



CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM FOR TRUSTEE AREA 3

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

Date: 3/29/2019

De La Cruz, Alegria G.
(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)

Business Address: _____

Home Address: _____

Are you registered to vote at this address? Yes ☒ No ☐

E-mail: _____

Occupation and Employer: Attorney - Sonoma County Counsel

No. of Years Residing in Trustee Area 3 of the District: 3.75

Do you have or have you had children in the district's schools? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, what schools? Proctor Terrace (2015-present)
Santa Rosa Middle (Fall 2019)

1. Why do you want to be a school board member?

please see attached responses

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

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

Alegría De La Cruz
School Board Application
March 29, 2019

1. Why do you want to be a school board member?

I am a bicultural, bilingual, and biliterate mother of two children; my husband and I are happily and proudly educating them in our public school system. I am a firm believer in the promise of a public school education, and I am also keenly aware of the myriad challenges that we all have to make that promise true for all of our children, especially those who need us to do more and better for them.

I am a dedicated public servant and an advocate, and I am skilled in navigating bureaucratic systems to affect change and to work towards equitable outcomes for all of our community members.

I believe in democracy and know that our institutions must reflect our diverse community in order to ensure meaningful representation. My history in California public schools as a bilingual child of color, as a child raised in poverty, and as the child of farmworkers and organizers gives me the experience and background to ensure I am able to see, hear, and advocate for those who experience marginalization in our institutions. I also have experience being educated in elite private institutions outside of California, and am able to bring those experiences to ensure the district is informed about different models, practices, expectations, and mores.

I will be effective in broaching difficult conversations, and in brokering positive and productive relationships between parties to ensure we are able to work together.

Ultimately, I want to be a school board member to bring to bear my unique skillset and experiences to ensure our children have positive educational experiences and enjoy future success.

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

Public schools ensure that all children have equitable access to future success, that our children have the skillset to live happy, fulfilling lives, that they are able to develop critical intellectual and emotional skills, and that they can create a foundation for friendships and meaningful connection to each other.

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

The role of the school board is to unite our community to develop a set of shared values and goals, to secure the resources to attain those goals, to support our teachers and leaders with the resources and skills to educate our children, and to lead our schools to a vibrant and strong future. Finally, the school board has a critical responsibility to develop and ensure compliance with policies that help our teachers and leaders operationalize and realize the vision.

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

I am a relatively recent transplant to Santa Rosa, but we are home, and have felt at home since our first days in this town. I am now a proud Santa Rosan, with my feet firmly planted in this community.

I came home to California in 2000, after having been accepted to the University of California, Berkeley for law school. I chose to attend a public school for law school *because of* the passage of Proposition 209, because our institutions of higher education had become tragically re-segregated, and I wanted to learn the skills and gain the knowledge to ensure equity in educational access for all Californians. I spent three amazing years learning how to be a lawyer who was able to advocate for students and people experiencing marginalization in our public institutions, both with regard to the curriculum delivered and the experiences we endured.

More recently, at my children's school, Proctor Terrace, with other bilingual and bicultural parents, we started a group to ensure our school had parent translators at school events, to ensure that all parents were able to participate in their children's education, including back to school night. I now serve as the Secretary of our school's ELAC, and work to build bridges and relationships between parents and our school.

I am actively engaged in my children's education, including participating in field trips and class activities, editing essays, and learning common core math!

I am deeply committed to working to protect a high quality educational experience for students, teachers, and administrators.

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

Our school district has a beautiful combination of new and experienced leaders, thoughtful and caring administrators, and engaged advocates and parents.

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

Implementation of good, new ideas; leadership on ethnic studies; resources for teachers to effectively teach an increasingly diverse population; and productive relationships between labor and the district.

6. Do you have prior experience serving on a governing board, specifically a school district board? Please list such prior experience.

I do not have experience on a school district board. However, I have worked as staff for governing boards, including the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, the Renewal Enterprise District, the Community Development Commission, and the USDA – Farm

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Service Agency, and I have experience and knowledge about how to navigate those dynamics.

I do have many years of experience serving as a board member on community-based organizations.

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

I am currently the Secretary of the Proctor Terrace English Learner Advisory Committee.

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.

My participation in the organizations listed below is/was as a volunteer. My work experiences are described in my resume, attached here to this application.

Member, Board of Directors, Healthcare Foundation of Northern Sonoma County (January 2019 – present)
Member, Steering Committee, SoCo Rises (October 2018 - present)
Member, Board of Directors, Los Cien Sonoma County (Oct. 2017 – present)
Member, Board of Directors, Raizes Collective (July 2017 – February 2019)
Member, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency State Committee (Jan. 2016 – Jan. 2018)
Member, San Joaquin Valley Advisory Committee, Northern California Community Loan Fund (2005-2011).
Member, Environmental Justice Grant Advisory Committee, Rose Foundation (2010-2011).
Member, Board of Directors, Centro Legal de la Raza (2009-2011).
Member, Board of Directors, Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo del Indígena Oaxaqueño (2003-2011).
Founding Member and Director, Rice & Beans Cooperative Pre-School Collective (2009-2010).
Member, Stakeholder Committee, Empowered Partnerships: Participatory Action Research for Environmental Justice, Hon. Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice Symposium, UC Berkeley School of Law (October 2010).
Co-Convenor, La Raza Law Journal Symposium: “Raising the Bar: Latino and Latina Presence in the Judiciary and the Struggle for Representation,” and National Latino Law Students Conference, UC Berkeley School of Law (October 26–28, 2001).