

**San Rafael Elementary and High School District  
(San Rafael City Schools)  
Office of the Superintendent**



**Board of Education  
Vacancy Application**

This application, including all attachments, constitutes a public record.

**Deadline for Submission:**  
Thursday, February 26, 2015  
4:30 p.m.

310 Nova Albion Way  
San Rafael, CA 94903

**Board of Trustees**  
Natu Tuatagaloa, President  
Rachel Kertz, Vice President  
Greg Knell, Trustee  
Linda M. Jackson, Trustee

**Superintendent**  
Michael Watenpugh, Ed.D.



**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE  
SAN RAFAEL ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
(SAN RAFAEL CITY SCHOOLS)  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**This Application Is A Public Document**

**The appointee will hold office until the next Board Trustee election,  
which occurs at the next Statewide General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2015.**

**QUALIFICATIONS**

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

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Be a citizen of the state.
- Be a resident of the San Rafael Elementary or High School District.
- Be a registered voter.
- Not be disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state to hold a civil office.

An employee of a school district may not be sworn into office as an elected or appointed member of that school district's governing board unless and until he or she resigns as an employee.

Certification of qualifications on page six (6) must be signed by the applicant.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**

Applications must be received by the Office of the Superintendent no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2015. Applications can be mailed or hand delivered to Michael Watenpaugh, Ed.D., Superintendent, 310 Nova Albion Way, San Rafael, CA 94903. Applications can also be submitted electronically to [superintendent@srcs.org](mailto:superintendent@srcs.org).

*Please type or print all responses*

Name: Maika Llorens Gulati

Address: 164 DuBois Street, San Rafael, CA 94901

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cellular: 415-717-7410

Email Address: maikalloreng@gmail.com

Years of residence in the San Rafael Elementary and/or High School District(s): 16.5

Do you have children attending SRCS? Yes, two, a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Davidson MS

## **WRITTEN RESPONSES**

**Please stay within space allowed for response. Do not attach extra pages.**

- 1. Please describe your educational, work and/or public service background.** Include educational background; skills, experiences, interests and/or expertise you will bring to the Board; and other public service, including involvement in San Rafael City Schools.

I have a Bachelors Degree in Marketing and Business Administration by ESIC (Madrid/Spain) and I am bi-literate (Spanish/English). My work experience includes over 18 years of marketing and communications with Fortune 500, midsize and entrepreneurial companies in both the technology and services sectors. In 2009, during a sabbatical year, I volunteered as the Fundraiser VP for the Sun Valley PTO. Afterward, I was hired as the Executive Director for **HeadsUp** San Rafael Public Education Foundation. In addition, I am currently a Board member for **SchoolsRule** (serving as the Fundraiser Co-Chair for the last two years,) a member of **Marin Promise, Voces of Marin** planning committee, and a member of the **San Rafael Chamber Education Committee**. Previously, I was a board member for the **San Rafael Downtown Improvement District (BID)**, the **San Rafael Chamber of Commerce**, and a committee member for **Measures A & B** campaign in 2013. I also served as a member of the Purchasing and Recycling Team for the City of **San Rafael Green Ribbon initiative**. Some of the skills/expertise I bring to the Board are: My fluency in Spanish and knowledge of the Spanish culture; a close working relationships with the San Rafael School Community; strong community partnerships; deep perspective of our District and schools from a parent point of view; strong business, marketing and communications expertise; team work; open minded; and involvement in the education and business communities in San Rafael and Marin County.

- 2. Why do you wish to serve on the Board? What do you hope to accomplish?**

For the last six years, I have seen and experienced the great work of the San Rafael City Schools District, especially during challenging times of budget crisis and the integration of Common Core. I became involved with the PTA and HeadsUp because of my passion for education and my desire to help all kids have access to resources in order to reach their potential. My work with the HeadsUp Foundation and SchoolsRule, has provided me with a working knowledge of the District. By joining the Board, I hope to acquire a deeper understanding of the workings of the District and help guide the District to a new level. As a Latina, I bring a diverse perspective and a voice for the Hispanic community. As a team player with other Board members, I can outreach and engage all of our constituents: students, parents, teachers and community members, in order to create more positive communication. Most importantly, by working together with the Board, I hope to ensure that ALL children receive what they need in order to thrive and achieve their maximum potential.

- 3. List, in order of importance, three major issues confronting public education and, specifically, San Rafael City Schools.**

1. Equity - not only within SRCS families, but also equity in Marin County. San Rafael City Schools include over 65% of kids who receive free or reduced lunch, the highest in Marin County. Many of these children start Kindergarten behind their peers and for many, that gap widens with age.
2. Funding – to attract and retain quality teachers and staff.
3. Common Core implementation and communication about the new standards. It's a new challenge for teachers, families and students.

**4. What do you see as the top strengths of San Rafael City Schools?**

- Stability with great leadership
- Celebrating our diversity
- Great community and involved families – down to earth and ready to help! Based on my experience with SchoolsRule and HeadsUp, San Rafael is the best District for engaging great volunteers.
- A history of quality education

**5. What is your understanding of the new Local Control Funding Formula, its relationship to the requirements of the Local Control Accountability Program (LCAP) and SRCS' LCAP goals?**

The new plan allows school district to decide how to spend their funding, while holding them accountable. The amount of funding in each district is based on the number of students, with additional funding based upon the percentage of low-income students, English learners (and foster children although this percentage doesn't apply for SRCS). I am familiar with the new funding program, SRCS' LCAP's goals and deadlines, as I have been on the SRCS' LCAP committee for over a year.

**6. The student demographics of San Rafael City Schools now reflect that of: 65% of students participate in Free and Reduced Lunch program; 60% of students are Hispanic/Latino; and 58% of students are English Learners. This population of students has been historically underserved. What implications does this have for the Board in terms of planning, goal setting and implementation?**

It is very challenging and at the same time, a great opportunity to celebrate what makes us unique in San Rafael. I am Hispanic and also an English learner. I understand some of these issues. The challenges are linguistic, cultural and socioeconomic. How can we best connect the entire community, to grow and thrive together? I believe that the Board should establish frequent, improved communication among all constituents. The new parent council established by the District is an example of this improved communication. It would also be helpful to bring students, teachers, parents, and School District staff together to guide the board in future direction and vision. Many bicultural and English language learners have unique skills; it's important to empower them and their families by helping them develop these skills. Creating biliteracy programs, better engaging parents and community members and increasing and diversifying our volunteers are important next steps. The goal of reaching many of our underserved Latino youth is one of the main reasons I'm applying for this position. I believe I am uniquely positioned to add experience and perspective in planning and implementing goals for all of our students.

**7. How does the Board's role differ from that of the Superintendent?**

The Superintendent is the face of the District, the CEO, in charge of the day-to-day operations. The board of education provides oversight for the superintendent (guidance and strategic direction). The superintendent also keeps the Board informed about events, successes and challenges within the District. The superintendent attends all board meetings and offers recommendations, but does not vote.

**8. California is among the 46 states that are implementing [Common Core State Standards](#). Based on what you know, what do you think of this educational reform?**

Common Core teaches critical thinking skills, instead of asking students to memorize materials and formulas. It is a different way of thinking, evaluating and teaching, which presents challenges for students, teachers and parents/families. Because Common Core involves more writing, EL students will need more support, as writing is often challenging for English language learners. For example, the increase in math word problems will present additional challenges for students who now need to navigate text and numbers. I believe that long-term this will be a great change to the system, however, short term, the District will need a lot of support for our teachers, students and families. This help should include professional development, communication and technology support.

**9. Please describe your time availability and commitment constraints.** Experience indicates that, while actual time varies among trustees, it is not uncommon to spend 20-25 hours per month for Board service. Most frequently, meetings occur in the evenings. However, school site visits, committee meetings and Board work do occur during the daytime hours.

As the Executive Director of HeadsUp, my position is part-time and flexible. I am often available in the evenings. I am able to commit to the Board time expectations. Through my work and experiences as a parent and volunteer, I have built many positive relationships with our students, families, schools and community.. I look forward to becoming a School Board member in order to deepen this involvement and impact.

## **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 San Rafael City Schools website.

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

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

I certify that I am a citizen of California, a resident of the San Rafael Elementary or High School District and a registered voter.

I acknowledge that I am applying to fill a vacancy as a Board Trustee of the San Rafael Elementary School District and the San Rafael High School District, effective March 2, 2015 through December 2015, and that I will be available on March 2, 2015 at 4 p.m. for an interview.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ 02/26/15 \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant Date

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A STATEMENT OF NOT LESS THAN 200 WORDS;** similar to that which would appear on an election ballot, and will be accepted at the San Rafael City Schools Office of the Superintendent until 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2015.

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

- Bribing executive officer (Penal Code § 67)
- Officer asking or receiving bribes (Penal Code §§ 68, 88)
- Receiving gratuity for appointment to office (Penal Code § 74)
- Judicial Officer who has asked for or received emoluments, gratuities, rewards, or the fee of a stenographer (Penal Code § 94)
- Giving or offering bribe to Councilman or Supervisor (Penal Code § 165)
- Misappropriation of public funds (Penal Code § 424)
- Interference with work or discipline of, or giving certain articles to prisoners (Penal Code § 2772)
- Interference with or giving certain articles to convicts (Penal Code § 2790)
- Officer making contracts in which he or she is interested (Government Code § 1097)
- Members of the Legislature convicted of any crime (Government Code § 9055)
- Corrupting the voting process (Elections Code § 18501)
- Convicted of a felony involving accepting, giving, or offering of any bribe, embezzlement or theft of public funds, extortion, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any such crime, except if a pardon has been granted in accordance with law (Elections Code § 20)

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