

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Candidate Application Form

Please complete and return by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 21, 2020, to the Superintendent's Office of the Davis Joint Unified School District, 526 B Street or as a PDF to superintendent@djUSD.net. Application forms received after the above time and date will render the applicant ineligible for consideration of the position of Board member. Per Education Code 35107, applicants must be at least 18 years of age, reside within the boundaries of the Davis Joint Unified School District and be a registered voter.

This appointment fills an At-Large Trustee vacancy from July 3, 2020 through November 2022. This at-large position will cease to exist in November 2022. Beginning in November 2020, all Trustee seats will be elected through a By-Area Trustee election process.

Benson	Stacy	Q	6/19/2020
Last Name	First Name	Initial	Date

[Redacted]

Address (Street, City, State, Zip)

[Redacted]

Email Address

[Redacted]

Phone Number

Please answer the following questions using a maximum of 250 words per question. **Submit a brief resume with your application.** Please see answers to questions in attachment.

1. In what school or community committee or activities have you been active? Describe your contributions and with which communities these activities and contributions have allowed you to intersect.
2. Why do you want to be a Board member? What about this District motivates you to apply for the position?
3. There are three goals expressed in our LCAP focused on Conditions of Learning, Pupil Outcomes, and Engagement (see below*). In light of the rapidly evolving state budget situation and COVID-19 pandemic, describe how as a Trustee you would maintain a focus and support each of our LCAP goals.
4. DJUSD, along with all K-12 public education agencies in California, faces tremendous fiscal challenges. How do you believe the Board needs to approach this crisis and what skills and tools do you possess that will assist in this work.

5. Describe your understanding of equity and inclusion and how it should shape Board Governance.
6. What other attributes do you feel are important for a Board member? Describe your own skills and interests in relation to these attributes.

*To make sure all students—especially low-income students, English learners, homeless and foster youth—will be served well by this funding, each district must set goals and show growth in specific priority areas. The goals and actions to achieve them must be created with input from community, parents, students and staff. These goals and actions are called the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). In DJUSD:

- All Students will experience 21st Century teaching and learning. **(Conditions of Learning)**
- Davis Joint Unified School District educators will close the achievement gap. **(Pupil Outcomes)**
- Classrooms and school communities will be safe and inclusive environments. **(Engagement)**

More information regarding the LCAP can be found at www.djUSD.net and go to DJUSD/Instruction/LCAP.

Provisional Appointment Timeline

Tuesday, June 9, 2020	Board Meeting – Timeline Approved
Friday, June 12, 2020	Application Materials Available
Saturday, June 13, 2020	Board Meeting - Further discussion on Trustee Vacancy
Tuesday, June 16, 2020	Solicit community input for interview questions through Sunday June 28, 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 18, 2020	Board Meeting - Further discussion on Trustee Vacancy
Sunday, June 21, 2020	Application Deadline – By email to superintendent@djUSD.net by 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 23, 2020	Board materials, including candidate applications, posted for the June 25 meeting.
Tuesday, June 23, 2020	Virtual applicant orientation presented by senior District administrators from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 25, 2020	Board Meeting – <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Application Review● Applicant Presentation● Public/Trustee Comment
Sunday, June 28, 2020	Community Input for Interview Questions Deadline – By email to superintendent@djUSD.net by 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 2, 2020	Second Round of Interviews <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Voting Process and Selection of Candidate (Method To Be Determined)● Appointment
Friday, July 3, 2020	Official Oath Administered and new Trustee assumes role

Please contact Superintendent John Bowes at superintendent@djUSD.net if you have any questions.

Applicant: Stacy Q. Benson

In what school or community committee or activities have you been active? Describe your contributions and with which communities these activities and contributions have allowed you to intersect.

Having a life-long experience in the restaurant industry has proven valuable to my community. For nearly 20 years, my goal was to help nourish Davis locals by providing healthy, affordable meals as Director of Operations at Pluto's restaurants. Decades ago, I laid down my roots in Davis, building a business from the ground up that many came to love and enjoy. I am proud of my accomplishment in the Davis community.

Passionate about serving others, I often volunteer in the kitchen for Davis Community Meals. I enjoy the volunteer work and sometimes run the kitchen as head chef. I always execute top quality service to provide a warm, tasty meal to the underserved in our community.

Aspiring to lead by example, I encouraged my children to assist those who need warm clothes by helping them host an annual coat drive to support the Short-Term Emergency Aid Committee (STEAC). We have hosted this event for the past five years. This year, we held a canned food drive for Davis Community Meals to help those struggling during the COVID-19 health crisis.

I have also joined my fellow Cornell University alumni by helping to box food for the needy at the Sacramento Food Bank, and for many years, I organized food and wine donations for St. James School and the Davis Lady Demon Softball organization.

Being involved with community service has been an enjoyable part of my life that I intend to continue.

Why do you want to be a Board member? What about the District motivates you to apply for the position?

I have a tremendous amount of respect for the Davis Joint Unified School District and would like to contribute my valuable talents during this vital, unprecedented time for K-12 education.

As a school board member, I intend to be inclusive of all children to better their educational experience and make a lasting influence on students, their peers, and future generations.

As we face monumental changes in education, my expertise in handling conflict through alternative dispute resolution techniques will be paramount to the many controversial issues the school district may face.

There are three goals expressed in our LCAP focused on Conditions of Learning, Pupil Outcomes, and Engagement (see below*) In light of the rapidly evolving state budget situation and COVID-19 pandemic, describe how as a Trustee you would maintain a focus and support each of our LCAP goals.

Community involvement is key to the success of our school district, especially during these unprecedented times.

Conditions of Learning

As a trustee, I will encourage programs to have all students experience 21st Century teaching and learning by creating a strong focus on strengthening a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, architecture, and mathematics) program. Architecture is a new component because there will be a need for that discipline to re-design buildings with social distancing in mind.

A key component of the STEAM curricula is to involve the teachers. Educators who have a stake in designing the curriculum can only strengthen the value of education for the Davis Joint Unified School District.

Pupil Outcomes

With distance learning becoming a permanent possibility, we need to find a way to get students back in an environment where they feel safe and supported with technology that won't fail but rather inspire them. We need to listen to the public for ideas and support.

Engagement

DJUSD must incorporate a comprehensive online distance learning program that not only provides a complete grading system beyond pass/fail but holds teachers and students 100-percent accountable. The top priority of this system must be ensuring the inclusiveness of every student enrolled in the district and a way to promote social connections without missing a beat. Social interactions are paramount to the mental health and well-being of every child.

The district must consider safety for the students and faculty who can return to campus. Working with local architects and engineers to facilitate safe and sanitary workspaces as well as campus safety from terrorist attacks, is essential.

DJUSD, along with all K-12 public education agencies in California, faces tremendous fiscal challenges. How do you believe the Board needs to approach this crisis and what skills and tools do you possess that will assist in this work.

The State of California's lack of funding due to unfunded pensions gets passed down to the school district. For decades, DJUSD taxpayers have made up for the loss. But with many now struggling through the Coronavirus pandemic, how much longer will that last?

The District's cost of retiree health benefits and pension programs is a big concern. To tackle this dilemma, I would propose the following:

- Identifying and cutting egregious spending.
- Joining other districts to gain more purchasing power and try to lower the cost of healthcare rates from providers.
- Create a stronger bond with the private sector for support.

Creating a budget that cuts down on wasteful spending will free up more funds to be allocated to essential programs, including the Local Control Accountability Plan. Our most vulnerable students, including foster kids, homeless students, English learners, and those living in poverty will receive sustainable support to lead them down the path to a bright future as adults.

With a better understanding of the District's budget, I would take a collaborative effort to approach this crisis. I bring many years of fiscal accountability as well as mediation and negotiating skills to the table. As the Director of Operations for nine restaurants across

California, I successfully reduced costs while negotiating with vendors. My expertise would be key to solving DJUSD's fiscal dilemma. My education in Industrial Labor Relations at Cornell University and my experience with human resource management and dispute resolution would be valuable to what the District needs.

Describe your understanding of equity and inclusion and how it should shape Board Governance.

Many kids in our community struggle with extreme pressures that can affect their education. As a trustee, I would support a Board policy that would create more programs that can empower them to succeed in life.

Whether a child struggles with substance addiction, mental health, domestic abuse, poverty, racism, immigration, or a learning disability, I feel the District must provide any child the proper path to adulthood with full-fledged, wrap-around support.

Utilizing the Local Control Accountability Plan is a good start to help kids in that targeted demographic, but more needs to be done to include all students who may be struggling. All too often, many children slip through the cracks in our society. Providing a safety net should be the District's number one goal. The challenge is finding the budget to support these programs.

Turning to the private sector is crucial to providing that wrap-around support. The Davis 1,000 Mentors for Youth Challenge was a great program that involved the community. It helped inspire kids and create opportunities they never imagined. This program, however, seems to have lost its steam. Creating a new program with reasonable expectations while reaching out to encourage all students to participate could spark a new movement.

Securing stronger support from our educational partner, UC Davis, could further the success of programs that help our students.

What other attributes do you feel are important for a Board member? Describe your own skills and interests in relation to these attributes.

I feel that following through on accountability while using emotional intelligence is the number one job as a Board member. Our community is trusting us to provide the most comprehensive education for our students in a safe and welcoming environment.

To ensure that all students, especially low-income students, English learners, homeless, and foster youth will be served, using the local control accountability plan, and holding others accountable is a must.

With distance learning and fluid changes taking place with our instruction plans, all teachers must be held accountable through specific checks and balances. Students should also be held accountable appropriate to their needs and the type of education they receive.

As a member, I would bring to the Board objective, critical thinking. I will always be willing to listen to others and all sides. My experience with alternative dispute resolution and my ability to mitigate ways of solving issues would be a great asset to the Board.

Over the years, I have developed strong relationships with institutions like UC Davis and Genentech and with several members of our community. These connections could secure a strong bond between our community and the school district.

Serving the students with the Davis Joint Unified School District with the utmost respect would be an honor. Thank you for this opportunity.

Mr. Stacy Benson

Operational Excellence, Human Resource Management, Change Planning and Implementation

Profile: _____

Accomplished senior level executive with track record of strategic and operational leadership. Intense and creative with a positive attitude and commitment to excellence. Expertise in developing and motivating managers and leaders at all levels of experience. Entrepreneurial leadership-style with highly effective planning, organizational, and communication skills. Demonstrated ability to instill a common vision and develop a dynamic team based on trust and mutual respect.

Professional Experience: _____

Dave Scheiber's State Farm Insurance Agency October 2018 – Current **Agent Aspirant**

Working toward owning my own agency where I can live up to the State Farm mission of helping people manage risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected and realize their dreams.

Core Responsibilities:

- Meet with customers to review current insurance in an effort to ensure coverage is appropriate.
- Answer all questions and help customers choose insurance that fits their needs.
- Seek out new customers.
- Service all business clients.

California Restaurant Association April 2018 – September 2018 **Vice President Membership**

The mission of the California Restaurant Association is to be the definitive voice of the California foodservice industry.

- Oversee statewide sales, membership and customer service teams.
- Grow and manage relationships with large chain restaurant groups.
- Develop information and educational programs in conjunction with Chambers of Commerce throughout the state.
- Consult with CRA Foundation on new programs and bringing said programs to membership.
- Expand products for our restaurant members in an effort to add value to the CRA and help improve profitability of member operations.

Pluto's Restaurants

May 1999 – April 2018

Director of Operations

Accountable for growth and daily operations of nine Pluto's restaurants. Headquartered in San Francisco, Pluto's has multiple locations across Northern California. Operations are based on serving fresh food including salads, carved meats, sandwiches and grilled vegetables while offering a friendly one-on-one experience at individual food service stations.

Core Responsibilities and Achievements:

Work with Higher Education and Professional Institutions:

- Established good working relationships with Cal Poly University, Stanford University, UC Davis, Chico State University, Sacramento State University, UC San Francisco, San Francisco State University, and Genetech Inc.
- Provided food service and catering for large events, graduations and faculty/employee seminars.
- Worked with university and corporate department heads to create new and fresh ideas while bringing excitement to the food culture on each campus.

New Store Openings:

- Opened six Pluto's restaurants from ground up.
- Develop vendor relations for each new market.
- Interview and hire all management and hourly employees to staff new operation.
- Develop marketing strategies for new openings.
- Lay initial groundwork for long-term success through hiring, training and accountability.
- Provided guidance and direction with the design and layout for each restaurant.

Cost of Goods Sold Management:

- Reduced Pluto's food cost from 42 percent when I started to 31 percent currently.
- Engineer menus to reflect desired food cost and highlight lower food cost specials.
- Train all managers and preps to fully understand recipes and portion control. Focus on "why" the details of recipes and portion control are important.
- Negotiate with vendors to lower cost through contract buying and rebates.

Human Resource Management:

- Develop and update all training and employee manuals.
- Working with a diverse and multi-cultural team.
- Hold all managers accountable for proper training techniques, training follow through, and administering employee files.
- Engage in dispute resolution meetings to mitigate and eliminate employee and management conflicts.
- Oversee all management counseling.

- Develop work plans for employee teams to inspire crews to project strong and healthy work ethics.

P&L and Budget Management:

- Create and set budgets on an annual basis while focusing on long-term fiscal stability.
- Manage to those budgets daily through phone and personal meetings.
- Increased same store sales by over five-percent the last three years by focusing on great customer service and introducing new value-added specials.

Food Safety Standards and Compliance:

- Developed “Time as a Public Safety” standards for a very complex operation.
- Consult with health inspectors in various markets to determine their particular focus and concerns.
- Developed company-wide standards that address all concerns across various health departments.
- Developed corporate inspection checklists to ensure operations are following all standards.
- Personally, inspect all restaurants.

Power Juice and Food

May 1996 – April 1999

Managing Partner

Accountable for daily operations of two restaurants in Monterey, CA and Carmel, CA.

Concept focused on vegetarian wraps, soups, steamed entrees, sugar free smoothies, fresh juices and wheat grass.

Core Responsibilities and Achievements:

- Wrote business plan to open second restaurant and to lay groundwork for future expansion.
- Helped redesign menu and recipes to include free range turkey.
- Oversaw three years of sales growth during my tenure.
- Negotiated deals with vendors that eventually cut our food cost by over five percent.
- Hired and trained all employees and managers.
- Built incredibly loyal clientele through personal service and healthy food.

Pepper’s Restaurant and Nightclub, City of Industry, CA – 1991 and 1992

Manager for both restaurant and bar with a 500-person capacity. High volume restaurant with large nightclub attached that featured live bands, comedians, and popular DJ’s as entertainment.

Four Seasons Olympic Hotel. Hawaiian Prince Hotel. Rio Grill, Real Restaurants.

Waiter/Busser/Barback/ Wine Trainer

Community Outreach:_____

- Sacramento Food Bank through Cornell Gives
- St. James Church, Davis CA
- Donation drive to serve STEAC, Short Term Emergency Aid Committee, Yolo County, CA

Education:_____

- Bachelor of Science Industrial Labor Relations, Cornell University, Ithaca New York.

Focus on Alternative Dispute Resolution and HR Management