CA

2005-2006

Law Clerk

U.S. District Court, San Diego, CA

2005

Extern to Magistrate Anthony J. Battaglia

International Center for American English, La Jolla, CA

Four Seasons Language School and Cultural Center, Hamamatsu, Japan

Atlas English Learning Center, Porto Alegre, Brazil

Teacher/Seminar Presenter

1999-2004

- Designed and implemented curriculum for both adults and children
- Awarded Cambridge University approved qualification for teachers of English as a Second Language
- Offered business English courses to international executives and public officials
- Researched and presented weekly three-hour seminars for English teachers