

# AUSD Board of Education Provisional Appointment Application

Due to a mid-term resignation, a position on the AUSD Board of Education is available. **Being a member of the Board of Education is the most important position an Albany resident can hold to engage with and support public education.** The Board of Education consists of five members who collectively oversee the Superintendent of Schools, approve budgets and contracts, and set the direction and mission of the District.

**All applicants are welcome!** Please note that this appointed position is in **addition** to the two positions that will be selected by voters in the November 5, 2024 General Election. Mid-term resignations will be filled by appointment and not by election.

Candidates need to be present at the **Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2024** at 7:00pm to interview with the Board of Education. The successful candidate will be appointed and will take their seat immediately. The new Board member will also need to participate in the **Special Meeting of the Board on Wednesday, August 14** at 6:00–8:30pm.

- **Applications due:** by Thursday, August 8, 2024 at midnight (PT)
- **Interviews and Appointment:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 7:00pm (at Board Meeting)
- Provisional Appointment will be through December 2026

Email \*

## APPLICANT QUALIFICATION FORM

FULL NAME \*

Jolene Gazmen

COMPLETE HOME ADDRESS (physical address) \*

Albany, CA 94706

MAILING ADDRESS (If same as above, write N/A) \*

N/A

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN THE DISTRICT \*

5 years

HAVE YOU EVER HAD CHILDREN ATTENDING DISTRICT SCHOOLS? \*



YES



NO

IF YES, SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED OR ATTENDING AND DATES \*

Cornell Elementary 2020-2021 school year  
Ocean View Elementary 2021-2022 school year  
Ocean View Elementary 2022-2023 school year  
Ocean View Elementary 2023-2024 school years

HOME PHONE NUMBER \*

N/A

CELL PHONE NUMBER \*

[REDACTED]

OCCUPATION \*

Registered Behavior Technician

EMPLOYER \*

Butterfly Effects, LLC

LENGTH OF TIME AT CURRENT EMPLOYER \*

1 year

WORK ADDRESS \*

Client site address; confidential

WORK PHONE NUMBER \*

Same as personal

EMAIL ADDRESS \*

[REDACTED]

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING AND CHECK BELOW INDICATING AGREEMENT: \*

☒ I hereby certify that I am a qualified voter of the Albany Unified School District in the County of Alameda, in the State of California, and wish to be considered for appointment to fill a vacancy on the Governing Board of the Albany Unified School District.

☒ I hereby certify that I meet all legal requirement to be a member of the Governing Board of the Albany Unified School District.

☒ I hereby certify that the information I have presented in the submitted application packet is complete, accurate, and true to the best of my knowledge, and hereby authorize the Governing Board to verify this information as may be required. I understand that all application materials I have submitted are subject to the laws governing public information.

☒ I understand that the District will review my status in the "Megan's Law" database. I further agree that if I am appointed to fill the Board vacancy, I will obtain fingerprint clearance through the Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation within one (1) month of appointment and prior to visiting any District school sites when students are presented.

## APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER PROVISIONAL APPOINTMENT

Please answer the following questions.

1. Have you served on any community commission, committee, or other type of board? If so, please list them below and dates served. \*

No

2. Have you participated in any school activities or committees recently? Please list and explain. \*

Room parent for child's classes, assisted in grabbing items for last Fall Festival at Ocean View, volunteered for library days/book fairs, volunteered whenever available for various school events (e.g. to help operate the lunchtime milk canisters when first introduced, etc.)

\*

3. Describe any present or past civic affiliations or activities, including volunteer activities.

Similar and as described above, I've volunteered for a number of Ocean View Elementary events. I also volunteered with various UC Village events, from the Bear Pantry to weekly Bread and Bubbles giveaways, as well as multiple Village organized events.

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4. Briefly explain your reason or interest in becoming a school board member. \*

I want to become a board member because I love the community that we've found since living up here. I want to be able to advocate for our children and our students, and I want to ensure that we are doing whatever is in our power to make sure all voices within our community are heard.

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

In my humble opinion, the basic purpose of public schools is to ensure that all members of the community, regardless of socio-economic status, race, gender, ability, etc. get the best education possible. A good education should not be beholden to only those who have the means; we have so many talented children and we should do what we can do help them grow, find their strengths, and overall shine in our schools.

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6. What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose? \*

In order to fulfill this purpose, the school board should represent the communities around, with people from all different perspectives on life, different backgrounds, who can share their experiences. The school board should also be members who listen to the needs and wants of the community around them, and who want to be help be a positive force within their community. I also think that this would involve making sure that funds are allocated to avenues where children can learn, explore, and expand their varied interests.

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7. What issue related to the District and/or public education do you feel most strongly about? \*

One of the issues I feel very strongly and passionately about is building a stronger, more robust special education program within the school, with more paths to help students who may need those services. As a parent of a neurodivergent daughter myself, I found that navigating these systems are not only time consuming, but also difficult because some roles are simply vacant. And we have so many students who are still dealing with the fallout of being in lockdown for some of their most crucial developmental years. I want to ensure that all students have the ability to find the tools they need to make learning fun, and to find that spark that lights them up because that is how we develop a thriving community for generations to come.

8. What should be the relationship between the Board members and the administration in the handling of school concerns? \*

In terms of Board members and administration, I think there should be a civil collaboration when it comes to handling school concerns. Of course there will be moments where we disagree— it's natural after all. But I think that keeping an open, respectful dialogue is key. After all, school administrators are the ones who see our schools day after day, and are able to see the immediate needs firsthand. We on the Board would have a different perspective, and I think that if those two ideals ever clash, the best thing to do is try and explain why our decisions would be the way they are made, make concessions whenever possible to implement their needs, and above all, keep them involved in planning ahead as much as we possibly can in order to work in tandem as we find what's best for the schools and our students.

9. What is the single most critical issue facing the District in the immediate future and how would your background and experiences help the District to meet this challenge? \*

One of the most crucial issues facing our District in the immediate future is what I spoke of early in this form. This generation of children had to experience so much turmoil at such a young age. They were stuck in lockdown during some of their most formative developmental years, as well as a slew of other social issues within our country. Our children are facing the ramifications of what exactly that means, from suffering from higher cases of anxiety to less socialization, which is an essential part of humanity overall. In various degrees, I'm sure almost all of our students would benefit from programs to promote mental health. As a Registered Behavior Technician, I work directly with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, using naturalistic teaching to help them work through developing various skills. But more than that, I'm there with them through some of the rough times— their protests, their meltdowns, etc. It involves a lot of patience and understanding to help see them through those moments, but after time, it's incredibly rewarding to see the growth within them. And that's what I want for the students of Albany Unified School District. If we could help put into place more counseling for our kids, but also various events to promote mental health and to celebrate our differences (both seen and unseen), I think it would benefit these students immensely.

10. What do you see as the strengths of the Albany Unified School District? \*

I see the great power in Albany Unified School District's ability to create a strong sense of community, and moreover, just how diverse that community is. I remember Ocean View campus my daughter's kindergarten year; reaching out to other parents via the class roster to try and set up playdates. And some of those connections led to other connections, where another family would join the play date. And it didn't just stop at play dates; we began to form bonds, help one another at our events, or school events. Moreover, I remember being so excited because the school seemed to have a diverse population, and my kid would be able to learn about different cultures. It's incredibly rewarding to be part of a true community like the one we have found here.

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11. What do you see as the areas(s) most needing improvement in the Albany Unified School District? \*

I think one of the areas that needs improvement is outreach. There are a lot of families here that would love to get involved but possibly don't know how, or don't see a place that feels like it works for them. As room parent, I was able to learn that outreach and communication rather than generic messages helped to get more people involved. If we could create reach out more, we could create even stronger community bonds, active participation in our schools, and create more incentive to help our schools out whenever needed.

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12. Can you commit to attending the Regular Board Meetings in person, or via teleconference if \*  
necessary? Most Regular meetings begin at 7:00pm; closed sessions may be held at 6:00pm.  
The scheduled dates are listed below. ***Please list in your response below any meetings that you  
know you will not be able to attend, or confirm that you can attend all meetings.***

August 13 & 27, 2024

September 10 & 24

October 8 & 22,

November 19

December 10 & 17

January 14 & 28, 2025

February 11

March 11 & 25

April 8 & 29

May 13 & 27

June 10 & 17

August 13 & 27– arrive at 7:15pm.

I am currently working until 6:30pm and would more than likely be able to switch my times, but I need until  
September in order to give my work/clients ample time to adjust to the change in schedule. Other than that,  
all other times should work well.

13. Any additional information or remarks you believe are relevant to this appointment. \*

N/A

Please enter the date here to finalize and submit your application. \*

MM DD YYYY

08 / 08 / 2024

This form was created inside of Albany Unified School District.

Google Forms