

Candidate Information Sheet

Alpine County Unified School District / Alpine County Office of Education

Please fill out and return by October 2, 2019 to Lia Story.

Date: September 30, 2019 Full Legal Name: January Riddle

Business		Home	
Occupation	Retired/ Communication Coach	Address	Same as business
Employer	self	Phone	Same as business
Business Address	760 Hot Springs Rd. Box 146, Markleeville, CA 96120	Email	januaryridl@yahoo.com
Business Phone	619 993-2606	No. of Years Residing in Alpine County	1 1/4

Do you have children in the district's schools? ☐ YES ☒ NO

If yes, what schools? _____

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

Alpine County Democratic Central Committee Board of Directors (Secretary) **
Diversions Theatre Company (San Diego, CA) Board of Directors (Secretary)
American Civil Liberties Union – West Virginia State Board of Directors (Secretary)
San Diego Democratic Club (Executive Vice President)
National Organization for Women – San Diego County Chapter – (President)

**To be finalized at October meeting.

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

I serve on the Magical Markleeville Christmas Faire Committee, which includes the children's cookie decorating contest and Santa Claus. (2018-Present)

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.

Markleeville Enhancement Club – planning and communications volunteer
Alpine Biomass Collaborative – MOA co-author - volunteer
Carson Valley Civic Theatre – publicity – volunteer

Concerned Citizens of Hot Springs Road Corridor – Coordinator - volunteer
Magical Markleeville Christmas Faire Committee – planning and communications – volunteer
Alpine County Democratic Central Committee Board of Directors – Secretary - volunteer

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

To serve my community and to offer my extensive educational experience as a resource.

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

To offer students opportunities to learn what they need in order to progress in their lives and to become productive and engaged members of their communities. To develop students' potentials, skills, and talents so that they are prepared to learn throughout their lifetimes

6. How does the board's role differ from that of the superintendent?

The school board hires and evaluates the school superintendent. The board sets the overall vision for the district, ideally working with the superintendent to do so. The board is also a policy body that uses the budget to strategize and plan courses of action.

The superintendent is the CEO of the school district. An ideal superintendent has a vision for the district and works with the board to set the goals and objectives for the district, then sees that they are achieved. He or she is an instructional leader and the face of the district.

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

Working as a team to foster a culture of cooperation in solving a problem of importance to all, and finding ways to use the talents, education, and expertise of each member of the board and involved administration would create an ideal relationship.

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

My commitment to education spans nearly four decades as a professor in higher education. During that time, I have served on numerous committees and worked as advisor to student organizations. I believe that education can solve, or help to solve, a wide range of social, health, and governmental problems. For individuals, education offers opportunities to achieve one's potential. Although public education begins in childhood, it is a commitment to lifelong learning that leads to greater success in business, social, familial, and community endeavors.

Alpine County is now my home, and I have demonstrated my commitment to service here in a variety of ways. I want to be a part of the future success of my community, and serving the schools here would be one important way to do that.

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

Alpine County is in a wonderful location that offers opportunities for living and learning in a small community. Student enrollment in our schools is correspondingly small, and the student-teacher ratio of 10:1 offers each pupil greater opportunities for individual attention and a corresponding chance for greater learning success. A high percentage of Native American students offers many chances for cultural exchanges within the student body. Taking advantage of natural resources that the environment offers and celebrating individual students' achievements and talents are more likely in a small community and school than in a much larger city and institution.

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

The California Distinguished Schools list of awardees does not mention Alpine County in the years from 2015 through 2019, although the county's past history includes several years of such achievement. The award is given to only a small percentage of public schools, and the qualifications include academic performance and yearly progress. Working to achieve this award of excellence in academic programs in the current and next few years would be a worthy goal for all of Alpine County's schools and staff.

In perusing the parent survey of 2018, I found several areas that may need attention. For example, to the statement, "School motivates students to learn," 60% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed, but 30% disagreed or strongly disagreed. What does that 1/3 parent sample indicate? What role does motivation play in a student's success and in the achievements of the school as a whole? These are just examples of areas and questions that came from the results of that parent survey, and working together, we can highlight others for consideration and possible action.

11. Do you have any other comments or concerns:

Making sure that every student is physically, mentally, and emotionally ready to learn and that every teacher, administrator, and staff member has the tools necessary to help students desire and achieve their full potentials should be universal objectives of all educational institutions. As a member of the school board, I hope to help and to encourage all stakeholders in achieving those objectives.