



**UNIFIED for EXCELLENCE**  
**Innovative Learning For All**

**Rowland Unified School District**  
**1830 S. Nogales Street**  
**Rowland Heights, CA 91748**

*Please complete and return this form via email to [RUSDBoardApplication@rowlandschools.org](mailto:RUSDBoardApplication@rowlandschools.org)*

*by 5:00 p.m. on February 16, 2021.*

*Applicants may attach up to 3 additional pages that may include resume, letter of interest, and/or letters of recommendation/support.*

*Applications received after the closing time will not be considered.*

Date: February 16, 2021

Last Name: Birkholm First Name: Michael Middle Initial: P

Home Address: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Please check Board Vacancy Trustee Area for which you are applying ([click here for trustee map](#)):

Trustee Area 1: ☒

Trustee Area: 5 ☐

Occupation Direct Marketing Executive Employer Birkholm Direct

Number of years residing within RUSD boundaries: 35

Do you have children attending RUSD schools? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, what schools?

1. Please share any prior experience you have serving on a governing board, specifically a school district board? If not, please state none.

None.

2. Please list any school committees or school activities you have participated in within the past 5 years?

None ... but extensive involvement and participation in school activities and programs while my two daughters attended Oswalt, Rincon and Nogales High (graduating in 1998 and 1999).

3. Describe any other community or business activities in which you have participated. Describe your role and whether your work was volunteer or employment related.

A founding member of the FOR US Foundation. Long time volunteer with The Salvation Army, Boy Scouts of America and Rotary Club of Los Angeles including significant leadership responsibilities with each organization. Serving on the Board of Directors of Saint John's Seminary in Camarillo from 1998 - 2011 and reappointed in 2017 to the present.

Significant career achievements as a Direct Marketing professional for more than 40 years.

4. Please describe why you would like to be a RUSD school board member?

I believe in service above self.

I care deeply about today's youth who are tomorrow's leaders.

I believe I have time to devote to the betterment of public schools in my "home town."

5. Please tell us why you believe you would be a great addition to the RUSD Board of Education?

My business and community activity experience would serve me well in being an effective and efficient leader who knows how to have "his nose in the affairs of an organization but is able to keep his hands off" the day to day affairs of the district and its schools.

6. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools?

Educate today's youth to be tomorrow's leaders.

7. What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?

As prescribed by law to oversee and provide leadership for the administration and operation of the school district and the programs it administers.

8. Please describe any other special skills, education, training, talents or other attributes that you possess which you feel are applicable to the role of a school board member?

My business and community experience for more than 40 years has blessed me with an abundance of "life learned" good habits. More importantly, I am keenly aware that I continue to learn new things every single day.

9. How does an effective school board ensure opportunities for parents and community members to express their ideas?

Keep an open mind!

All God's children deserve to be loved and respected. With malice toward none and charity for all it is the responsibility of everyone to strive to give their very best effort toward making our community a better place for all people.

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

A good board member should have their nose in the affairs of the district but keep their hands off the day to day implementation of activities.

A good board member should be a counselor to all those who they relate to.

11. Briefly describe your commitment to public education and our school district.  
I pay taxes.

I could have put my girls in private school ... but I thought they deserved to see the real world and I believe a public education gave them a healthy perspective about life.

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

Pretty successful in coping with and managing the significant socioeconomic differences that exist within the homeowners and residents of the different communities that compose the district. I am proud to be father of two girls who graduated from Nogales High School.

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

At present I am not familiar with any significant deficiencies ... nevertheless I am sure there are things that could be improved. Funding is always an issue and I would want to learn more about current efforts to "win" grants from public and private sources to advance the mission of the district.

<b>CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER</b>
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Date: February 16, 202

To: Rowland Unified School District Community

From: (Full Name) Michael P. Birkholm

Re: Board Vacancy Trustee Areas 1 and 5

I certify that I am eligible to serve as the Trustee of Area 1

I certify that I live in the Rowland Unified School District and can serve on the Board of Education because I am 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the State of California, and a resident of the School District's Trustee Area 1 and a registered voter, and am not disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding office.

Additionally, I acknowledge receipt of:

1. [LACOE – The Brown Act Guide](#)
2. [Fair Political Practices Commission \(FPPC\) – Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests Reference Pamphlet](#)
3. [RUSD Board Bylaw 9270 – Conflict of Interest](#)
4. [RUSD Board Bylaw 9200 – Limits of Board Member's Authority](#)
5. [RUSD Governance Handbook](#)

Respectfully,

Signature





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letters of recommendation/support.  
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Date: 02/16/2021

Last Name: BROWN First Name: MICHAEL Middle Initial: M

Home Address: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Please check Board Vacancy Trustee Area for which you are applying ([click here for trustee map](#)):

Trustee Area 1: ☒ Trustee Area: 5 ☐

Occupation ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOL Employer MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE, SEI

Number of years residing within RUSD boundaries: EIGHTEEN YEARS

Do you have children attending RUSD schools? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, what schools? [REDACTED]

1. Please share any prior experience you have serving on a governing board, specifically a school district board? If not, please state none.

WALNUT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD MEMBER OVER TEN YEARS WITH POSITION OF  
TREASURER AND PRESIDENT. A FOUNDING MEMBER OF SAN GABRIEL VALLEY REGIONAL  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WITH BOARD OF SIX YEARS AND POSITION AS PRESIDENT.  
PEARL OF THE ORIENT TOWER ASSOCIATION MANILA, PHILIPPINES- BOARD MEMBER  
BOARD MEMBER, SAN FERNANDO VALLEY TROJAN CLUB.



2. Please list any school committees or school activities you have participated in within the past 5 years?

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE SINCE 1996 TO PRESENT. SERVE AS MEMBER OF BUSINESS AND MARKETING ADVISORY.

3. Describe any other community or business activities in which you have participated. Describe your role and whether your work was volunteer or employment related.

VOLUNTEER MEMBER OF SEVERAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS BUSINESS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL, LEADS CLUB, AND STRATEGIC ALLIANCE. VOLUNTEER FOR LAST 13 YEARS AS SANTA CLAUS FOR WELL OVER 4000 CHILDREN IN VERY LOW POVERTY AREAS IN PHILIPPINES. PRESENTS AND PICTURES TO CHILDREN WHICH HAS BEEN 100% SELF FINANCED. PAST MEMBER OF WALNUT VALLEY KIWANIS CLUB FOR EIGHT YEARS.

4. Please describe why you would like to be a RUSD school board member?

I HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH TWO GIRLS ONE WILL START TK AND THE OTHER KINDEGARTEN THIS FALL. MY PAST AS A PRESIDENT OF TWO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND NUMEROUS CORPORATION VOLUNTEER WORK AND THE NEXT FOURTEEN YEARS IN RSUD BEFORE THEIR COLLEGE I WILL BE INVOLVED.

5. Please tell us why you believe you would be a great addition to the RUSD Board of Education?

MY EXPERIENCE AS A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATOR LIVING THROUGH COVID 19 PANDEMIC WITH ZOOM AND ASYNCHRONOUS TEACHING, HAVING CURRENT STUDENT MY VESTED INTEREST IN WORKING WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT WILL BE WITH PLEASURE

6. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools?

PUBLIC SCHOOL ARE TO HELP THE COMMUNITY DEVELOP THE GROWTH OF CHILDREN WITH EDUCATION AND LITERACY.

7. What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?

BOARD WITH POLICY AND PROCEDURE TO ASSIST THE SUPERINTENDENT WITH DECISION MAKING AND COMMUNICATION TO THE PARENTS, TEACHERS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.

8. Please describe any other special skills, education, training, talents or other attributes that you possess which you feel are applicable to the role of a school board member?

MY U.S. ARMY LEADERSHIP SCHOOL, PAST VOLUNTEER, EDUCATION IN BUSINESS, TAX, ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL PLANNING EXPERIENCE WILL BE ABLE TO HELP WITH ANSWERS. I HAVE BLOCKCHAIN AND CRYPTOCURRENCY EXPERIENCE ALONG WITH BEING A LIVING IN DEVELOPING OUR INTERNET SOCIETY.

9. How does an effective school board ensure opportunities for parents and community members to express their ideas?

OPEN MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATION WITH ME SUPERINTENDENT TO ENHANCE THE EXCELLENCE STRIVED FOR IN THE ROWLAND SCHOOL UNIFIED DISTRICT.

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

THE BOARD WORKS THROUGH THE SUPERINTENDENT IN DEVELOPING POLICY AND PROCEDURES, THE BOARD IS A TEAM AND WILL RESPECT THE CHAIN OF COMMAND AS SAID IN MILITARY.

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

I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED FROM HIGH SCHOOL WHERE I WAS ELECTED AS PRESIDENT TO A PRESTIGIOUS SOCIAL SERVICE CLUB. I HAVE BEEN A PART TIME PROFESSOR FOR DECADES AND HAVE FOURTEEN YEARS WITH MY CHILDREN IN OUR DISTRICT. I AM 100% COMMITTED TO GIVE.



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

THE ABILITY TO DEVELOP THE DISTRICT INTO EXCELLENT IN EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS FOR CREATING ACADEMICS USE IN TECHNOLOGY AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES.

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

COMMUNICATION OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF IN SCHOOL LEARNING PROGRESS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS IN THEIR FUTURE EXPECTATION IN THEIR DISTRICT.

**CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER**

Date: 02/16/2021

To: Rowland Unified School District Community

From: (Full Name) MICHAEL MILLER BROWN

Re: Board Vacancy Trustee Areas 1 and 5

I certify that I am eligible to serve as the Trustee of Area 1

I certify that I live in the Rowland Unified School District and can serve on the Board of Education because I am 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the State of California, and a resident of the School District's Trustee Area 1 and a registered voter, and am not disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding office.

Additionally, I acknowledge receipt of:

1. LACOE – The Brown Act Guide
2. Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) – Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests Reference Pamphlet
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4. RUSD Board Bylaw 9200 – Limits of Board Member's Authority
5. RUSD Governance Handbook

Respectfully,

Signature  MICHAEL M. BROWN



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letters of recommendation/support.*

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Date: 2-12-2021

Last Name: Enriquez First Name: Eunice Faith Middle Initial: f

Home Address: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Please check Board Vacancy Trustee Area for which you are applying ([click here for trustee map](#)):

Trustee Area 1: ☒

Trustee Area: 5 ☐

Occupation Sales Manager Employer Friar Tux

Number of years residing within RUSD boundaries: 10+

Do you have children attending RUSD schools? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, what schools? [REDACTED]

1. Please share any prior experience you have serving on a governing board, specifically a school district board? If not, please state none.

none

2. Please list any school committees or school activities you have participated in within the past 5 years?

Worked closely with students and Activity Directors of the Brea Olinda, Yorba Linda and Fullerton Union school Districts.

Helped ASB organize fundraisers in order to raise money for school activities such as Prom. Offered programs such as the Free Tuxedo Program to students and faculty for school dances, school plays, mock interviews ect.

3. Describe any other community or business activities in which you have participated. Describe your role and whether your work was volunteer or employment related.

Organized on campus Prom Fashion shows for Rowland Highschool, Brea Olinda highschool Fullerton Union Highschool ect.

4. Please describe why you would like to be a RUSD school board member?  
Leadership, Mentorship, Dedication and Growth are attributes I hold in high regard. I would like a platform to showcase these attributes as well as my passion for education and public service.

5. Please tell us why you believe you would be a great addition to the RUSD Board of Education?  
As a former student of the Rowland Heights District I value public education and understand the importance of serving all children. I feel that I would be a great fit for the RUSD Board of Education because I am ready to serve and represent my community. I am transparent and believe in team work. I am ready to work with the community, school administration and board members.

6. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools?  
A Public schools basic purpose is to create a safe space for intellectual growth, to teach our children the necessary skills to function in society and to prepare them for higher education.

7. What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?

It is our responsibility as a school board to create a vision and set the proper goals to attain them for our school district.

8. Please describe any other special skills, education, training, talents or other attributes that you possess which you feel are applicable to the role of a school board member?

I am currently enrolled at Mt. San Antonio College, my major is Political Science. My goal is to transfer to Cal Poly Pomona in the fall of 2022. As a Store/Sales Manager, leadership, collaboration and networking are essential qualities that I possess. I feel that these qualities would make me a great candidate for RUSD school Board member.

9. How does an effective school board ensure opportunities for parents and community members to express their ideas?

Social Network is a great avenue for communication and a great way to mobilize our parents. Also, allowing parents to attend monthly meetings via Zoom and in person is a great way to encourage parents to voice their ideas.

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

Communication is very important. Arranging opportunities for board members to visit schools, classrooms and to speak to teachers and administration will allow for better understanding of any concerns.

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

I attended Romier elementary and Nogales high school. As a RUSD alumni I see the passion and dedication our teachers have had over the years. As a parent of 3 children I wish for them to have nothing more than success. Public education exists to prepare our students for higher education in a fun and safe environment. It exists to help children fulfill their diverse potentials.



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

The RUSD has student centered values and has a genuine focus on delivering the best education to our children. The RUSD has great communication and excellent leadership within our District.

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

One area of improvement within our district is the development and execution of afterschool programs. In 1994 I was a 6th grade student attending Rorimer elementary. An afterschool Program called Project U turn was introduced to the students and it was a huge impact for us. It was a safe, fun zone where students were able to receive tutoring and play sports all at no cost. Westcovina's former Mayor Mr. Roger Hernandez as well as other students from Nogales highschool volunteered their time for this program. I recall looking forward to going to school specifically for this after school program. I wish to see other

<b>CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER</b>
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Date: 2-12-2021

To: Rowland Unified School District Community

From: (Full Name) Eunice Faith Enriquez

Re: Board Vacancy Trustee Areas 1 and 5

I certify that I am eligible to serve as the Trustee of Area 5

I certify that I live in the Rowland Unified School District and can serve on the Board of Education because I am 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the State of California, and a resident of the School District's Trustee Area 5 and a registered voter, and am not disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding office.

Additionally, I acknowledge receipt of:

1. [LACOE – The Brown Act Guide](#)
2. [Fair Political Practices Commission \(FPPC\) – Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests Reference Pamphlet](#)
3. [RUSD Board Bylaw 9270 – Conflict of Interest](#)
4. [RUSD Board Bylaw 9200 – Limits of Board Member's Authority](#)
5. [RUSD Governance Handbook](#)

Respectfully,

Signature Eunice Faith Enriquez



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Date: 2/10/2021

Last Name: Gonzalez First Name: Agnes Middle Initial: P

Home Address: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Please check Board Vacancy Trustee Area for which you are applying ([click here for trustee map](#)):

Trustee Area 1: ☒

Trustee Area: 5 ☐

Occupation Retired Senior Account Clerk Employer Rowland Unified School Distri

Number of years residing within RUSD boundaries: 36

Do you have children attending RUSD schools? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, what schools? N/A no children

1. Please share any prior experience you have serving on a governing board, specifically a school district board? If not, please state none.

None

2. Please list any school committees or school activities you have participated in within the past 5 years?
  - \*Rowland Unified School District Business Internship program
  - \*Nogales Noble Regiment Marketplace
  - \*Nogales High School Teachers Renaissance Program
  - \*Nogales High School Classified Dinner Social Committee
  - \*CSEA Information Officer at Nogales High School
  
3. Describe any other community or business activities in which you have participated. Describe your role and whether your work was volunteer or employment related.
  - All volunteer work: community involvement
  - \*St Lorenzo Ruiz Eucharistic, Music and Hospitality Ministry
  - \*Vessels of Mary Liturgical Dance Group at Holy Name of Mary
  - \*Campaign for Retired Congressman Edward Royce/ Congressman Young Kim
  - \*Retired City of Walnut Mayor Antonio "Tony" Cartagena community leadership group
  - \*Friends of Filipino American Press of California Association
  - \*Hollywood Dance Moms opening act for fundraising concert events
  - \*ICAM USA Reunion Organizer
  - \*Hermosa Association of Southern California
  
4. Please describe why you would like to be a RUSD school board member?
  - \*To serve my community where I live for 36 years since May 15, 1985
  - \*To continue my support for the educational community in my neighborhood
  - \*To be a good public servant to the community I live in
  - \*To continue my service to the district that I served and worked for 31 years at Nogales High School
  
5. Please tell us why you believe you would be a great addition to the RUSD Board of Education?
  - \*I firmly believe that once I am a School Board that I will work in partnership with my fellow School Board member and the Superintendent to make our schools the best school district in the community.
  - \* I will achieve to work harder with all the stakeholders across the board at this district >from each of the School Board, The Cabinet, administrators, teachers, classified employees and the parents to help all students succeed.
  - \*I am a good addition because being a School Board is the best channel role to continue and contribute to the students achievement to help their dreams come true for a bright future ahead
  
6. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools?
  - \*To provide first class education to all students of this district to prepare them for their bright future
  - \*To empower students in the classroom for learning while respecting diversity differences, acknowledging culture, and dreaming for their life after graduation
  - \*To support and to motivate all employees while holding them accountable for student achievement, safety and health and welfare in this pandemic time
  - \*To make sure that the campus grounds are clean and safe for learning
  - \*To encourage extra curricular activities in athletics and elective courses, and entice students to participate in after school programs and school activities
  - \*To prepare the students for college and vocational career of their choice

7. What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?
- \*School Board are good representative of being true role model for students and all stakeholders of the district across the board
  - \*School Board must set high expectations for both student achievement and academic progress
  - \*School Board will be a partnership team who will respect teachers, all staff, and parents, and will work in cooperation with them so that our students are prepared for the future of the 21st century
  - \*School Board are the eyes of the Superintendent to make sure that the school campus are safe and clean for our students, all staff and the community
8. Please describe any other special skills, education, training, talents or other attributes that you possess which you feel are applicable to the role of a school board member?
- \*Good public relations instill on all my dealings with a diverse community
  - \*Volunteer for the fundraising of medical and dental help for the underprivilege areas in the Philippines
- Lists of Awards:
- \*2017 as 100 Outstanding Filipino Americans in the U.S.A
  - \*2018 Ambassador of goodwill to Philippine Children's Charity USA
  - \*2018 Mrs. Philippines-USA World
  - \*Executive Officer in the U.S.A appointed by Philippine Senate President Vicente Sotto III
  - \*Friends of Filipino American Press of California Association
  - \*Hollywood Dance Moms Outstanding Community Leader
9. How does an effective school board ensure opportunities for parents and community members to express their ideas?
- \*School board has to make sure that the school grounds are open and welcoming home to the community so that the parents and the students will feel proud to be a part of the school
  - \*School Board must be a good communicator, a good listener, easy to talk to and be approachable
  - \*School Board must entice parent involvement and welcome parents to the campus to make it their second home
  - \*Make parents aware of school programs and urge the parents to be involve on all school activities
  - \*Invite the parents to join school activities by giving incentives for their children's achievement and awards
  - \*The residents must be proud to send their children to our school district
10. What should be the relationship between the board members and the administration in the handling of school concerns?
- \*It should be an equal partnership for all School Board Members, united and one to move forward
  - \*To be a good listener and to be compassionate to all
  - \*To be able to gain the respect and trust of colleagues
  - \*To be able to work together in harmony and provide the best solution for all problems
  - \*To accept change and adapt to change as to how majority will vote on issues of topic and problems
  - \*Be aware that everyone has a valid opinion and that to listen and hear before judging
  - \*Look, discuss and weigh the pros and cons of every issue before making a decision
11. Briefly describe your commitment to public education and our school district.
- \*I will be 100% on board and I will do what is best for every stakeholders>fellow Board members, cabinet, administrators, teachers, classified, students and parents
  - \*My commitment to public education is to give opportunity for all children to learn, study and graduate for their bright future
  - \*Good partnership and knowledge of funding resources for the school district both state and federal gran
  - \*Adapt to change to support all stakeholders
  - \*Stay positive to keep everyone to get along and keep the awareness of reason between differences and similarity
  - \*Diversity of culture to respect and understand one another



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

- \*The school district had given the community pride and respect in the field of education
- \*District's Commitment to excellence
- \*District put students first and work hard to increase school funding, reduce class sizes, and hold all parties accountable for student success
- \*First hand open communication is key factor maintained by Superintendent Dr. Julie Mitchell
- \*The district has Blue Ribbon schools and success rate of college bound students
- \*The best school district in the area
- \*Best teachers and staff hired at the schools and at the district

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

- \*School Safety in this pandemic days ...It is new for everyone so we have to work harder to keep everyone safe and healthy as we have a challenging role to face
- \*Technology and availability of support resources to both the students and teachers
- \*Classroom ready for school safety in this pandemic period
- \*Parent involvement education
- \*Workshops for technological and virtual education
- \*Special Education, Teachers and staff workshops
- \*Bilingual Education for Parents and ELD Students

**CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER**

Date: 2/10/2021

To: Rowland Unified School District Community

From: (Full Name) Agnes Puno-Gonzalez

Re: Board Vacancy Trustee Areas 1 and 5

I certify that I am eligible to serve as the Trustee of Area 1

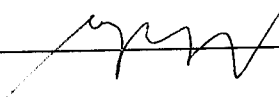
I certify that I live in the Rowland Unified School District and can serve on the Board of Education because I am 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the State of California, and a resident of the School District's Trustee Area 1 and a registered voter, and am not disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding office.

Additionally, I acknowledge receipt of:

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Respectfully,

Signature





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by 5:00 p.m. on February 16, 2021.*

*Applicants may attach up to 3 additional pages that may include resume, letter of interest, and/or  
letters of recommendation/support.*

*Applications received after the closing time will not be considered.*

Date: February 3, 2021

Last Name: Graham First Name: Trevor Middle Initial: A. A.

Home Address: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Please check Board Vacancy Trustee Area for which you are applying ([click here for trustee map](#)):

Trustee Area 1: ☒

Trustee Area 5: ☐

Occupation Adjunct Instructor - Psychology Employer Mt. San Antonio College

Number of years residing within RUSD boundaries: 19 continuous, 24 total

Do you have children attending RUSD schools? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, what schools? Not applicable

1. Please share any prior experience you have serving on a governing board, specifically a school district board? If not, please state none.

None for a school district board.

As a student, I have served on the executive board for the Forensics Team at Cal State LA, serving first as Treasurer and then as Vice President.

Currently, I am the co-advisor for Psychology Club at Mt. SAC, and directly oversee the executive board's activities.

2. Please list any school committees or school activities you have participated in within the past 5 years?

For the last year, I have served as one of the co-advisors for the Psychology Club at Mt. SAC.

From 2011 through 2017, I volunteered as a judge for Academic Decathlon on behalf of Rowland High School.

3. Describe any other community or business activities in which you have participated. Describe your role and whether your work was volunteer or employment related.

Since January of 2019, I have been working as an adjunct across multiple campuses, but focused on Mt. SAC and Citrus colleges. Before that, though, I worked for a year with a tutoring center that worked primarily with Walnut Valley School District, focusing on K-8 after-school support.

4. Please describe why you would like to be a RUSD school board member?

As a former student of RUSD, believe I have a unique perspective that can help guide the district forward. I feel strongly that helping to support the district that prepared me for college and beyond would be quite the opportunity to help give back, and is one that I am quite eager to take should I be given the chance.

5. Please tell us why you believe you would be a great addition to the RUSD Board of Education?

I believe that being part of the board would be a direct way to help to improve the overall experience for students by promoting policies that support STEAM education. With my research background, I feel that I have a skillset that would allow me to be better fit to help make decisions based on data, sorting out what does and does not work for the district as a whole.

6. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools?

The basic purpose of public schools is to make education accessible for all students and, more broadly speaking, to help prepare students for life beyond K-12 education - college-bound or otherwise.

7. What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?

The school board serves to achieve these goals by promoting district-wide policies that: help to increase access to education for students; maintain a safe, welcoming environment for students, staff, and faculty; work to better prepare students for life beyond the classroom, college-bound or otherwise; help teachers to better facilitate learning; and to effectively promote and evaluate student success.

8. Please describe any other special skills, education, training, talents or other attributes that you possess which you feel are applicable to the role of a school board member?

With a background in psychology, I have a great deal of knowledge regarding the theoretical and biological backbone to memory and learning in general, giving me a type of insight that other applicants may simply not have. Moreover, I have an understanding of research and statistics that would allow for a data-driven approach to helping to improve the district overall.

9. How does an effective school board ensure opportunities for parents and community members to express their ideas?

With current technology, polls, recordings, and written submissions are easier than ever to receive, allowing parents, community members, as well as faculty and staff to express ideas and/or concerns. Furthermore, making board meetings as transparent and open as reasonably possible can help to allow all involved parties to have the opportunity to share their ideas for the direction for the district as a whole, ensuring that no one is left out of the process.

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

Board members and the various levels of administration within the district should maintain open channels of communication for any and all school concerns. That said, I reiterate that the purpose of the district/board is to provide the framework within which the individual schools are to work, delegating the more direct oversight of the schools and students to their respective administrations. Maintaining those open channels creates assurance that district policy is being followed and furthered without requiring the board to step in for granular issues.

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

Education has become a passion of mine - I chose to mostly focus on Research Methods courses as they allow me to pass on a means of learning that can extend beyond the classroom. Those same skills can be used to help advance informed policy - I believe strongly that a data-driven, student-centered approach can help to both check for effectiveness and monitor progress overall.



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

As far as I am concerned, one of the biggest strengths of the school district are its diverse student and faculty bodies - the chance to work with diverse groups holds more and more value as the world gets smaller and we as humans are interacting on a more global scale, and will help to prepare students for life beyond the classroom. Secondly, the wide range of extra-curricular activities available to students such as music and the arts, even throughout the current pandemic, is an achievement in itself for the district.

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

Given the current situation, I feel that we need to have a comprehensive plan regarding distance learning and the eventual return to the classroom that emphasizes safety and is effectively communicated to the parents of the district. Beyond that, the CA Department of Education's records for the last few years have shown that RUSD has had a dip in Math and English Language Arts scores that needs to be remediated in the near future. Finally, as the district has a high percentage of socioeconomically disadvantaged students, working to improve educational access at all levels should always be a priority.

<b>CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER</b>
--

Date: February 3, 2021

To: Rowland Unified School District Community

From: (Full Name) Trevor Arthur Akira Graham

Re: Board Vacancy Trustee Areas 1 and 5


I certify that I am eligible to serve as the Trustee of Area 1

I certify that I live in the Rowland Unified School District and can serve on the Board of Education because I am 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the State of California, and a resident of the School District's Trustee Area 1 and a registered voter, and am not disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding office.

Additionally, I acknowledge receipt of:

1. [LACOE – The Brown Act Guide](#)
2. [Fair Political Practices Commission \(FPPC\) – Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests Reference Pamphlet](#)
3. [RUSD Board Bylaw 9270 – Conflict of Interest](#)
4. [RUSD Board Bylaw 9200 – Limits of Board Member's Authority](#)
5. [RUSD Governance Handbook](#)

Respectfully,

Signature 



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**Rowland Unified School District**  
**1830 S. Nogales Street**  
**Rowland Heights, CA 91748**

*Please complete and return this form via email to [RUSDBoardApplication@rowlandschools.org](mailto:RUSDBoardApplication@rowlandschools.org)*

*by 5:00 p.m. on February 16, 2021.*

*Applicants may attach up to 3 additional pages that may include resume, letter of interest, and/or letters of recommendation/support.*

*Applications received after the closing time will not be considered.*

Date: 2/12/2021

Last Name: Obiacoro First Name: Obie Middle Initial:

Home Address: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Please check Board Vacancy Trustee Area for which you are applying ([click here for trustee map](#)):

Trustee Area 1: ☒

Trustee Area 5: ☐

Occupation Import Manager Employer Urgent Gear, Inc.

Number of years residing within RUSD boundaries: 12 years

Do you have children attending RUSD schools? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, what schools? [REDACTED]

1. Please share any prior experience you have serving on a governing board, specifically a school district board? If not, please state none.

None, but served governing board in different organizations.

2. Please list any school committees or school activities you have participated in within the past 5 years?

Below list of school committees or school activities that I participated.

School Site Council at Oswalt Academy

Oswalt Academy 30 years Anniversary

School Site Council at Rowland High School

RHS Marching Band Tournament

3. Describe any other community or business activities in which you have participated. Describe your role and whether your work was volunteer or employment related.

I volunteered in various community activities and held different positions in schools, churches and community association. I served in School Site Council, Compensatory Education Advisory Committee, District Advisory Committee and Budget Committee at LAUSD schools. Also served in School Site Council at RUSD schools.

I volunteered in West Covina Community Service day and served Board Secretary at Shadow Oak Villas II Homeowners Association. Board member of various churches and volunteered in non profit organization in downtown Los Angeles that provides shelter,

4. Please describe why you would like to be a RUSD school board member?

I would like to be a RUSD board member to ensure the vision and goals of our schools will continue to succeed and have progress inspite of challenges. Also to collaborate with teachers, parents and students to be successful for their education. To ensure that our school district will be financially healthy to meet every need of the school and deliver the best education as possible for the benefit of those who live in the community.

5. Please tell us why you believe you would be a great addition to the RUSD Board of Education?

I believe based on my experiences, dedication and volunteerism would be a great addition to the RUSD Board.

6. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools?

The basic purpose of the public schools is to prepare students to be able to write, read and gain knowledge, to develop the intellect, to get ready for college in their career path, to serve social needs and to train as effective work force in the future.

7. What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?

The role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose is to work with School District Superintendent to ensure that every school in the district achieve the set goals and visions. To ensure adopting policies that give the district direction to set priorities and achieve its goals and developing curriculum and the budget.

8. Please describe any other special skills, education, training, talents or other attributes that you possess which you feel are applicable to the role of a school board member?

Being an education advocate and acquired trainings will be applicable to the role of a school board member.

9. How does an effective school board ensure opportunities for parents and community members to express their ideas?

The effective school board ensure opportunities for parents and community members to express their ideas by focusing the schools and students achievement performance that will help them strive in every level education. To provide and use every resources to ensure they are relevant to the needs of 21st century learners.

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

Board members provide direction, oversight and settle every concerns that will arise in a timely manner to avoid disruption of school operations in a day to day basis.

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

My commitment is to have every school in our district will get every resources needed to perform well, achieve the highest education performance and prioritize the safety of the staffs, teachers and students.



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

The strengths of the school district is friendly and dedicated teachers & staffs, student centered values, good moral values, engaged parents, achievement performance and technology advancement.

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

The most needing improvement in the school district safety and teachers & staffs welfare.

<b>CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER</b>
--

Date: 2/12/2021

To: Rowland Unified School District Community

From: (Full Name) Obie Obiacoro

Re: Board Vacancy Trustee Areas 1 and 5

I certify that I am eligible to serve as the Trustee of Area 1

I certify that I live in the Rowland Unified School District and can serve on the Board of Education because I am 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the State of California, and a resident of the School District's Trustee Area 1 and a registered voter, and am not disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding office.

Additionally, I acknowledge receipt of:

1. LACOE – The Brown Act Guide
2. Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) – Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests Reference Pamphlet
3. RUSD Board Bylaw 9270 – Conflict of Interest
4. RUSD Board Bylaw 9200 – Limits of Board Member's Authority
5. RUSD Governance Handbook

Respectfully,

Signature 



**UNIFIED** for **EXCELLENCE**  
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**Rowland Unified School District**  
**1830 S. Nogales Street**  
**Rowland Heights, CA 91748**

*Please complete and return this form via email to [RUUSDBoardApplication@rowlandschools.org](mailto:RUUSDBoardApplication@rowlandschools.org)  
by 5:00 p.m. on February 16, 2021.*

*Applicants may attach up to 3 additional pages that may include resume, letter of interest, and/or  
letters of recommendation/support.*

*Applications received after the closing time will not be considered.*

Date: February 16, 2021

Last Name: Perez First Name: Nadine Middle Initial: S

Home Address: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Please check Board Vacancy Trustee Area for which you are applying ([click here for trustee map](#)):

Trustee Area 1: ☒

Trustee Area 5: ☐

Occupation Executive Assistant Employer Bentley Mills, Inc.

Number of years residing within RUSD boundaries: 22 years

Do you have children attending RUSD schools? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, what schools? Both my children have graduated from Nogales High School

1. Please share any prior experience you have serving on a governing board, specifically a school district board? If not, please state none.

None

2. Please list any school committees or school activities you have participated in within the past 5 years?

I have not participated in any school committees or activities in the past 5 years.

3. Describe any other community or business activities in which you have participated. Describe your role and whether your work was volunteer or employment related.

2008 - Member of Hollingworth Elementary School Site Council

2010 - Member of the Rincon Intermediate Redesign Committee (Now Telesis Academy of Math and Science)

2011 - Member of Community to Interview Hollingworth Elementary Principal Candidates

2012 - Member of Community Mapping Committee

4. Please describe why you would like to be a RUSD school board member?

I am interested in becoming a Rowland Unified School District board member to serve our community and students.

5. Please tell us why you believe you would be a great addition to the RUSD Board of Education?

I believe I would be a great addition to the Rowland Unified School District board due to my dedication to the community, teachers, staff and most importantly the children of our district. I believe the board and community will benefit from my professional career as an executive assistant. In my 20 plus years, as I have touched every aspect of business, from budgeting, marketing and human resources.

6. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools?

I have long been an advocate for public education. My mother was a secretary to school psychologists and always emphasized the resources that public education has over most private schools, from those with special needs to those in GATE programs. I believe school staff and parents should have a partnership when it comes to the foundational needs of our children.

7. What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?

The purpose of the board is to set policy and make sure that policy is being followed through. The board is also ultimately responsible

8. Please describe any other special skills, education, training, talents or other attributes that you possess which you feel are applicable to the role of a school board member?

During the informational meeting, board members indicated that they are the eyes and ears for the Superintendent. As an executive assistant, I see that as my role for the executive team I support. I make sure policies are applied equitably across the companies I have worked for.

9. How does an effective school board ensure opportunities for parents and community members to express their ideas?

As a board member, I believe time is the greatest gift we can offer our community. We must be open to hear the thoughts and opinions of our parents and community. Public board meetings are key to offering the community such opportunities, but I believe the community also needs to feel comfortable in forums. Attending meetings, when possible, at schools and in the community should also be made available. More of a grassroots approach, when possible.

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

The board is in place to set policy and it is the administration's responsibility to handle individual school concerns.

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

I have every faith in our public school education and our district. I believe our school district staff is the greatest asset our children have. I've been fortunate enough to have worked closely with teachers and administrators throughout my children's tenure at Rowland Unified School District, beginning when my son entered kindergarten in 2002 and my daughter graduated last year in 2020.

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

The strengths of Rowland Unified School District are all encompassing. There is an abundance of programs for children to participate in, including academics, college preparedness, career paths, arts, and athletics. For parents the district has provided college preparedness classes (PIQE), multi-lingual informational meetings, how to assist children with their computers. All these programs are so important to today's children.

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

As with all "businesses", I believe communication is key. The district does a great job with communications to parents, but there is always room for improvement. Should I be voted on to the board, I am sure I will learn more about how the community believes we can improve.

<b>CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER</b>
--

Date: February 16, 202

To: Rowland Unified School District Community

From: (Full Name) Nadine Suzette Peralez

Re: Board Vacancy Trustee Areas 1 and 5

I certify that I am eligible to serve as the Trustee of Area 1

I certify that I live in the Rowland Unified School District and can serve on the Board of Education because I am 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the State of California, and a resident of the School District's Trustee Area 1 and a registered voter, and am not disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding office.

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2. [Fair Political Practices Commission \(FPPC\) – Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests Reference Pamphlet](#)
3. [RUSD Board Bylaw 9270 – Conflict of Interest](#)
4. [RUSD Board Bylaw 9200 – Limits of Board Member's Authority](#)
5. [RUSD Governance Handbook](#)

Respectfully,

Signature Nadine Peralez



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**Rowland Heights, CA 91748**

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by 5:00 p.m. on February 16, 2021.*

*Applicants may attach up to 3 additional pages that may include resume, letter of interest, and/or  
letters of recommendation/support.*

*Applications received after the closing time will not be considered.*

Date: February 16, 2021

Last Name: Valadez First Name: Reyna Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check Board Vacancy Trustee Area for which you are applying ([click here for trustee map](#)):

Trustee Area 1: ☒

Trustee Area 5: ☐

Occupation Health Services/Education Employer AltaMed/East Los Angeles

Number of years residing within RUSD boundaries: 1 year 2 months

Do you have children attending RUSD schools? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, what schools? I just completed an application for 2021-2022 for my \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Please share any prior experience you have serving on a governing board, specifically a school district board? If not, please state none.

I was able to assess reliability and validity of myself as a board member as I wore a much different lens. Please allow me to start this journey from my advocacy and volunteer work with the K-12 Dual-enrollment within multiple school systems, with post-secondary college students, and community advocacy.

As a professor, I was "boots on the ground" with my students, families, and community. It was not



enough for me to teach theoretical concepts of child development and education when my students and families were asking for much more. As an educator, I knew I had considerable influence over educational decisions but I also knew that I needed to do more.

East Los Angeles College collaborated with California State University of Los Angeles, Monica Garcia's Office, and Los Angeles Unified School District in an initiative to create college pathways for East Los Angeles students and families. When conducting school visits I realized that there were gaps that needed to be addressed. The GO East LA: A Pathway for College and Career Success promoted greater academic outcomes for ELA students, but if our school systems did not have the tools to fully support them how can we truly measure success. I found many schools didn't have fully working libraries, if at all, I found that parent centers were doing a great job about building relationships among parents, but there was still a big disconnect with school, family, and community. Most alarming I found that the "college message" really did not start until high school. These findings brought the GO East LA stakeholders back to the table to reassess our mission and vision. This led to my personal initiative to start college centers in middle schools and begin to plant the seed early. Below are links from Telemundo, Univision, and the Oprah Winfrey Network as a few examples of news briefings of my efforts in the East Los Angeles community.

Besides my initiative to promote college and career readiness, I then looked at other key factors that affected our students and community. The creation of the first Dream Resource Center within the Los Angeles Unified School District was established because of my ability to listen to my students, my community, and predict trends that would affect our most vulnerable students. The DRC at ELAC now serves as a model site to all our other nine-sister colleges within LACCD. The goal of this office is to address equity gaps and increase access to programs and services for all students regardless of their status. In this effort, I worked closely with the State Chancellor, District Chancellor, School District Board, school administration, federal and state policymakers, and ELAC Alumni Association. I helped in the enactment of new policies, systems, procedures, resolutions, and services to undocumented, DACA, LGBTQ +, Foster, Parenting and any minority groups within our campus. I provided a link below that highlights the type of impact my efforts lead to educate our communities about policies that affect undocumented, DACA, and mixed status families.

This brings me to my current role as the Vice President of the East Los Angeles College Alumni Association Executive Board under the East Los Angeles College Foundation. Our mission is to support and promote the interests of the College, its students, alumni and Association members. Though we are fundraising focused, we had to assess our "why" and start making purposeful investments in our stakeholders. To effectively govern many times this meant realigning our needs. A key lesson from the current pandemic has commissioned us as catalysts for social determinants of health. I know that "it takes a village", as the adage says, and as such our board has inherent multi-stakeholder to bring *Awareness*, help make *Adjustments*, *Assist* in efforts, *Align* needs, and *Advocate* for our students.

The most current effort that I lead was the collaboration between the Rotary of East Los Angeles and the ELAC Alumni Association to help bring awareness of healthy food choices and food to ELAC athletes. Food insecurity or lack of access to affordable and nutritious foods has been an ongoing problem for our college students and now more than ever this pandemic has affected our college athletes the most as many of them are out of state students on visas with limited access to funds and family. I helped organize and distribute hygiene kits, produce, and food boxes for over 100 athletes. This effort brought a lot of other community people and students to our doors and allowed us to expand our reach by collaborating with Hilda Solis office and Plaza Community Service in feeding over 1,000 families of neighboring communities.

### **College and Career Readiness Efforts**

Univision: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/7YZitwD9SVALTTo87>

Noticiero Univision: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/uku1KfkBqCGjaUeL6>

GO East LA: <https://goeastla.org>

### **Undocumented Efforts**

Telemundo: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/CWV7Vz3eF7CjK7WQ8>

Telemundo behind the scenes: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/sj4duTsvu8kktcty9>

2. Please list any school committees or school activities you have participated in within the past 5 years?

As the Plaza Community Service Early Head Start Board Chair, I assisted in one of the toughest board responsibilities I have ever been through as a board member. I was recruited to be on the Plaza Community Service Board in April 2018 and by June 2018, the board was being audit and sued. I have sat in many boards all with unique challenges but for the first time I was in a situation that I had never been in. Despite the frantic reorgs and fear, I found my emotional state to be the driving force to ensure an objective process.

I was appointed to be on the audit committee, my distinct role was to analyze, evaluate the effectiveness of all materials represented. I assisted with internal and independent auditors in the development of the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) then provide appropriate oversight of all area, processes and controls.

3. Describe any other community or business activities in which you have participated. Describe your role and whether your work was volunteer or employment related.

Service Planning Area 7 Community Partnerships (SPA 7) operates under the eyes of LA County Department of Public Health and lead by Hillside, my last five years with SPA 7 have given me an opportunity to volunteer and provide resources, services, and support to targeted populations that sustain healthy living, quality of life, and reduce health disparities.

Volunteering on the board and as the formal secretary of the board, I was responsible for organizing our monthly board meeting and general member meetings for its 60 cross-sectoral coalition Partners. The members of the Partnership meet on a monthly basis to leverage their subject-matter expertise to support thousands of children and their families throughout the region. Member agencies are diverse in size, location, make up, and type of service, yet they are singularly committed to improving the quality of care and health services provided to at-risk children, and to advancing health equity. The strategic alliance between partners allows local leaders and stakeholders to come together and engage in local health improvement strategies. Due to COVID, many of our efforts this last year have been virtual.

4. Please describe why you would like to be a RUSD school board member?

Service on the RUSD Board of Directors is a public trust of the highest order and if I should have the opportunity to serve, my objective is the welfare of all its internal and external stakeholders. Just as the board has a fiduciary responsibility to provide stewardship, I hope to also ensure a culture of mission effectiveness and performance as priorities.

5. Please tell us why you believe you would be a great addition to the RUSD Board of Education?

I believe one of the biggest assets I can bring to the RUSD Board of Education is diversity. My personal experiences and passions to make a difference in communities much like the ones I grew up in are rooted in my cultural, environmental, and circumstantial makeup. Like many of the families we serve, I was faced with many challenges as an undocumented, homeless, teen-age mother.

The value of diversity comes from my personal experience in growing up in school systems and communities that are not much different than today. The value I hope to continue within the board is how we deal with federal or state mandates without sacrificing community values and objectives of our children, families, and communities.

6. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools?

Beyond just teaching academics, public schools can foster much more than the overall well-being of a child but that of an entire family and community. I see public school systems as platforms to encourage growth, development, change, education, and exploration. It helps children, families and communities alike in fulfilling one's diverse potential.

7. What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?

School boards have the obligation to have a set of skillsets that go beyond a good resume. They must have a level of knowledge, experience, articulation, philosophy, and listening skills that go above and beyond the parameters of the job description.

When establishing educational philosophy, goals, objectives, policies, and procedures school boards should consider making provisions based on need.

Examples:

- Adopts and/or changes standards and instructional programs as necessary or as recommended by the stakeholders in that institution, community or region.
- Regularly reviews student achievement data and let this data drive change
- Regular reports to the community on the status of education in the district
- Maintains an awareness of community values, concerns, and interests and serve as a liaison
- Actively participates in programs, school functions, and community events that build good community relations
- Revisit, revise, and adapt policies (including admission, attendance, activities, rights and responsibilities, discipline, safety, and welfare)
- Revisit, revise, and reallocate financial priorities
- Explores with the district auditor the internal controls of the district
- Survey the children, families, teachers, staff, administration, families, and community to explore gaps, needs, and services

8. Please describe any other special skills, education, training, talents or other attributes that you possess which you feel are applicable to the role of a school board member?

For the last 20+ years, I have worked in education and community advocacy. The last few years I have seen a shift in educational needs going beyond academics. Mental health, healthcare, health and wellness seems to have weaved its way to our classrooms and school systems.

It was not uncommon for our schools to get a call, email or letter from a student or parent of how stress, anxious or depress a student was. I found myself case managing during my office hours and personal time more than I was assisting with questions related to assignments. I found that many of the schools where I taught and my peers though had very little instruction dedicated to address mental health concerns of young people. I then collaborated with Teen Line a non-profit organization that provides presentations to teens on stress, anxiety, depression and suicide among other things.

Before I knew it, Teen Line offered me a contracting position to assist them in presenting to school systems and redeveloping their law-enforcement training for mental health awareness for the adolescent.

I had already done a lot of work with Teen Line in the LAUSD and private Charters but I had not expanded to Rowland School District. I conducted presentations for Nogles High School and Santana High School students in 2018.

I then successfully developed a new training model and facilitated over 20 trainings to LAPD officers (all ranks, levels and experiences), ELA Sheriff's officers (all ranks, levels and experiences), and to over 1000 cadets in understanding brain development of an adolescent, distinguishing mental illness from children with special needs, identifying factors of depression/suicide, looking at local/state and worldwide suicidal death rates, and finally how law-enforcement can serve as a credible resource to our young children, families, communities, and school systems.

I have gotten so busy with other initiatives that I no longer take any contract jobs for Teen Line but utilize them in all my programs and services, as I know the impact this amazing program is doing for mental health and wellness to our young people.

9. How does an effective school board ensure opportunities for parents and community members to express their ideas?

To make opportunities for involvement more meaningful and more accessible to all, school boards should consider evaluating its current system, identifying gaps then implanting strategies to base on findings. Another suggestion could be to survey practitioners, families, children and administration on how they would like the school board to communicate and express ideas. Regardless of the approach, I would always take into consideration how and who is conducting the information, outreach, and facilitation. Below are a few tips I consider when trying to build trust with schools and diverse families.

1. Benevolence: The degree to which the other party takes your best interests to heart and acts to protect them
2. Reliability: The extent to which you can depend upon another party to come through for you, to act consistently, and to follow through
3. Competence: Belief in the other party's ability to perform the tasks required by his or her position
4. Honesty: The degree to which the other person or institution demonstrates integrity, represents situations fairly, and speaks truthfully to others
5. Openness: The extent to which the other party welcomes communication and shares information with the people it affects

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

School Board members must become transformational leaders by transforming, first. School Board members and administration must have a sense of clarity, unity, values, and methods that align with the educational milieu.

Together the school board members and administration should be prepared and expected to perform as carrying, competent, consensus-based leaders in the hopes of building thoughtful communication and processes.

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

As a parent of a child with special needs, I am 100 percent invested in nothing more than the true partnership I hold with the public-school systems my son attends.

As a professional, I am committed to the highest levels of professional competence and ethical practices. My primary obligation is to treat students, families, and members of the school community with dignity and respect. In addition, to promote the health, safety and well-being of students by establishing and maintaining appropriate verbal, physical, emotional and social boundaries.

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

Rowland Unified School District has impressively increased proficiency in almost every concentrated area. Ranking in the top 50 percentile for math and reading proficiency of public schools in California.

Equally impressive is the graduation rates according to the California School Dashboard. RUSD has experienced a continued increase in its graduation rate to 92% and preparing students for life beyond high school.

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

We know the transition from elementary, to middle, to high school poses challenges all in its own. Looking at the Rowland Unified School District data of high performing schools, which appear to be mainly elementary and then skips to high school, I wonder what might be happening in the second transition.

Sandwiched between the elementary and high school early adolescents often means a dramatic physical, cognitive, social, and psychological change and adjustments for these young people. Never mind the data that also highlights gender and cultural challenges but if we can predict factors that we can control then we can improve outcomes for all our students.

For example we know that students who are confident about themselves and participate in school-affiliated extracurricular activities strengthens school commitment and achievement then why aren't we offering more afterschool programs, electives, college preparation courses and family engagement events during this critical period (second transition).

Across transitions, it is very important for stakeholders to be well prepared to assist students during transitional periods. Stakeholders cannot assume that students will naturally adjust to new learning environments with little difficulty. I believe this area of improvement can help increase performance rates in all areas and across all transitional stages.

<b>CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER</b>
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Date: 02/16/2021

To: Rowland Unified School District Community

From: (Full Name) Reyna Valadez

Re: Board Vacancy Trustee Areas 1 and 5

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I certify that I am eligible to serve as the Trustee of Area 1

I certify that I live in the Rowland Unified School District and can serve on the Board of Education because I am 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the State of California, and a resident of the School District's Trustee Area 1 and a registered voter, and am not disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding office.

Additionally, I acknowledge receipt of:

1. [LACOE – The Brown Act Guide](#)
2. [Fair Political Practices Commission \(FPPC\) – Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests Reference Pamphlet](#)
3. [RUSD Board Bylaw 9270 – Conflict of Interest](#)
4. [RUSD Board Bylaw 9200 – Limits of Board Member's Authority](#)
5. [RUSD Governance Handbook](#)

Respectfully,

Signature 