

Application for Governing Board Appointment*

THIS APPLICATION IS A PUBLIC RECORD

The appointee will hold office until the next governing board member election, which occurs at the next Statewide General Election on November 6, 2018. [EC § 5091(e)]

No additional materials may be submitted with this application.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicant must be a citizen of California, a resident of the Dehesa School District and a registered voter. 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. [EC § 35107]

Certification of qualifications on page 5 must be signed by the applicant.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

This application must be received no later than **December 12, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.** Applications may be mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered to:

Secretary to the Board/Nancy Hauer
4612 Dehesa Rd.
El Cajon, CA 92019
Phone: (619)444-2161
Fax: (619) 444-2105

(Please type or print):

Name Karen Kirkpatrick

Address 1833 Harbison Canyon Rd. El Cajon CA 92019

Home (B3Y) 325-5144 Business () same

Years of Residence in the Dehesa School District 5 1/2 years

*This application was approved by the Dehesa School District on March 9, 2017.

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QUALIFICATIONS: (Stay within space allowed for answers. Do not attach extra pages.)

1. Describe your educational, work and/or public service background.

I have spent the majority of my adult life working with organizations that support the education of people from young to old. I studied biology at UCSC, and tutored fellow students in math, worked in the science lab, and eventually became a college level TA. Upon commencement, I worked at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History, I worked hand in hand with the County Office of Education to ensure our tours were meeting their educational standards. I also developed the educational materials that were distributed beforehand as supplements to their overall experience. Later, when I worked with Pigeon Pt. Lighthouse, I collaborated with multiple agencies including California State Parks, Youth Hostels, and the Coast Guard all while running a vibrant docent program. Eventually, I moved into the business sector and held a position managing a multi-million dollar account for a marketing agency. I gathered 1000's of mystery shoppers, and sent them all over the nation and gathered their reports. Then, I moved back into the not for profit sector and took charge of the operations for one of the largest non-profits in the Santa Cruz area. When the economy began to struggle, I found creative ways to manage our purchases and come in under budget.

Currently, I work from home as a virtual assistant. I do graphic design, website support, blog writing, marketing, and other items to support my clients' success in their business. It affords me a flexible schedule so that I may support my family and devote energy to interest such as serving on the school board.

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

Dehesa has been of exceptional support to my daughter. She has an IEP, and at other schools, it has felt like the teachers were burdened by the accommodations required. This has not been the case at Dehesa. At each twist and turn of her various needs, Dehesa has been her ally and her champion. The teachers and staff have supported her, and they have supported me. In return, I have tried to lend assistance where I can. I go on almost every field trip, I've served as an unofficial aide, and I've helped fundraise. It is the least I can do to give back to my community.

I've often been called a renaissance woman, because I'm capable in a variety of arenas. I don't have a solid plan on what my agenda is per se, other than to be of benefit to the students, to the staff, and to the teachers. I will watch, learn and then lend tremendous creativity towards our success.

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3. What skills, abilities, and experience would you bring to the Board to assist in carrying out its responsibilities?

Skills: volunteer coordination, project management, event coordination, fundraising, volunteer recruitment, graphic design, diplomatic communications, facility management, program administration, educational development, technical and inspirational writing, non-profit management, public speaking, training, community outreach

Experience: served on Natural History Board of Directors, staff liaison to Inner Light Ministries Board of Directors, Education Director Natural History Museum, Interpreter Floating Lab, Volunteer Coordinator ILM, Minister of Operations ILM,

4. List your involvement in activities that demonstrate your understanding and support for public education, such as membership on committees/organizations, offices held, volunteer work, and community service.

Dehesa Committees: EC SELPA Community Advisory Committee(2015-17), School Site Council (2016)

Positions: Director of Education, Natural History Museum of Santa Cruz (1998-2003), preschool teacher, Interpreter Floating Lab, freelance writer McGraw Hill science tests

Volunteerism: Docent Natural History Museum, Board of Directors, Dehesa, Canyonview Elem.

When I was 19 years old, I walked into the Natural History Museum in Santa Cruz. I was warmly greeted and immediately fell in love with the cozy little space. Despite being a struggling student with two part-time jobs, I signed up to be a docent. The training was rigorous, but I loved leading tours with the school children. Eventually, I became the Education director. I served on a number of committees working with teachers and our curriculum development. I wanted to ensure that as their requirements shifted, we were meeting their needs. In addition to the County, we also served the Parks and Rec department, and I came up with programming that became a revenue stream that increased our coffers, and provided relief for parents during school breaks. The coordination between multiple agencies was paramount to our success even though we were just the little museum by the sea.

As a parent of 3 children, I've been in the trenches in very different ways. I've always looked for ways that I can best assist their schools in the avenues presented. From sitting in the classroom, to typing up minutes, "however I may best serve" has been my motto.

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5. List, in order of importance, the major issues confronting public education and, specifically, the **Dehesa School District**.

1. Finances
2. Teacher Burn Out
3. Parent Involvement (to prevent #2)
4. SARC Ratings - enrollment
5. College/University AND Trade Schools
6. Country School/ Dirt**

Times are a bit uncertain as finances at the Federal level and locally need to be considered. Dehesa is a unique school district. It's a small school, in a remote area, located in a big city. Each and every enrollment, or disenrollment greatly affects our fiscal bottom line.

With one teacher per grade, and spotty parental involvement, I see it's easy for teachers to burn out or seek larger districts with more opportunities. I think there is an opportunity to get parents involved a bit more.

To prevent disenrollment, people often evaluate a school based on SARC scores. This is unfortunate. I don't think we need to focus on raising the score so much as focus on all the other elements of our great school. SOLUTION: Marketing

To focus solely on going to college is doing our students a disservice. I believe there needs to be a broader consideration. Trade schools. Apprenticeships. Etc.

**This isn't so much an issue as an opportunity. I would love to see some more country in our country school, i.e. dirt. Or more specifically, maybe we could start a Life Lab where we grow some plants, or possibly partner up with a 4H program. This could help maintain and grow enrollment.

6. Explain the mission of the **Dehesa School District**.

The mission as it currently stands, seems pretty self explanatory to me. I will say it does seem to me that the intent of the mission is being carried out. As a parent, what I see is my daughter growing and challenging herself to try harder, to do more, to be self-motivated. Despite her physical challenges and learning disabilities, she is not discouraged about her future. She and I have been supported through her academic, social and emotional challenges. Our family, a mishmash Brady-bunch like group, is encouraged to partake in regular activities.

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.”

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CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS:

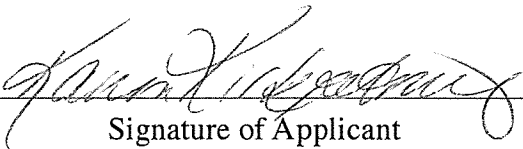
I understand that this application is a public document and may be requested under provisions of the Public Records Act and/or be available to the public on the **Dehesa School District** website.

I understand that upon appointment I would be required to file a Conflict of Interest Statement 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 Sample School District, and a registered voter.

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



Signature of Applicant



Date

Information contained on this application may be subject to verification.