



DJUSD

DAVIS JOINT UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

John A. Bowes, Ed.D.
Superintendent

526 B Street ♦ Davis, CA 95616 ♦ (530) 757-5300 ♦ FAX: (530) 757-5323 ♦ www.djUSD.net

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.

Last Name	First Name	Initial	Date
Darrah	Lea	A	6/19/20

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.

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.

I have served on PTA boards at Valley Oak, North Davis, Fairfield, Holmes & DHS and on SITE Council at the elementary & middle schools. I have been on Superintendent's Parents Advisory Committee, & Career Tech Education Advisory Committee, currently I chair the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee. I have worked with a wide range of parents, administrators and students and had the opportunity to learn about our district makeup.

I have volunteered in K-6 classrooms and continue to volunteer to chaperone field trips, drive and volunteer for DJUSD sports teams and pitch in whenever needed. This gives me a look into our classrooms, allows me to connect with our teachers and has allowed me to get to know many of the DJUSD athletes and their families.

I have volunteered as club registrar for Davis Legacy Soccer Club for the past 6 years and I have been a volunteer team manager almost every year since 2007.

My regional and statewide PTA roles have allowed me to interact with a diverse range of parents, advocacy groups, equity groups, legislators, members of the Education Coalition, CDE staff and the former and current Superintendent of Public instruction. I am a member of the Education Coalition 2017-present & a member of the Ca State PTA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee.

I volunteer as a moderator for the Facebook Group Covid-19 Yolo Community Response. This work has been focused on providing fact based local information to Yolo County residents during the pandemic and resulting SIP order.

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

As a board member, I could bring perspective both in terms of experience in Davis schools as well as outside perspective on a statewide level. I want to help our district through what will undoubtedly be a difficult time as we face the ongoing impact of Covid-19 and distance learning, the challenges of reopening our schools in the fall and the looming devastating budget cuts expected.

All of my kids have attended school in the DJUSD. My youngest is going to be a junior at DHS. Since my daughter Brooke, started at Valley Oak in 1998, I volunteered to fundraise, worked to pass our parcel taxes, and made every effort to support our schools.

In my work with Ca State PTA, I have been able to see a wider picture of the education landscape and feel I have learned things that I could bring back to Davis to help our schools. I have deep knowledge of Family Engagement and have worked with a variety of stakeholders. I have seen examples of well-run districts and have seen some pitfalls we could avoid. My work in legislative advocacy and in education policy would serve me well as a DJUSD trustee. I have attended the CSBA conference three times as well as many equity trainings such as those put on by Ed Trust West and the Ca Dept of Education where I learned skills and information that could help me be a board member that listens to and works to support all students.

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.

First, I think that the goals should play a guiding role in budget deliberations. Cuts that would detract from reaching the stated LCAP goals should be taken with great care and avoided when possible. This may take creative thinking and a willingness to make other cuts which may not be popular.

Second, I do not think we can make any cuts in this district that could widen or stop progress on addressing the Achievement Gap. We need to stay focused on the students that are struggling to achieve their potential and maintain our commitment to provide them with a high-quality education. We owe it to our students to give them the 21st century skills to pursue educational opportunities and jobs. By providing them with an education grounded in critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity, we are better preparing them for life beyond K-12 to take on careers and areas of study that might not even exist today.

Third, I think we may face some challenges depending on the final state education budget and any influx of Federal funds in ensuring the safety of our campuses. Estimates of the costs to ensure schools are clean, staffing is adequate to potentially screen students, mental & physical health professionals etc. to be very high. I am not certain how we will navigate this challenge as a district. I know that the process will require transparency, stakeholder input and clear communication for our school communities to feel safe in the coming school year. It is not an option to decrease our family or community engagement in this crisis. In fact, I think our best course forward is to work hand in hand with all stakeholders and create a plan that will use what resources we can muster to best serve our students.

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.

Our Board needs to approach this crisis with transparency, open two-way communication with all stakeholders, the willingness to focus on the needs of our student groups above personal beliefs or opinions, data driven decision-making but with a sensitivity to the individuals that make up the numbers, mission focused decision making and an honest commitment to serve each student in DJUSD equitably. I think we need to engage the community and all stakeholders to provide all of the information that is driving budget and programming decisions. Our board must be willing to truly listen to the needs of the community to authenticate the local control decision making.

As a board member, I can help to support authentic parent and community engagement through community meetings, focus groups, listening circles and individual conversations with community members. I am able to make presentations to stakeholder groups and interact with members of the community. I have experience with facilitating group decision making for collaborative outcomes. I have served on an elected board so I understand the role of a board member in terms of confidentiality, fiduciary responsibility and a commitment to focus our work on the agreed upon goals of the board. I can understand and analyze data to inform my decision making and I am willing to be a continuous learner to best do my job and to better serve my community.

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

Equity means to provide the opportunity for all students to get the funding, services or supports they need in the education context. These supports might not be equal across all student groups because some students come from low-income, EL or other personal circumstances that require more to support their learning such as foster youths. In the case of education funding, it is like the LCFF having supplemental funds in acknowledgement of the higher cost of educating some student groups. The intent is to give each student what they need, and some need more and some will need less.

Inclusion recognizes that diverse populations enrich our community and by being inclusive the wellbeing of all is enhanced. To practice inclusion means to use languages represented in your community in all communications with stakeholders, including a representation of all ethnic, cultural, socio-economic, gender/orientations and ages in the stakeholder group. It also requires a commitment to seek out under-represented groups.

Board governance should be guided by a desire to address equity and inclusion in all decision making and seeking stakeholder input at the appropriate times to make the best decisions possible.

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

In addition to all of the skills I have listed above, I think it is vital for board members to be willing to hear other opinions and consider them honestly when decision making. Sometimes dissenting opinions on an issue can bring to light concerns that if addressed will improve the outcome of the plan. I am committed to social justice and efforts to address systemic racism in structures of society. One of those structures is the education system, and I am excited to see a movement across our country to directly address this issue. I think a focus on these issues can help to address our Achievement Gap, increase student, family and community engagement and improve student outcomes across our district. I am a long-time community volunteer and believer in the value of high-quality public education. Over the years, I have walked the walk in speaking up for marginalized communities and advocating for every child to reach their potential. I have the opportunity to hear perspectives and information from

education groups that represent administrators, unions, classified staff, equity groups, teachers and parents. I can bring this knowledge and up to the minute information to Davis to help our board make the best decisions it can for the students through this current crisis and beyond.

RESUME

Lea Darrah



Current positions:

Vice President for Education, California State PTA board
Chair, Parcel Tax Oversight Committee DJUSD

Previous positions include:

- Director of Legislation, California State PTA board
- Legislative Advocate, Family Engagement, CA PTA
- Statewide LCFF Training Team CAPTA
- Communications VP, Third District PTA
- Legislation Chair, Third District PTA
- District President, Third District PTA
- 1st Vice President, Third District PTA
- Unit President: Davis Senior High School PTA, Fairfield Elementary PTA, Valley Oak Elementary PTA
- PTA Board officer: Valley Oak, North Davis, Holmes, Davis High School
- SITE Council, North Davis Elementary School, Holmes Jr High School
- Member DJUSD Career Tech Education Superintendent's Advisory Committee

Community Involvement

Current service includes:

- Moderator, Covid-19 Yolo Community Response Facebook Group
- Registrar, Davis Legacy Soccer Club
- Manager Davis Legacy Girls 2004 Black team

Previous service includes:

- Tournament Coordinator, Davis Legacy Soccer Club
- Team Manager, Davis Legacy Soccer Club
- Precinct Captain, Davis Democratic Club
- Classroom Volunteer, North Davis Elementary School & Fairfield Elementary School

Professional Employment

- Program Assistant, Family Hui, Davis, CA August 2019-present
- Special Projects Coordinator, Sacramento Public Health Department March 2016-March 2017
- Neighborhood Court Assistant, Davis location, Center for Intervention February 2016-Dec 2018