



CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM FOR TRUSTEE AREA 3

Please fill out and return by 4:00pm on March 29th, 2019 to the superintendent's office.

Date: 3/27/2019

Curtin, Diana J
(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

Business Address: _____ Phone: _____

Home Address: _____ Phone: _____

Are you registered to vote at this address? YES X NO ___

E-mail: _____

Occupation and Employer: Chief Executive Officer, Community Matters

No. of Years Residing in Trustee Area 3 of the District: 20 years at the end of Dec. 2019

Do you have a child or have you had children in the district's schools? YES X NO ___
If yes, what schools? Proctor Terrace and Hidden Valley Elementary, Rincon Valley Middle and currently in Santa Rosa High School

1. **Why do you want to be a school board member?**
I am a firm believer in public education and a long-time champion of young people, teachers, administrators and school success. As a strong supporter and advocate of Santa Rosa City Schools (SRCS) I would now like to join the team of board members who are working hard to ensure the success of the students and schools in the district. With the motto of "Excellence is our Common Ground", I would be proud to serve on the governing board of SRCS.

2. **What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools?**
To provide all students with access to a quality well rounded education that prepares them to graduate with adequate preparation to move into college, trade schools, jobs and careers of their choice.

3. **What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?**
I see the role of the school board as a body that sets the strategic direction for the district to carry out the operational goals. A major responsibility of a successful school board is to hire and empower the superintendent to ensure the success of the students, teachers and schools in the district. The school board should be responsive to the values, beliefs and priorities of the

community, and also ensure the district has the proper resources to be in alignment with current trends, technology and best practices in education.

4. Describe your commitment to public education and our local school district.

I believe in public education because I think it provides a sense of community and a well-rounded educational experience that prepares young people to find success in the diverse and complicated world we live in. As a young person I had the opportunity to go to private schools, but my family chose public education because they believed in these values. As a parent, I have also had the opportunity to send our son to private schools, but we chose our local public schools (SRCS) because we value diversity and felt the experience would prepare him to enter college, career and the world with the necessary perspective, knowledge and skills to navigate successfully. When we became home owners 20 years ago before we even had children, we chose to live in the SRCS District with the intent of having our children attend our local Santa Rosa schools. We have been strong advocates of SRCS ever since and have happily committed substantial volunteer and financial support over the years.

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

Santa Rosa City Schools employs an extremely dedicated group of teachers, counselors, administrators as well as a strong Superintendent and administrative team. As the oldest and largest district north of San Francisco, the district has rich history and much potential for community support, as evidenced by the formations of Foundations such as Elsie Allen, SRHS and Schools Plus. I believe the district has invested resources wisely in supporting new technologies, teaching strategies and implementing strong programs that reinforce and supplement learning for all types of students.

The district implemented a well thought out strategic plan that incorporates the requirements of Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) priorities and appears to have made good progress on the plan. The district seems to be well positioned to carry out the next strategic plan as it is developed. Additionally, as a district, SRCS is ahead of some with the implementation of initiatives focused on school climate improvement and Social Emotional Learning (SEL), such as Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies (PBIS), mindfulness, restorative discipline practices and opportunities for youth voice and engagement that leads to increased school connectedness and improved academic achievement.

One of the unique strengths of SRCS is the commitment to passionate response in the wake of recent disasters, ensuring that teachers and students affected were mindfully supported.

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

The following are some of the areas for improvement that I can see from my limited view, from the perspective of a parent and CEO of a youth development organization. If appointed to the Area 3 Trustee position, I would look forward to gaining a deeper understanding and perspective for where the district is currently and opportunities for improvement.

- Continued effort and resources allocated to balancing the achievement gap throughout the district.

- Increased revenue streams (budget) focused on improving decreased enrollment and possible other sources to support a budget that accommodates a thriving cutting-edge school district.
- More family engagement, buy-in and resources needed in striving towards the strategic goal of moving to a full-service community model for those schools that need it.
- Continued focus on garnering more community support and partnerships.
- Continued focus on sharing good news and success stories focused on academic achievements as well as extracurricular and enrichment activities.

7. Do you have any prior experience serving on a governing board, specifically a school district board?

I have not served on a school district board. I have however served on several nonprofit organization's boards including the California Child Parent Institute and Tomorrow's Leaders Today. I have also served on multiple school-based boards including the Franklin Preschool Board, the Parent Faculty Student Organization (PFSO) for Hidden Valley Elementary School and the Student Teacher Parent Council (STPC) for Rincon Valley Middle School. As well as being an active member of these boards, I have served in all officer positions including, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President.

Additionally, as a former Nonprofit Management Consultant and a seasoned CEO and Executive Director for nonprofit organizations, I have a 10-year proven track record of success and am experienced with best practices for successful board governance. I also hold a master's degree in Nonprofit Administration that provided substantial education on board governance.

8. Have you worked on any school committees or participated in any school activities recently?

During the past 10 years, I have served on many school committees and been very active in my son's schools. Some of these roles include:

- Site Council, Volunteer Coordinator, Teacher's Wish List Coordinator, Fund Development and Family Giving Campaign Coordinator, Room Parent Coordinator, Teacher Appreciations Committee, Dance Committee and Fall Carnival Coordinator.
- I served on the District Advisory Committee (DAC) representing Rincon Valley Middle School for SRSC.
- I was very proud to serve as the Treasurer and active committee member for the Measure I and L campaigns in 2016 that raised \$229 million in tax dollars for bonds to support SRCS to implement long term facilities and technology upgrades in the district.

9. Describe any other community, business or faith-based activities in which you have participated. Describe your role, and whether your work was volunteer, or employment related.

The following roles are volunteer and have been tied into my work as a Community Based Organization professional:

- Expanding Your Horizons: Annual one-day conference held at SSU and SRJC to promote math, science and technology for 7th and 8th grade girls. I served on this committee which included delivering the conference for 8 years and held multiple positions throughout.
- Cradle to Career Sonoma County Operations Team: An Initiative of Health Action with the goal of "preparing all children and youth for success by educating the community,

connecting partners and amplifying approaches that work". As well as serving on the operations team for 2.5 years, I was a committee member for Goal Area 2, which states, "the academic success of every child is supported in and out of school" and was instrumental in developing Goal 2 as a priority for Sonoma County.

- Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board: I served on the Youth Council for 2 years.
- City of Santa Rosa Violence Prevention Partnership: I am currently serving on the Policy Team.
- Sonoma County Probation Department - Keeping Kids in School: I am currently a member of this group and represent Community Matters in a partnership with Keeping Kids in School, West Ed and the National Institute of Justice.
- I am on the newly formed collaborative committee with Keeping Kids in School and Cradle to Career, formed to develop the iAttend Campaign to promote school attendance in Sonoma County.