



**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.

Please type or print all responses

Name: Michelle Pommier
Address: 213 Orange Blossom Ln, San Rafael 94903
Phone: 415-295-7051 Cellular: 714-293-7705
Email Address: michellepommier@hotmail.com
Years of residence in the San Rafael Elementary and/or High School District(s): 4
Do you have children attending SRCS? yes.

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.

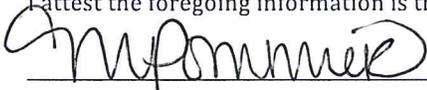
I understand that upon appointment I would be required to file a Conflict of Interest Statement / Form 700 (available for viewing at www.fppc.ca.gov) and take an Oath of Office.

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.

 _____ 2/25/15
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."

Michelle Pommier Statement

Michelle Pommier holds a B.S. in Business Management and has worked in education for 19 years. She currently works at Redwood High School in the Tamalpais Union High School District in the Assistant Principals' office. Michelle has worked in Human Resources at San Rafael City Schools, as well as, Orange Coast College and Coastline Community College. At Golden West College she worked in the Academic Senate and Professional Development office serving as a liaison between faculty, students, classified staff, and administrators.

Pommier also served in the community, volunteering in the Parent Teacher Association in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District for seven years where she held the offices of President and Vice President. Also serving at the District PTA level. While President of the PTA at College Park Elementary, she was awarded Most Outstanding PTA in the 2009-2010 school year from the County PTA for exemplary effort across a full range of PTA purposes, including reaching out to diverse communities, bringing school and home into closer contact, advocating for children, and encouraging membership.

Another proud accomplishment was lobbying for safer routes to school in Costa Mesa. After two years of dedicated negotiations "Caution - Children Crossing" signs were installed at three major intersections. She and her husband have four daughters, two at Terra Linda High School, one at Miller Creek and one at Dixie Elementary School.

**Application for Appointment to the
San Rafael Elementary and High School District Board of Education**

- 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 worked and served in the educational field for 19 years, both in paid service and as a volunteer. While employed at Coast Community College District I worked in the Academic Senate and Personnel, as well as, Orange Coast Middle College High School that was located on the college campus. I have since worked for San Rafael City Schools in Human Resources and I am currently employed at Redwood High School in the Assistant Principals' office. I have over 7 years experience in volunteering in The California Parent Teacher Association, holding several executive officer positions within the school PTA and the District wide PTA in Newport-Mesa Unified School District, holding monthly meetings with the Superintendent and Cabinet. I have a bachelor's degree in Business Management. I love working in education, knowing that I make a positive difference every day.

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

It is important for parents and community members to be active in our childrens' education and future. I have two children at Terra Linda High School, one at Miller Creek, and one at Dixie Elementary. I will have been in the San Rafael High School District as a parent for a total of 15 years by the time all of my children graduate from Terra Linda High School. Being part of a team that works towards making sure that all children have equal access to the excellent opportunities in our schools is important to me. I wish to improve parent/teacher/student communication, as well as, communication to our community about our outstanding schools. I would be a valuable addition to the San Rafael Elementary and High School District School Board adding my expertise in the ins and outs of education. I bring Human Resource knowledge and school site experience giving an inside view and opinion as to the day-to-day operations and concerns that face districts in California.

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

First, Bullying, although it is not a new problem, it is one that has a serious impact on the learning of many students. Technology has given bullies even more avenues to torment their victims – through social networking, texting and other virtual interactions. Cyberbullying has become a major issue for schools. Second, students are more technologically advanced, some more so than their teachers, putting instructors at a decided disadvantage in the classroom. However, a student's love of technology can be the key to an exciting and interactive experience in the classroom. Technology needs to come into the classroom to keep up with the learning demands of the 21st century. Third, Parent involvement along with school/home communication. Keeping the line of communication open is crucial for the success of our students.

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

High quality teachers that provide our students the best education. The goal of all students graduating from high school. All limited-English-proficient students will become proficient in English and reach high academic standards, at a minimum attaining proficiency or better in reading/language arts and mathematics, as stated in the Local Education Agency plan is also a fantastic goal the district is striving to achieve.

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 goal of the LCFF is to significantly simplify how state funding is provided to local education agencies (LEA). The new funding system eliminates revenue limits and most of the state's categorical programs. LEAs will receive funding based on the demographic profile of the students that they serve and this will increase flexibility of using these funds to improve outcomes for students. LCFF creates separate funding streams for oversight activities and instructional programs. The LCAP or Local Control Accountability Plan is an important component of the LCFF requiring LEAs to explain how the districts intend to meet annual goals for all students with specific activities to address state and local priorities.

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?

While it is important to take into consideration the underserved population and give them the support they need, it is equally important to empower them and give them the tools to create success for themselves. It is important to teach students how to overcome their circumstances and strive for excellence; to ensure that we aren't lowering the bar and making students unaccountable for their futures. Students need to be taught how to compete with their peers, despite any obstacles they might face.

Educators should teach underprivileged students how to recognize a chance and seize it by increasing expectations, teaching life skills and holding students accountable for their choices, not necessarily their circumstances.

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

The School Board is the final authority in the district. Developing Board policies is the main responsibility of the board. By adopting policies aimed at specific priorities, the board clearly defines its vision for the district while it leaves room for the administration to use judgment in selecting an approach to implementing them. An important role for the Board is to listen to community members and come to understand its values and concerns. A great desire to improve public education, fresh energy, challenge old assumptions, look at established routines and policies with new eyes, have the opportunity to share your perspective with your fellow board members. The Superintendent serves as the Board's chief advisor on educational matters and as the district's educational leader. He or she is responsible for ensuring the board is informed about district operations and activities, and about the district's needs. The Superintendent should ensure sufficient information is provided to the board so it is able to make informed decisions and evaluate the results of those decisions. Together they should work to set priorities for the district. The actions of the School Board and Superintendent should provide the public with confidence. Bottom line is the Board sets policy and the Superintendent implements it.

8. California is among the 46 states that are implementing Common Core Standards. Based on what you know, what do you think of this educational reform?

The new standards mean deeper, richer, more relevant instruction for children, setting clearly defined learning goals for each grade level that build from year to year, a focus on key knowledge and skills, including communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. The new standards matter because they're part of an overall update to the way our schools ensure all students achieve, including more professional development opportunities for teachers, updated instructional materials and technology, and more useful assessments. They provide all students with hands-on experiences, and opportunities to experiment and try new approaches. They help prepare students to navigate a fast-paced, super-connected changing world.

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.

I am available for all meetings in the afternoon and evening hours and have flexibility with my job to accommodate daytime activities and visits. My normal hours of work conclude at 4:00pm, however, I am able to take personal necessity time for any commitments that need to be met, as well as, comp time that I have accrued. Working at a school site, the administrators are very supportive and understanding in my potential role as a school board member.