

LIVINGSTON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 1, 2017

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

District Board Room
922 B Street, Livingston

Public Session: 5:30 P.M.

AGENDA

I. CALL OPEN SESSION TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public is invited to address the Board at this time on matters not on the agenda but within the Board's jurisdiction. In accordance with the Brown Act, the Board is unable to hold discussion or take action at this time but may refer the issues for further consideration. The period for public comments is limited to 15 minutes. The maximum for any one speaker is 3 minutes and are requested to state their name for the record.

If the public wishes to speak on a specific item listed on the agenda, we ask that you please complete a "Request to be Heard" card and present it to the Superintendent's secretary before your item of interest is presented. The Board President will invite you to speak on the agenda item prior to Board deliberation. In the interest of time and order, each speaker is limited to 3 minutes with a maximum of 15 minutes per agenda item.

IV. CORRECTIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

V. SELECTION OF PROVISIONAL APPOINTEE TO FILL VACANCY ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board will interview applicants and select a provisional appointee to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees due to the resignation of Susan Ruth.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Superintendent's office at 209-394-5421. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. Special Board meetings are posted 24 hours in advance, therefore, above timelines will not apply.

All documents provided to a majority of the Governing Board regarding an open session item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the District Office located at 922 B Street, Livingston, CA during normal business hours.

Posted: July 31, 2017

LIVINGSTON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Special Board Meeting

August 1, 2017

Agenda Item V: Selection of Provisional Appointee to Fill Vacancy on the Board of Trustees

Board Consideration: Action Information/Discussion

Attachment(s): Candidate Applications

Background

Effective July 30, 2017, Governing Board Trustee, Susan Ruth, resigned her position as board trustee of the Livingston Union School District. In accordance with Education Code 5091, the Board elected to fill the vacant seat by a provisional appointment through the end of Trustee Ruth’s term of December 2018.

Discussion

The Board will interview candidates in public session. After interviews, the Board will appoint one candidate to fill the vacancy on the Board Trustees by a majority vote. Within 10 days after the appointment is made, the district will follow all legal requirements of posting a notice of the provisional appointment to notify voters and community members.

Candidate will be sworn in at the regular August Board meeting.

Recommended Action

To appoint _____ to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees until December 2018.



LUSD

Livingston Union School District
REACHING FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

RECEIVED JUL 21 2017



Application for Provisional Appointment to the Board of Education

Application Deadline: **Friday, July 21, 2017 by 3:00 p.m.**

Submit application to the Livingston Union School District Office located at 922 B Street in Livingston.

First Name: SATINDERPAL

Last Name: SINGH

Residence Address: _____, Livingston, CA 95334
(must reside within the school district boundaries of Trustee Area #2) Attach Proof of Residence

Contact Phone No. _____

Email: L

Occupation: Airline Pilot

Years of Residence in the district: 23

Please answer the following questions:

- I am 18 years of age or older.
- I am a citizen of the State of California.
- I am a registered voter.
- I do not hold other seats that would be a conflict of interest.
- I am a resident of the Livingston school district and reside in Trustee Area #2. (See attached Map)
- I am not an employee of the Livingston Union School District
- I am not disqualified by the constitution or laws of the State from holding public office.

Do you have children in the district's schools? Yes No If yes, what schools? _____

What is your educational background? Graduate of Sierra Academy of Aeronautics, Professional Pilot Course.

1. Do you have prior experience serving on a governing board, school committee or any other community service organization? Please list such prior experience.

I served as a head music teacher in a non-profit organization that served the community by empowering the kids with the knowledge and history of their culture and traditions.

2. Why do you want to be a school board member of Livingston Union School District?

Having been a resident of Livingston for twenty-three years, I want to give back and be a valuable part of the community by utilizing the experiences I have accumulated over the years as an Airline Pilot and also as a General Manager of a Corporation.

3. What specific talent or expertise would you bring to the Board and how do you feel it would be of benefit to the District?

As an Airline Pilot, and also having been in management, I had the opportunity to hone my decision making skills along with being a team player and also working well under pressure.

4. What do you see as the greatest challenges in public schools of California today?

Technology at times seems to be more of a distraction to the student's education than a benefit. The challenge is to find the right balance.

5. What do you see as the strengths of the Livingston Union School District?

We have a very diverse and hardworking staff with great ethics as well as a multi-cultural student body.

6. What do you see as the area(s) most needing improvement in the school district?

Education has always been an important part of our lives and as times change, we should always strive to find new ways to better our education system. Due to my lack of experience in this area, I do not have any specific ideas for improvement.

7. What do you hope to accomplish as a board member?

I hope to learn as much as I can about our education system and incorporating that knowledge with my personal and work experiences to leave a positive impact on the students through the help of the faculty.

Date:

07/20/17

Signature

Satishkumar Singh

Submit completed application with original signature to:

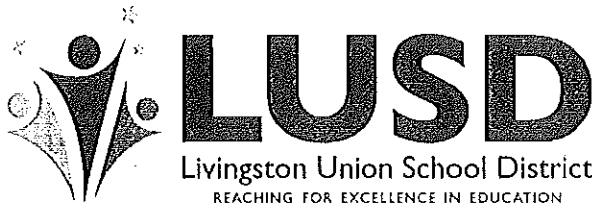
Livingston Union School District

District Office

922 B Street

Livingston CA 95334

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Application for Provisional Appointment to the Board of Education

Application Deadline: Friday, July 21, 2017 by 3:00 p.m.

Submit application to the Livingston Union School District Office located at 922 B Street in Livingston.

First Name: Elizabeth Last Name: Valdez

Residence Address: Livingston (must reside within the school district boundaries of Trustee Area #2) Attach Proof of Residence

Contact Phone No. Email:

Occupation: teacher Years of Residence in the district: 25 years

Please answer the following questions:

- I am 18 years of age or older. I am a citizen of the State of California. I am a registered voter. I do not hold other seats that would be a conflict of interest. I am a resident of the Livingston school district and reside in Trustee Area #2. I am not an employee of the Livingston Union School District. I am not disqualified by the constitution or laws of the State from holding public office.

Do you have children in the district's schools? Yes No If yes, what schools?

What is your educational background? I have been teaching for 25 years.

I attended Livingston elementary schools, graduated from Atwater High School. I have a BA from CSU Stanislaus and a teaching credential.

1. Do you have prior experience serving on a governing board, school committee or any other community service organization? Please list such prior experience.

I have served on the Site Council in Delhi as a teacher. I also served on the site councils of Yamato Colony School and Livingston Middle School for many years, serving as the president at LMS for several of those years.

2. Why do you want to be a school board member of Livingston Union School District? answers for the following questions are attached.

3. What specific talent or expertise would you bring to the Board and how do you feel it would be of benefit to the District?

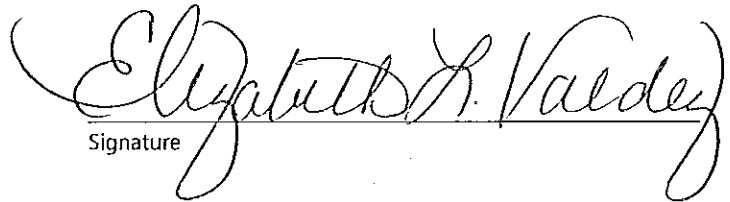
4. What do you see as the greatest challenges in public schools of California today?

5. What do you see as the strengths of the Livingston Union School District?

6. What do you see as the area(s) most needing improvement in the school district?

7. What do you hope to accomplish as a board member?

Date: 7/13/17


Signature

Submit completed application with original signature to:
Livingston Union School District
District Office
922 B Street
Livingston CA 95334

2. The reason I would like to be a school board member of Livingston Union School District is that I really love our town, our kids, and our schools. I believe our schools are doing an excellent job, but I also think I can help our schools to achieve even more and that I can help make a difference in our children's education. Because I attended elementary school here and chose to send my five children to Livingston schools, I know that our schools provide quality education and are able to prepare students for their future.

While my children were attending school, I was very involved in school activities, such as site council and band boosters. I also coached Livingston Youth basketball and softball for many years while my children were growing up. Now that my children are all adults, I have time to devote to being a school board member and I feel it would be an excellent way for me to continue contributing to our community. We have some big challenges facing our district, and I know I can help our schools to meet these challenges. I'm invested in the success of this town and would enjoy the opportunity to continue improving the education for all our students in Livingston.

3. As an educator, what I would contribute to the Board is experience and knowledge of education. I am very aware of the challenges that we face, and I know what works to help students learn. I am a good problem solver and a very fair person. I think I would benefit the district as a board member by bringing my point of view, both as a parent and a teacher. I understand parents' needs, students' needs, and the needs of school staff as well. I know that the most important goal is to do what is best for our students in order to help them achieve and become successful in life. I know that it takes teamwork and that we all have a collective responsibility for students' success.

4. I believe one of the greatest challenges in California public schools is trying to meet the needs of each student. Our population is very diverse, which is a good thing, but it also leads to challenges. We have to provide every student the opportunity to be successful by ensuring that our English Learners are challenged with rigorous curriculum, but are also supported in their primary language. We need to ensure that students from economically disadvantaged households are having their primary needs met so they can be successful in school and that students who are gifted are being given the educational opportunities that they deserve. This may include restoring programs that may have been cut because of budget concerns.

Another challenge is implementing Common Core and raising scores on the SBAC test. I reviewed the SARC for LUSD and realize that the test scores are a concern. Again, I am a strong proponent of Livingston schools and believe our teachers are outstanding, but at the same time we need to look at this and work together to come up with solutions for improving the performance on these standardized tests.

5. I feel the biggest strength of the Livingston Union School District is the people, including the students, staff, and families. We have a great community and schools that really care about our children and I believe that we have excellent teachers and support staff who work hard to ensure a safe and respectful learning environment for our students. I know that the parents want their students to achieve great things and most support their child's education. I also believe that

LUSD has budgeted well, and always puts students first when it comes to where to spend money. The schools and facilities have always been kept in great condition, as well.

6. I see the biggest area most in need of improvement is our students' test scores. I understand that the tests are only one measure of a student's ability, but I would love to see our district improve in this area. This, of course, would include a focus on early literacy and ensuring that our students are reading at grade level early in their educational career. Our focus should be on working with our students to help them become problem solvers who are capable of thinking critically. I also believe the teachers in our district need time to work collaboratively in order to develop lessons that will be rigorous and meaningful for students.

7. As a board member, I hope my background and knowledge would allow me to work successfully with fellow board members, school staff, and our community to best prepare our students for their futures. I will strive to ensure that our students are receiving an education based on high expectations, accountability, and respect and will do my best to make sure that each student feels welcome and important when attending school. If selected to serve as a board member, I will do my best for the students of Livingston. I know that this would be a huge responsibility and I do not take that lightly. My goal would be to keep all of the great things that are already happening in our schools, and do whatever is necessary to improve the educational experience for every child.



Application for Provisional Appointment to the Board of Education

Application Deadline: **Friday, July 21, 2017 by 3:00 p.m.**

Submit application to the Livingston Union School District Office located at 922 B Street in Livingston.

First Name: Kanwaldeep Last Name: Bains

Residence Address: Livingston, CA. 95334
(must reside within the school district boundaries of Trustee Area #2) **Attach Proof of Residence**

Contact Phone No. _____ Email: _____

Occupation: Supervising Health Educator Years of Residence in the district: 12+

Please answer the following questions:

- I am 18 years of age or older. I am a citizen of the State of California.
- I am a registered voter. I do not hold other seats that would be a conflict of interest.
- I am a resident of the Livingston school district and reside in Trustee Area #2. (See attached Map)
- I am not an employee of the Livingston Union School District
- I am not disqualified by the constitution or laws of the State from holding public office.

Do you have children in the district's schools? Yes No If yes, what schools? Selma Herndon

What is your educational background? Masters of Science in Nutritional Science, Bachelors of Science in Food & Nutrition

1. Do you have prior experience serving on a governing board, school committee or any other community service organization?

Please list such prior experience.

I am a very involved parent of 2 young children who attend Selma Herndon Elementary school. I also am a very involved community member who helps out during community events through the Sikh Temple here in Livingston. In my current position at Merced County Department of Public Health, I work very closely with many local organizations to improve the overall wellbeing of Merced County residents.

2. Why do you want to be a school board member of Livingston Union School District?

I would like to be a school board member for Livingston Union School District so that I can represent the other working parents and be their voice to continue to help improve the quality of education our children receive through LUSD. I would also like to represent the Punjabi speaking population of Livingston to ensure their children receive the best possible education through LUSD schools.

3. What specific talent or expertise would you bring to the Board and how do you feel it would be of benefit to the District?
The expertise that I would bring to the Board is my relationships that I have made with many organizations throughout Merced County due to my position as a Supervising Health Educator at Merced County Department of Public Health. I would also be one of the first Punjabi Board members for the District. I would be able to represent one of the most popular cultures in Livingston, who otherwise were not well represented.

4. What do you see as the greatest challenges in public schools of California today?
Greatest challenges in California today are; large classroom sizes and the lack of parent/family involvement. The increase in students in the classroom is not allowing teachers to focus on more direct interaction with students. The lack of parent/family involvement means teachers are spending more time preparing materials rather than enriching and engaging with students.

5. What do you see as the strengths of the Livingston Union School District?
The strength of the LUSD that I see is that it is a relatively small district which allows for more open communication with staff and residents. Communication to me is key, and I feel the district has been doing an amazing job in informing all residents of current issues.

6. What do you see as the area(s) most needing improvement in the school district?
The area I see most needing improvement in the school district would be to get more public support. Increased public support in the form of more volunteers at the schools or more fundraising opportunities to make more money available to all the schools to be able to offer more programs to help enrich the lives of our students in LUSD.

7. What do you hope to accomplish as a board member?
As a board member I hope to get a larger number of parents involved (more specifically Punjabi speaking parents) in schools to help support the quality of education for their children and to assist the amazing teachers of LUSD who do so much for our children with so little assistance.

Date: 07/11/2017

Kanwaldeep Bains
 Signature

Submit completed application with original signature to:
 Livingston Union School District
 District Office
 922 B Street
 Livingston CA 95334