



**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](mailto: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 1, 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.

Last Name	First Name	Initial	Date
<b>Taylor, Christine J</b>			<b>17 June 2020</b>

Address (Street, City, State, Zip)

[Redacted Address]

Email Address

[Redacted Email Address]

Phone Number

[Redacted Phone Number]

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

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](http://www.djUSD.net) and go to [DJUSD/Instruction/LCAP](http://DJUSD/Instruction/LCAP).

### Provisional Appointment Timeline

Tuesday, June 9, 2020	Board Meeting – Timeline Approved
Friday, June 12, 2020	Application Materials Available
<b>Sunday, June 21, 2020</b>	Application Deadline – By email to <a href="mailto:superintendent@djUSD.net">superintendent@djUSD.net</a> by <b>5:00 p.m.</b>
Monday, June 22, 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"> <li>• Application Review</li> <li>• Applicant Presentation</li> <li>• Public/Trustee Comments</li> <li>• Voting Process and Selection of Candidate (Method To Be Determined)</li> <li>• Appointment</li> </ul>
Wednesday, July 1, 2020	Official Oath Administered and new Trustee assumes role

Please contact Superintendent John Bowes at [superintendent@djUSD.net](mailto:superintendent@djUSD.net) if you have any questions.

## DJUSD Board of Trustees Candidate Application Form

### Christine J. Taylor

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

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.*

Most recently, I served as Treasurer for the “Yes on Measure M” ballot measure committee in support of the \$150 million school facilities bond to upgrade the District’s schools.

Since 2017, I have served as Treasurer for Davis Grad Night. Davis Grad Night’s mission is to provide a fun, safe and sober all-night graduation celebration for all graduating seniors from the four high schools within Davis Joint Unified School District (Davis Senior High School, DaVinci High School, Martin Luther King High School and DSIS) with approximately 90% of each year’s graduating class attending the event.

Our family has lived in the District for 20 years. My children attended Pioneer Elementary School, Francis Ellen Watkins Harper Junior High School and Davis Senior High School. My 20-year son graduated from DSHS in 2018, and my 16-year old daughter will graduate from DSHS in 2022. Over the years, I have supported the various requests by the schools and its staff – e.g., volunteer, donation, fundraising, etc.

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

Given the upcoming financial headwinds the District will face due to state cuts in educational funding and my interest in the health of the District as indicated by my support of the Measure M facilities bond, I believe I am uniquely qualified to be a value-added member of the DJUSD Board of Trustees during this challenging time.

- As outlined in my resume, I am a financial executive with 30 years of experience.
- Most recently, I have been the CFO of AGR Partners (2016 to present) and Sierra Energy (2013 to 2016) both Davis-based companies.
- I was previously a partner with Ernst & Young (1995 to 2010), a multinational professional services firm providing accounting, tax and consulting services. EY is one of the largest professional services firms in the world.

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.*

The purpose of the LCAP is simple. Execution and assessment of the effectiveness of the LCAP is complicated, especially when taking into consideration fiscal and social justice concerns arising from recent events. Focus and support of the LCAP goals are maintained through measurement of progress relative to the stated outcomes.

Given the District’s limited financial resources, there are likely tough decisions to make with respect to future spending as well as a responsibility to ensure sponsored actions are highly impactful to achieving desired outcomes. For example, this may be a recalibration (or at least validation) of the proposed spending plan for each LCAP goal – e.g., impact analysis of proposed actions, rescoring of services and expenditures, composite score to identify activities that best support positive student outcomes.

## DJUSD Board of Trustees Candidate Application Form

### Christine J. Taylor

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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.*

With respect to fiscal challenges, my experience as a financial executive leads me to a balanced approach:

- Deep cuts that may satisfy short-term objectives can often lead to a death spiral, also known as a downward demand spiral.
- While the District needs to be mindful of its financial position, it also needs to keep an eye on the future to avoid a downward demand spiral – specifically, decreasing enrollment numbers.

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

I have first-hand knowledge of the absence of equity and inclusion which has given me an awareness of overt and covert racism that continues in our society today.

- I observed ethnic bias during my childhood. I am the eldest daughter of Vietnamese immigrants who worked in the hospitality industry (housekeeping, foodservice) in a predominantly white community.
- I observed institutional gender bias during my time at Ernst & Young. Although women represented 50% of my starting class, less than 10% of partners were women in 2010. This percentage has now increased to 20%, with one in five partners a woman.

Striving for equity, inclusion and social justice requires us to be intentional and requires a “tone at the top” approach. Being intentional is neither a checklist, a process nor a mandate. Being intentional is a continued focus on achieving an outcome. I view board governance as critical in effecting change.

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

Listening and being open to differing opinions are important attributes. Listening is difficult as it involves suppressing one’s own ego to consider what is being said before responding. One does not need to agree, but there is an obligation to understand.

My career has been spent analyzing facts and understanding the context of a situation. I have a deep interest in the continued success of the District and serving its constituents.

# Christine J. Taylor

17 June 2020



Seasoned financial executive with 30 years of Big 4 public accounting experience as well as corporate accounting and financial experience with private companies. Strong problem-solving skills and the ability to apply those capabilities in a team environment. Ability to learn quickly about new industries and concepts, including those that require a technical understanding.

Hands on implementation of business and accounting systems and processes. Ability to manage operational aspects of the business, including manufacturing, sales channels and administration. Management experience with direct reports as well as leading extended teams involving specialists with diverse backgrounds and functional expertise.

## EXPERIENCE

### **AGR Partners | VP Finance**

(June 2016 to Present)

AGR Partners is founded on the premise that agriculture is a forever asset requiring steady, patient attention. Our goal is to wisely steward our investors' capital by cultivating sustainable growth across the food value-chain. Our role, as an investor, is to be a supportive partner.

We begin with a comprehensive analysis of trends, cycles, regulations, and challenges affecting food and agriculture sectors to develop thematic opportunities. Once identified, we focus on the sectors that offer high-growth potential due to consumption trends or paradigm shifts.

### **Sierra Energy | Chief Financial Officer**

(July 2013 to June 2016)

Sierra Energy's goal to make waste gasification globally attainable. Can you think of a better use for post-recycled waste than transforming it into renewable energy?

Typically, the energy in waste is thrown out and sent to landfills, creating mountains of trash, emitting harmful gases and pollutants into our air, water, and soil. Instead of letting this energy source waste away, Sierra Energy's FastOx waste gasifier uses this energy source to convert waste and recover energy, more economically and on a more appropriate scale than other conversion technologies. Additionally, FastOx gasifiers create an energy-dense syngas capable of producing renewable, transportation fuels.

**Wijit | Chief Financial Officer**

(March 2011 to May 2013)

Wijit was formed to commercialize a revolutionary design for a wheelchair propulsion system and to deliver innovative products that empower and inspire wheelchair users to live healthier, more active lives.

**Ernst & Young | Partner**

(October 1995 to December 2010)

Ernst & Young, one of the Big 4 public accounting firms, is a global leader in providing assurance, tax, transactions and advisory services.

Over 15 years with Ernst & Young focusing on technology and transaction services with high-growth clients. Spent several years with its Palo Alto office before transferring to its Sacramento-Reno practice in 2000.

Extensive experience serving large and small companies in diverse industries, including assisting publicly held companies with equity and debt offerings and other SEC related issues. Assurance services include financial statement audits for both public and private companies, accounting compliance and reporting services, and financial accounting advisory services.

**Deloitte & Touche | Associate**

(September 1993 to August 1995)

Deloitte, one of the Big 4 public accounting firms, is a multinational professional services network. Spent two years with its Portland, OR office.

**EDUCATION**

**University of California, Santa Cruz**

BA, Economics (1986-1990)

**Portland State University**

Post-Baccalaureate, Accounting (1992-1993)