



Santa Clara County Office of Education

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.  
County Superintendent of Schools

November 1, 2021

TO: District Superintendents and District Governing Board Members

FROM: Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, County Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: County Committee Election – 2021

Attached please find the ballot and candidate packet you will use to elect members of the Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization for the District 1, 3, and 5 seats. Seat 1 has five candidates: incumbent Denise Ramón Herrera, Armando Benavides, Robert Benich, Peter Noymer, and Emma Nunez; seat 3 has one candidate: incumbent James Van Pernis; and seat 5 has two candidates: incumbent Ellen Wheeler and Rajan Singh.

Also attached is a list of the County Committee representative for each school district (selected by each district). Each district should have their representative select the candidate of choice in each of the supervisorial districts. If no board representative was selected, the Board President may complete the ballot. District Boards also have the option of voting for a candidate as a collective Board action.

Please write the name of your school or community college district, **sign** your name, **vote** for one candidate in each District, **date** the ballot, and **email** the ballot to:

**scarrig@sccoe.org**

Ballots must be received by November 19, 2021. Votes will not be counted if emailed after 5:00 p.m. November 19, 2021.

If you have any questions please contact Suzanne Carrig at 408-453-6869 or email her at the above address.

Thank you.

<b>District Name</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Alum Rock School District	
Berryessa School District	Hugo Jimenez
Cambrian School District	Jarod Middleton
Campbell Union School District	Richard Nguyen
Campbell Union High School District	
Cupertino School District	Phyllis Vogel
East Side Union	J. Manuel Herrera
Evergreen School District	
Franklin-McKinley	Kerry Rosado
Fremont Union HSD	Bill Wilson
Foothill-DeAnza	Gilbert Wong
Gavilan	Jonathan Brusco
Gilroy Unified	James E. Pace
Lakeside Joint School District	
LGSUHSD	Katherine Tseng
Loma Prieta Joint Union	Deana Arnold
Los Altos	Vaishali Sirkay
Los Gatos Union School District	Daniel Snyder
Luther Burbank	
Milpitas Unified	Minh Ngo
Moreland School District	Heather Sutton
Morgan Hill Unified	Wendy Sullivan
Mount Pleasant School District	Melissa Got-Lopez
Mountain View Whisman	Devon Conley
Mountain View-Los Altos HSD	
Oak Grove School District	Brian LoBue
Orchard School District	
Palo Alto Unified	Shounak Dharap
San Jose Unified	Brian Wheatley
San Jose Evergreen CCD	Karen Martinez
Santa Clara Unified	Jodi Muirhead
Saratoga Union School District	
Sunnyvale	Jeffrey Arnett
Union School District	Doug Evans
West Valley CCD	

Alt: Jorge Pacheco, Jr

\*If district did not select a representative, please have Board president sign the ballot.

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY COMMITTEE ON  
SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION  
OFFICIAL BALLOT – NOVEMBER 19, 2021**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**School/Community College District**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature** (required for validation)

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

This ballot is to be used by the board member designated by each school or community college district board of education to elect members to the Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization (see attached list for your district's representative).

Please vote for one candidate **in each district** - District 1, 3, and 5 by placing a check (v) in the box next to your choice.

**District 1:**

- Denise Ramon-Herrera
- Armando Benavides
- Robert Benich
- Peter Noymer
- Emma Nunez

**District 3:**

- James Van Pernis

**District 5:**

- Ellen Wheeler
- Rajan Singh

## **2021 County Committee Election Candidate Information**

## **District 1**

**Denise Ramón Herrera**

**Denise Ramón Herrera**  
22543 Old Santa Cruz Highway  
Los Gatos, CA 95033

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October 29, 2021

County Superintendent of Schools  
c/o Ms. Suzanne Carrig  
Santa Clara County Office of Education  
1290 Ridder Park Drive  
San José, CA 95131

RE: Re-election for the Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization

Dear School District Board Members,

This letter is my intent to run for re-election for the Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization – District 1.

I have served on the Committee for four years as a member, Vice-Chairperson and Chairperson. I take my role seriously and have perfect attendance. I am an advocate for all students and very passionate and committed to public education. I worked almost thirty-six years in school business and understand School Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and the California Education Codes. I am professional, fair, confidential and understand protocol.

During the last four years the committee has made decisions transferring properties from one to fifty parcels in various areas in the Santa Clara County. We also approved three School Districts to establish trustee areas. The committee heard presentations from staff and legal counsel about the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) and the 2020 census and the Committee's responsibilities. Staff also presented a report about "Reorganization History and Practices".

I currently serve on the Los Gatos Saratoga Union High School District Budget Advisory Committee (2017 - present), the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee as the Vice Chairperson (2016 - present) and was a member of Parcel Tax Oversight Committee (2016-2020) and chaired it 2017-18.

My attached resume confirms that I have the experience, background, and commitment to educational excellence in District 1 and I believe I am a qualified candidate to be re-elected on the County Committee for School District Organization – Supervisorial District 1.

Sincerely,

*Denise Ramón Herrera*

**Denise Ramón Herrera**  
22543 Old Santa Cruz Highway  
Los Gatos, CA 95033

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### **Employment History**

- **Los Gatos Union School District 1982-2015**  
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Trustees, 2010-2015  
Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, 1982-2010
- **Lemoore Union High School District 1980-82**  
Administrative Assistant to Business Manager

### **Education and Training**

- Heald College – Business Administration, Accounting and Management
- Leadership Los Gatos – 2018 Graduate
- Association of California of School Administrators Workshop – Classified Educational Leaders
- California School Boards Association Workshops – Governance, Brown Act, Board Policies and Administrative Regulations
- California Association of School Business Officials Workshops – CBO Boot Camp 2018, Annual Conference 2018, Professional Development Institute, The Role of Ethics in School Business
- Capitol Advisors – Budget Perspectives Workshops: Governor’s Budget 2019-20, May Revision 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, Budget Act 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22
- Keenan & Associates – Workers’ Compensation Symposium and Legal Panel Discussion
- Kelling, Northcross & Nobriga – School Finance Conference
- Lozano Smith Law Firm Workshops – Janus v. AFSCME and SB 866, Facilities and Business Consortium, Purchasing, Bidding, Developer Fees, Construction, Contractors, Contracts (drafting and negotiating), Use of Facilities
- Miller Brown & Dannis Workshops – Charter School Consortium, Developer Fees, School Construction: Prequalification, Bidding, Construction Contracts, Architect and Consultant Contracts, CEQA Compliance, Lease-Leaseback, Construction Claims, Terminating Construction Contracts
- Santa Clara County Schools’ Insurance Group – Sexual Harassment Prevention
- Santa Clara County Office of Education – Revenue Limit Workshop
- School Innovations & Achievement Workshops – Budget Perspectives, Governor’s Budget Act
- School Services of California Inc. Workshops – Budget, Facilities, Funding, May Revision, School Construction, School Finance & Management Conference
- Stanford University School of Education – Financing California Schools

### **Professional Memberships and Organizational Affiliations**

- American Red Cross – Disaster Response Volunteer
- California Association of School Business Officials – Retiree Membership
- History Club of Los Gatos (non-profit, philanthropic organization) – Membership Chairperson
- Los Gatos Lions Club – Membership Chairperson

### **References**

- Ms. Linda Latasa, Assistant Superintendent Business Services – LGUSD (retired)
- Mr. Alex Leman, Chief – Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire & Rescue
- Dr. Mike Groves Superintendent – Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District
- Ms. Catherine Sommers, Executive Director – Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/denise-ramon-herrera/>



**Armando Benavides**

# **ARMANDO BENAVIDES**

111 N FIRST STREET, SUITE 300, SAN JOSE, CA 95113

408 829-4798 barmando3@gmail.com

## **EDUCATION**

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1. LAW DEGREE 1993  
THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, SCHOOL OF LAW
  
2. MASTER OF SCIENCE, Psychology (Clinical) 1984  
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
  
3. BA PSYCHOLOGY 1980  
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

## **LICENSES**

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1. California bar license since December 1993.
2. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (inactive presently)

## **CAREER EXPERIENCE**

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Detail-oriented professional with 31 years of experience and a proven knowledge of case law, preparation of trial briefs, trial procedures, trial advocacy, court deliberation, and trial presentation. I have served as a volunteer arbitrator where I conduct arbitration hearings, weigh the evidence presented and render awards in attorney/client fee disputes. I have served as a Judge Pro Temp for the Santa Clara County Superior Court.

In the field of Mental health, I have served as an as an evaluator for the Santa Clara County Mental Health services in the Emergency Psychiatric Services, as a case manager for the Santa Clara County Psychiatric Unit, and as an Assistant Clinical Director in an outpatient mental health clinic.

## **PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS**

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1. ATTORNEY AT LAW- Self-employed (Dec. 1993 to Present)
  - a. Provide legal representation to clients in diverse legal cases in family law matters, minor criminal offenses, probate matters, and civil actions.
  - b. Have served as a child attorney representing children in high conflict divorces involving the custody of children.
  - c. Have represented a client in a matter that reached the CA Supreme Court, and I wrote the legal brief in support of the Client's position.
  - d. Represented students at expulsions hearings and appealed expulsion decisions to the County Board of Education.

## **ARMANDO BENAVIDES**

111 N FIRST STREET, SUITE 300, SAN JOSE, CA 95113

408 829-4798 barmando3@gmail.com

2. SANTA CLARA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (1979 to 1993)
  - a. NARVAEZ MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Assistant clinic supervisor overseeing the Vietnamese therapist's unit. I oversaw the clinic when the supervisor was not available. Provided individual counseling to adult clients. Participated in the quality control assessing the medical necessity of treatment for Medi Cal purposes.
  - b. CENTRAL MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Served as a therapist for geriatric clients. Provided individual and group therapy. Wrote treatment plans and progress notes.
  - c. EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES (EPS)- assisted in the evaluation of patients admitted on a 72-hour hold (5150) and facilitated discharges back into the community or into the hospital for further treatment. Coordinate medical treatment follow up.
  - d. SANTA CLARA COUNTY DON LOWE PAVILION

Served as case management for a unit in the inpatient psychiatric unit. I oversaw facilitating discharges back to the community and coordinating follow up mental health services for patients. Met with families and board and care operators to coordinate discharge plans.

### ADDITIONAL SKILLS

I am bilingual and bicultural.

Community Advocate and Outreach experience: I serve as a community advocate for school students, parents, and families and in municipal governance.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Board of Director to the Sentinels Youth Soccer Club-Nor Cal Premier

Past Assistant Coach to Morgan Hill Raiders youth football team

Past Coach to National Junior Basketball (NJB) youth Club, Gilroy.

**Robert Benich**

Robert J. Benich  
1792 Pinecone Court  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

October 25, 2021

Ms. Suzanne Carrig  
Santa Clara County Office of Education  
1290 Ridder Park Drive  
San Jose, CA 95131-2304

Subject: Application for Seat on Santa Clara County Committee on School District  
Organization – Supervisorial District 1

Ref: Public Notice in Morgan Hill Times, Oct. 22, 2021, page 10

Dear Ms. Carrig:

In accordance with the reference notice, I am hereby submitting this letter and resume to apply for a position on the Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization.

I actually have served on this committee in the past from 2005 - 2008, and it would be a privilege to serve on this committee again. I believe my background and experience would be of value in helping to make sound decisions for the parents and residents of Santa Clara Valley.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Benich, P.E. (retired)

Attach: Resume dated October 25, 2021

**= Resume =**

Robert J. Benich  
1792 Pinecone Court  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037-7039

**Education**

- 1968 BS Mechanical Engineering  
California State Polytechnic University - San Luis Obispo, CA
- 1971 MBA Santa Clara University - Santa Clara, CA

**Professional Licenses - State of California**

- Mechanical Engineering (retired)
- Nuclear Engineering (retired)

**Work Experience**

- US Navy – Nuclear Submarine Service
- Project Manager – GE Nuclear Energy Division
  - Over 33 years' experience in design engineering, project management, marketing and procurement.

**Personal Attributes**

- Married for 53 years
  - Wife was a reading specialist & Literacy Coach at San Martin-Gwinn Elementary
  - Two sons: both graduated from San Diego State University
- Have lived in Santa Clara County for over 50 years, except for various work assignments in Spain (3 years) and Philadelphia (8 years)

**Other Background Information**

- Have served as Commissioner for City of Morgan Hill
  - > Planning Commission – 12 years
  - > Library, Culture and Arts Commission – 4 years
- Past President of Sorrento Homeowners Association (Morgan Hill)
- Served on Board of Directors, American School of Madrid, Spain
- Past President, Pinehurst Cabana Club (San Jose, CA)

**Statement**

I have a unique blend of technical and business experience with an ability to work well with people of different cultural and educational backgrounds.

I enjoy volunteering my time in a spirit of community service. On divisive issues, I can listen to both sides of a topic before making a decision based on the common good and in the best interests of the residents of a community.

**Peter Noymer**

Los Gatos Union School District  
17010 Roberts Road  
Los Gatos, CA 95032  
Phone: (408) 335-2000  
Fax: (408) 395-6481  
www.lgusd.org

**Paul Johnson, Superintendent**



*EST. 1863*

25 October 2021

County Superintendent of Schools  
c/o Suzanne Carrig  
Santa Clara County Office of Education  
1290 Ridder Park Drive  
San Jose, CA 95131

Dear Dr. Dewan and Ms. Carrig:

I am writing to apply for the open seat on the Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization (in Supervisorial District 1) for this November's election.

As a resident of the County for 21 years, and having served as a Governing Board Member in the Los Gatos Union School District (LGUSD) since 2014, I would bring to the role an understanding of the County, its communities and their needs, as well as a depth of understanding of the inner workings of a school district. I believe that the combination of those attributes is important for supporting the Committee's work in addressing the structural and organizational aspects of effective and efficient public education in the County.

My passion and commitment for education are strong. In addition to my service on the LGUSD Board, my three children have all been educated K-12 in public schools, and I am also a product of a K-12 public school education. My mother was a public high school guidance counselor, and in the early part of my career, I was an engineering professor at Carnegie Mellon University.

I also bring to the role substantial experience in organizational leadership and governance in the private sector. I currently serve as Chairman of the Board of a Stanford-spinout medical device startup, as well as CEO of a UCSF-spinout biotechnology startup. I have served in other executive and board roles at similar companies over the years. While there are differences between the private and public sectors, the basic skills related to discipline and decision-making on an effective governance team are applicable in any setting.

A list of qualifications follows, along with a copy of my professional CV. I greatly appreciate you and the other county trustees considering my candidacy for this.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Noymer", is written over a vertical line.

Peter Noymer



## **Peter Noymer – List of Qualifications**

- Los Gatos Union School District (LGUSD), 2014-present.
  - Currently serving a second consecutive term on the governing board for the K-8 school district in Los Gatos.
- LGUSD Board President (2016, 2018) and Board Clerk (2015, 2017).
- Other LGUSD Board committee, leadership and liaison roles:
  - Pandemic preparedness & school re-opening (2020-present)
  - Developer liaison (2020-21)
  - Legal matters liaison (2020-21)
  - Education Foundation liaison (2018-present)
  - Superintendent search (2018)
  - Town Council liaison (2017-18)
  - LGUSD Financial Advisory Committee liaison (2015-16)
- Completed CSBA Masters in Governance Workshops (2019).
- LGUSD Parcel Tax Renewal Campaign Committee (2021).
- Community & youth sports – approximately 20 seasons of coaching boys and girls soccer, basketball and baseball.
- Santa Clara County resident since 2000, Los Gatos resident since 2003.

**PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

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Senior executive with deep strategic management, leadership and scientific expertise. More than twenty years in industry bringing novel pharmaceutical and medical device products from concept to market, including products for orphan and rare diseases. Experience with products in several therapeutic areas, including pulmonology/respiratory, endocrinology, cardiology, neurology/psychiatry and ophthalmology. Significant strategic and hands-on involvement in the entire product lifecycle, including early identification of product portfolio candidates, developing clinical and regulatory strategies, driving programs through FDA/EMA approval, and planning and executing product launches.

Experienced with both early-stage startups and established companies as well as both private and public companies. C-suite employee for one company's IPO, also corporate compliance officer for another publicly traded company. Have worked in both integrated and virtual staffing models, and have managed international teams of employees and vendors. Proven track record of leading and working with internal departments and with external partner companies to establish and accomplish strategic objectives. Excellent problem-solving, communication and organizational skills.

Dual citizenship in the US and EU (Germany).

**KEY EXPERIENCE SYNOPSIS**

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Current**Executive Chairman, PyrAmes Inc.**

Board chair for a Stanford University spinout developing a high-accuracy, wearable device for AI-based continuous blood pressure monitoring. Devising and implementing corporate and commercial strategies for an initial launch into niche markets (NICU) followed by progressive expansion into outpatient and adult markets. Obtained Breakthrough Device Designation from the FDA and raised a \$6M Series A round.

**Executive in Residence, UCSF Innovation Ventures**

EIR at the UC medical school campus to support the technology transfer effort for a novel drug therapy for Parkinson's Disease. Working closely with the inventors/researchers to define the market opportunity, create business and development plans, and devise and execute fundraising and partnering strategies.

**Strategic Advisor / Consultant**

Independent strategic advisor to life science companies across a variety of therapeutic areas and markets, including pharmaceutical products, medical devices, and M&A/licensing advisory services.

2017-2019**CEO, Kedalion Therapeutics**

First CEO of a clinical-stage ophthalmology startup focused on transforming topical therapies for the eye with a proprietary delivery system that enables comparable efficacy with ~75% less drug. Raised a \$6.3M Series A round to advance the technology into pilot-scale manufacturing and clinical trials.

2013-2017**COO, SteadyMed Therapeutics**

COO (and previously CTO) of a US and Israel-based company developing novel parenteral drug products based on a proprietary pump technology. Key member of management team that raised approx. \$130M, including a \$40M IPO in 2015. SteadyMed was acquired by United Therapeutics in 2018.

2006-2013**VP of Product R&D, Alexza Pharmaceuticals**

Product development executive for a company with a pipeline of novel CNS drug products (psychiatry and neurology) based on a proprietary inhaler technology. Key member of management team that secured licensing agreements totaling more than \$200M. Alexza was acquired by Grupo Ferrer in 2016.

1999-2006**Systems Engineering Manager/Director, Aradigm Corporation**Education

**MS & PhD, Mechanical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

**BSE *cum laude*, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, Princeton University**

## EXPERIENCE

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2020-present **PYRAMES INC., Cupertino, CA**

### **Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors**

*PyrAmes is a Stanford University spinout developing high-accuracy, wearable devices for continuous blood pressure measurement using a novel sensor technology and AI-based signal processing. The products have the potential to revolutionize care for patients ranging from premature babies to hypertensive adults.*

- Working with co-founders to establish the corporate strategy, develop business and operating plans, bring in investors and partners, and define the commercial pathway.
- Established a product/technology roadmap to define initial launch targets and expand from niche markets to broader populations with efficient use of external capital.
- Obtained Breakthrough Device Designation from the FDA; also raised a \$6M Series A round to fund operations through initial product clearance and launch, and to initiate develop follow-on products.
- Negotiated and executed a technology license agreement from Stanford University, including provisions for milestone payments, sales royalties and equity participation.

2020-present **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SAN FRANCISCO (UCSF), San Francisco, CA**

### **Executive in Residence, UCSF Innovation Ventures**

*EIR engagement to support technology transfer for a novel drug therapy for Parkinson's Disease targeting nuclear receptors that are central to improved regulation of dopamine levels in the brain.*

- Collaborating with UCSF faculty to develop a commercial framework for their scientific research, including understanding work done to date, defining additional work required to achieve key milestones, and identifying additional sources of research funding.
- Evaluating scenarios for direct out-licensing vs. new company formation, coordinating discussions with potential licensees and investors, and creating business plans, financial forecasts, and development strategies from discovery through commercial stages.
- Secured a \$500K grant from a UCSF accelerator program to advance the project through pre-clinical efficacy models as a critical value-inflection point for external investment.
- Collaborating with UCSF administrators to track progress on the technology transfer activities and to ensure that license/spinout outcomes are aligned with university objectives.

2019-present **STRATEGIC ADVISOR / CONSULTANT, Los Gatos, CA**

*Independent strategic advisor and consultant to life science companies across a variety of therapeutic areas and markets. Select clients/projects include:*

- **NeuroSense Therapeutics** (Herzliya, IL). NeuroSense is an emerging, clinical-stage pharmaceutical company that is developing novel therapies for ALS and other neurodegenerative diseases based on a fixed-dose, extended-release combination of approved actives. I serve as a senior advisor to the CEO, providing support on a wide range of strategic and operational topics.
- **Advanz Pharma** (London, UK). Advanz is a commercial-stage pharmaceutical company with an international presence. I serve as an independent advisor on a program for the development & launch of an innovative therapy for a rare/orphan cardiovascular disease.

**EXPERIENCE (cont'd.)**

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**2017-2019 KEDALION THERAPEUTICS, Menlo Park, CA**

**President & CEO, Director**

*Kedalion is developing novel topical ophthalmic drug products based on its proprietary AcuStream technology. The platform technology has the potential to transform the \$15B worldwide market for prescription topical ophthalmics and to enable new treatments for unmet medical needs.*

- Recruited to be the first CEO as the company was transitioning from seed-stage technology research to being more fully operational. Tasked with devising and implementing strategies for technical, clinical and commercial activities to meet growth objectives.
- Raised a \$5 MM Series A round and oversaw advancements in product development, establishment of pilot-scale manufacturing infrastructure, and initiation of a Phase 2 clinical program. Exceptional early progress prompted investors to allocate an additional \$1.3 MM into the round.
- Led the creation of a public profile for the company, including a brand identity for the core technology, improving product design aesthetics, launching a fully functional web site, and initiating public relations / investor relations capabilities.
- Identified key staffing needs and recruited/hired top talent for senior executive positions, including CFO, VP of Engineering and VP of Corporate Development. Created a cohesive management team culture with the existing CTO and the newer hires.
- Set up and operated a wholly-owned subsidiary in Australia to enable streamlined and cost-effective clinical trial operations, including access to substantial R&D tax incentives.
- Company spokesperson at key industry and investor conferences, also leading the sourcing and advancement of business development opportunities with multiple strategic partners.

**2013-2017 STEADYMED THERAPEUTICS, San Ramon, CA, and Rehovot, Israel**

**EVP and Chief Operating Officer (2016-2017) / EVP and Chief Technical Officer (2013-2016)**

*SteadyMed is developing novel parenteral drug products based on its proprietary PatchPump technology. The company has a global presence with offices in the US and Israel, and development partners in Europe, Asia and Canada. The company was acquired by United Therapeutics in 2018.*

- Strategic and operational oversight for all non-G&A activities. Led a department of ~25 employees and a global network of contract firms to advance products from concept to approval and launch.
- Restructured the lead development program within three months of joining; identified gaps in skill sets and progress; subsequently integrated new resources to keep the lead program on track.
- Mapped out scientific/regulatory development strategies; coordinated a Pre-IND meeting for the lead product four months after joining and gained FDA agreement for a highly streamlined development plan. Successfully conducted several additional regulatory agency meetings in Europe and the US.
- Established relationships with leading clinicians for the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). Successfully conducted annual SAB meetings to ensure alignment of company programs with treatment paradigms and guidelines
- Co-chair of the Joint Steering Committee for a commercial collaboration in Europe. Responsible for managing the alliance, coordinating governance meetings and ensuring adherence to objectives.
- Section 16 Executive Officer and key contributor to corporate financing activities. Supported the raising of more than \$130MM, including a successful \$40MM IPO in 2015.

**EXPERIENCE (cont'd.)**

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2006-2013 **ALEXZA PHARMACEUTICALS, Mountain View, CA**

**VP of Product R&D (2009-2013) / Sr. Director of Product R&D (2006-2009)**

*Alexza is developing novel drug products based on a proprietary inhaler technology. The Product R&D department was responsible for the development of products and processes from benchtop concepts and clinical prototypes through commercial design. The company was acquired by Grupo Ferrer in 2016.*

- Led a department of scientists & engineers in technology, device and drug development activities for a novel inhalation delivery system. Managed a direct staff of 5 Director-level personnel and their teams. Corporate Officer and member of Executive Team, also corporate Compliance Officer.
- Key participant in FDA and EMA review processes, leading to product approvals in both regions. Involved in agency interactions throughout the development lifecycle, including agency meetings, IND/NDA/MAA submissions, GMP inspections and an FDA Advisory Committee meeting.
- Oversaw device and CMC development efforts from the pre-IND stage to the regulatory approval stage. Worked closely with other departments (Pre-Clinical, Clinical, Regulatory, Manufacturing, Quality) to set and execute strategies for advancing the development programs and ensuring product reliability.
- Spearheaded cross-functional efforts to upgrade company SOPs for Design Controls, Risk Management and Change Control. Worked closely with the Manufacturing, Quality and Regulatory groups to ensure alignment with GMP and QSR regulations, FDA guidances and ICH & ISO standards

1999-2006 **ARADIGM CORPORATION, Hayward, CA**

**Director, Systems Engineering (2004--2006) / Sr. Manager/Manager, Aerosol Systems (1999-2004)**

- Managed a group of scientists and engineers focused on the performance of novel drug delivery devices. Supervised the design of pilot-scale (Phase 1/2A) prototypes of an advanced inhaler. Led a cross-functional team to meet product performance metrics for a cystic fibrosis therapy.
- Directed an effort to improve the reliability of a needle-free injector prior to production for commercial registration. Led a team of engineers to troubleshoot design and materials issues and implement an upgrade that reduced the failure rate by roughly 50x.
- Led the development of an advanced inhaler from concept to prototypes, working directly with the SVP of R&D. Was responsible for overall program direction, including budget (approx. \$4 million per year). Managed a multi-functional project team and directed system integration efforts.

1997-1999 **CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, Pittsburgh, PA**

**Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering**

- Taught undergraduate & graduate courses, also conducted research on atomization and sprays.
- Awarded "Professor of the Year" by the Mechanical Engineering undergraduate Class of 1998.

1993-1997 **MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Cambridge, MA**

**Research/Teaching Assistant, Department of Mechanical Engineering**

- Conducted research on heat transfer in fluidized beds, also served as a TA for a heat transfer class.
- NSF Engineering Education Scholar in 1997.

## EXPERIENCE (cont'd.)

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1988-1993 **GE AVIATION, Lynn, MA**

**Engineer, Lynn Product Engineering Department**

- Designed and developed gas turbine systems for various military and commercial aviation programs.
- Received Fred O. MacFee Award in 1992 as the top performer in GE's Advanced Courses in Engineering.

2014-present **LOS GATOS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT, Los Gatos, CA**

**Governing Board Member, LGUSD Board of Trustees**

*LGUSD is the local K-8 public school district in Los Gatos, serving ~3,000 students and with ~200 employees across 5 school sites and a central district office. Trustees are elected officials and serve four-year terms.*

- Currently serving a second term from 2018-2022 after having initially served from 2014-2018.
- Served in board leadership positions for most of the first term, as Board President (Chair) in 2016 and 2018 and also Board Clerk (Vice Chair) 2015 and 2017.
- Spearheaded an initiative to revitalize district leadership, and led the search for a new Superintendent during the first half of 2018 (second term as Board President).

## EDUCATION

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1997 **MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Cambridge, MA**

**PhD, Mechanical Engineering**

Thesis: Heat transfer by particle convection at the wall of a circulating fluidized bed (advisor: L.R. Glicksman)

Other: Studies in business/management (business law, strategy and technology strategy)

1992 **MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Cambridge, MA**

**MS, Mechanical Engineering**

Thesis: Thermodynamic design considerations for steam-injected gas turbines (advisor: D.G. Wilson)

1988 **PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, Princeton, NJ**

**BSE, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, *cum laude***

Project: The design and construction of an amphibious all-terrain vehicle (advisor: R.M. McKillip, Jr.)

**OTHER**

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**Publications & patents**

Approximately 15 articles published in peer-reviewed journals

Approximately 40 papers/posters/presentations at industry and investor conferences

Several patent applications and pending patents

**Professional societies (past and present)**

American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS)

Parenteral Drug Association (PDA)

American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)

International Society for Aerosols in Medicine (ISAM)

**Community service**

**Princeton University, various alumni volunteer roles (1998 – 2018)**

Treasurer, Princeton Class of '88, 2013-2018

Member of the Executive Committee, Princeton University Alumni Council, 2010-2012 and 2015-2017

Treasurer, Princeton Club of Northern California, 2001-2014

Board member and web site developer, Princeton Alumni Association of Western Pennsylvania, 1998-1999

**MIT Venture Mentoring Society (2010 – 2013)**

Served as a mentor and volunteer/interim board chair for several pre-seed stage companies being started by local MIT alumni.

**Youth sports coach (2006 – 2012)**

Head or assistant coach for children's soccer, basketball and baseball teams in the Los Gatos area for a total of roughly 20 sports seasons over 6 years.

**Emma Nunez**



Experienced professional in compliance, inventory management, customer relationship management and supply chain in medical device industry. Proven ability to foster and maintain effective communication and strong relationships with internal and external customers to ensure commitments are delivered.

## Professional Experience

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### MEDTRONIC VASCULAR

#### SR. FIELD INVENTORY ANALYST, PERIPHERAL AND CORONARY

- Drive and influence 12 Coronary and 11 Peripheral Sales Representatives to deliver \$0.900M in inventory optimization.
- Engaged sales teams to deliver scrap, obsolescence, gains and loss (SOGL) avoidance of \$.750M.
- Provide oversight of inventory management program and partner with District Managers, Program Managers and Sales Representatives to provide inventory reduction recommendations to achieve successful completion of inventory initiatives in West Coast (California, Oregon and Washington).

#### FIELD INVENTORY SUPERVISOR, CVG FIELD INVENTORY

Partnered with District Managers and 23 Sales Representatives across California, Oregon and Washington to execute on quarterly inventory management initiatives. Supervised team of three Field Inventory Analysts with performance feedback and metrics.

##### Accomplishments

- Recognized for leadership in creating tracking method to influence Sales Representatives to execute on quarterly inventory reductions in Peripheral business unit.
- Recognized for creating A3 to improve onboarding of new Sales Representatives and Field Inventory Analysts.
- Conducted quarterly Field Inventory Program trainings with Sales Representatives to review program goals and objectives.

#### FIELD INVENTORY ANALYST, CORONARY FIELD INVENTORY

Managed regional quarterly inventory initiatives which consisted of inventory audits and compliance with Medtronic Consignment Agreements. Maintained strong relationships with Sales Teams and District Managers to collaboratively meet customer needs and inventory objectives.

##### Accomplishments

- Recognized for creating training guidelines for the Field Inventory Analyst (FIA) Department on how to conduct customer visits, manage Sales Districts and comply with Medtronic inventory policies and procedures.
- Acted as point of contact for Sales Representatives to resolve inventory discrepancies efficiently and update SAP reporting system.

### HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

#### HOUSING PROGRAMS ANALYST

Direct housing programs for organization providing rental subsidies and affordable housing for low income families, seniors, and persons with disabilities. Maintain participant database and prepare reports of individuals' income and household composition. Oversee all contract renewals with Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and obtain adequate funds for housing units.

##### Accomplishments

- Spearheaded conversion of agency database, created RFP selection tool and trained staff on system utilization.
- Facilitated group training sessions to increase employees' awareness and compliance with operational procedures.

**ABBOTT LABORATORIES**

**COMPLIANCE ANALYST**

Directed compliance training initiatives for associates across diverse functions, including sales and marketing. Conducted training sessions for all new field sales representatives to increase employees' awareness of AdvaMed guidelines and to enhance staff's ability to communicate guidelines to healthcare professionals. Analyzed contracts with hospitals, physicians, and nonprofit organizations; ensured contracts were properly funded and consistent with guidelines. Supported Diabetes and Vascular business units.

**Accomplishments**

- Following acquisition of new business unit, designed and launched tracking system that ensured associates' completion of compliance training.
- Continuously evaluated effectiveness of training programs. Developed and administered evaluations to collect participants' feedback and enhance impact and relevancy of divisional policies.
- Audited expense reports for sales, marketing, and R&D divisions and investigated potential violations of AdvaMed Code of Ethics, Anti-Kickback Statute, False Claims Act and Physician Payments Sunshine Act. Led compliance review committee comprised of Compliance Division President, Compliance Manager, HR Director, and other managers, who determined disciplinary actions.

**CONTRACT MARKETING ANALYST**

Evaluated customers' contracts and verified accuracy of pricing structures; collaborated with sales force to remedy pricing discrepancies. Implemented new contracts with hospitals and healthcare organizations. Supported broad range of activities related to Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) agreements and payments; generated Administrative Check Requests and submitted sales data to facilitate payment of GPO management fees. Consulted with legal associates to prepare and submit contract proposals to GPOs and hospitals.

**Accomplishments**

- Trained personnel on proper implementation of new products into GPO agreements and contracting system. Developed and introduced work instructions to standardize practices among all team members.
- Reconciled GPO membership and prepared comprehensive list of members; efforts improved efficiency and accuracy of GPO fee payment process.
- Administered and enhanced GPO membership software that identified hospital affiliations to GPOs. Collaborated with software developer to create additional reports that facilitated payments of administrative fees for contracts.

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**Education & Training**

**Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA)**

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY | San José, CA

Participated in Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, Control (DMAIC) Process Training, Medtronic Operating System

## District 3

**James Van Pernis**

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Suzanne,

Via this email, I am today formally announcing myself as the incumbent candidate for reelection to an additional 4-year term, representing County Supervisorial District 3, serving on the Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization when my current term expires on November 30, 2021.

My background and relevant experience to this position on the County Committee and its work includes:

- Appointment to the position in 2015 by the County Superintendent to serve the remainder of an unexpired term of a District 3 Committee Member who had resigned.
- Served on a Subcommittee that, on May 22, 2017, updated and revised this Committee's Bylaws improving transparency and helping to avoid conflicts of interest by Committee Members.
- Served as a Committee Member by participating in public hearings regarding petitions/appeals and in voting (making decisions as a Committee Member) regarding boundary issues amongst School Districts within Santa Clara County and sometimes involving those School Districts bordering this County.
- Elected to a 4-year term as a Committee Member in November 2017 and continued hearing petitions/appeals and making decisions regarding boundary issues in person (and later via Zoom, during the Covid-19 pandemic).
- Served as a Committee Member dealing with local school board governance structure issues arising from the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) as it has impacted various Santa Clara County School Districts voting methods and corresponding new maps related Governing Board Trustee areas.

I have endeavored to abide by the Nine Criteria for District Organization that underly the Committee's role; however, I also try to help ensure those petitioners/appealers and impacted School Districts coming before us get treated fairly and respectfully when making their cases before us. I am not a bureaucratic rubber stamp when it comes to rejection or acceptance of any particular appeal/petition.

To those Governing Boards within District 3: I respectfully request your vote for my reelection on or before November 19th, 2021.

Best regards,

Jim Van Pernis

**From:** [Jim Canova](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Carrig](#)  
**Cc:** [Cathy & Jim Van Pernis](#)  
**Subject:** Endorsement for Jim Van Pernis  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 4:42:23 AM

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Dear Suzanne Carrig,

I enthusiastically endorse Jim Van Pernis to continue to serve (for an additional 4-year term) on the Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization, representing County Supervisorial District 3.

Thank You So Very Much!  
Jim Canova  
Governing Board Member  
Trustee Area #1 - North San Jose/Alviso Area  
Santa Clara Unified School District

**From:** [Mark Richardson](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Carrig](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of recommendation for Jim Van Pernis  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 1:51:37 PM

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Dear Ms. Carrig,

I'm writing to you once again to recommend Jim Van Pernis.

Jim was a member of my successful campaign for SCUSD School Board in 2016. Jim is locally known as an expert in local politics, and his talents and skills were of great benefit to my campaign. Since then I've served with Jim on a bond oversight committee, and again Jim shows great expertise and thoughtful planning.

Please accept this letter of recommendation for Jim.

Respectfully,

Mark Richardson  
Former Board Member, Santa Clara Unified School District  
Founder/President LSR Foundation

## District 5



**Ellen Wheeler**

September 27, 2021

Dear Ms. Carrig:

Please accept my application to run for re-election to the Committee for Organization of the Santa Clara County Office of Education for Supervisorial Area Five.

As a member of this committee since 2017 I have seen and participated in the myriad issues that applicants bring to us. I've been impressed by the thoughtfulness and respect shown to applicants by each member of the committee and am proud to be part of this process. We are not a rubber stamp committee. We carefully listen to and examine the points that applicants bring to us regarding their desire to move from one district to another. Using the criteria required by the law, we go over, one by one, how an application meets or not those criteria. Then we discuss, as a committee, the impact of accepting or declining an application on each applicant and each relevant school district.

When I first ran for this position I listed my resume qualifications related to this committee so I'll list them here, too, but in narrative form.

I've been a member of the Mountain View Whisman School District Board of Trustees since 2002. On that board I've served as president three times, vice president, clerk, and also "just" a member. I'm very active on my board and in my community. As I say when I attend school functions in my district "I make a point to attend at least one event at every school every year," and this has been true for nearly 20 years! Also related to my school board work I've served as my district's representative to the Santa Clara County School Board Association for many years and have been deeply involved in that organization as well. I have served as chairperson of every committee of SCCSBA and then was elected as SCCBA's vice president and then president in 2018/2019. Now I help newer leaders get more involved with our organization by being a member of SCCSBA's nominating committee. We interview and recommend officers for our organization for the upcoming year. Lastly, every year I serve as a reader for SCCSBA's Hoffmann Awards applications and usually also serve as a "validator" of finalists for this award by visiting their districts to actually see how their program makes a difference to students in their district.

I believe my deep understanding of the school districts in Santa Clara County, as demonstrated above, makes me a valuable member of the Committee on District Organization.

Another reason I believe I'm a valuable member of this committee is via my professional work. I'm a retired attorney with excellent analytical skills, so reading and evaluating the applications we receive are skills I contribute to our committee work.

Thank you for considering my application to the SCCOE Committee on Organization.

Sincerely, Ellen Wheeler

**ELLEN WHEELER**

1214 Brookdale Ave., Mountain View, CA 94040

(650) 967-8743; [ellenwh@aol.com](mailto:ellenwh@aol.com)

**PROFESSIONAL:**

- 2002 – 2017 Governing Board Member, Mountain View Whisman School District
- 1992 – 2017 Wheeler Law Practice solo practitioner
- 1983 – 1992 Substitute Teacher and Pre-school teacher, Santa Clara Unified School District
- 1970 Volunteer, Project Head Start, San Bernardino, California

**EDUCATION:**

- 1987 – 1991 JD, Santa Clara University School of Law  
Certificate, Public Interest Law, SCU School of Law
- 1991 Mediator certificate program, UC Santa Cruz
- 1978 – 1979 Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, San Jose State University
- 1975 BA, Social Sciences, music minor, San Jose State University
- 1970 High School Diploma, Pacific High School, San Bernardino, California

**VOLUNTEERISM:**

- 2017 – 2018 Vice President, Santa Clara County School Boards Association
- 2006 – 2017 MVWSD board representative to SCCSBA executive board
- 2002 – 2017 Member and officer in the League of Women Voters at the local, county, and state level
- 2012 – 2017 Chair, education committee, LWV Santa Clara County
- 2012 – 2017 Member, Strong Start (via SCCOE)
- 2012 – 2017 Member, Artspiration (via SCCOE)
- 2012 – 2017 Member, Kids in Common and its Vision Council
- 2002 – 2017 Challenge Team of Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills

**REFERENCES:**

Jo Lucey (Cupertino School Board, ret.) 408.666.4312 & Joe Mitchner (MVLA School Board) 650.964.2244

**Rajan Singh**

October 28, 2021

Rajan (Raj) Singh  
808 Shetland Pl  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087  
[raj@rajansingh.com](mailto:raj@rajansingh.com)

Santa Clara County Committee  
1290 Ridder Park Dr  
San Jose, CA 95131

To Distinguished Santa Clara County School District Board Members:

I am submitting this letter to express my interest in becoming a County Committee Member. I am a product of Santa Clara County schools. I was born in Santa Clara, and grew up in South San Jose, attending SJUSD schools Greystone, Bret Harte, and Leland High School. Now as a parent of a 9-year-old and 2 year old, I am knee-deep in the multitude of district-related issues, particularly for CUSD, and have become abreast of challenges that districts have faced as it relates to district boundaries.

My deeper involvement in school district governance began about 2 years ago when I witnessed first-hand how my son struggled with distance learning. I, like many parents, was a glossy-eyed Dad who didn't really understand the details of the School District processes, policies, motivations, and decision-makers behind them. I emailed the teacher and asked when I might be able to safely bring my son to class and the teacher replied, maybe next month. I know some of you may be chuckling reading this, but it was in this journey, I learned the role of a School Board, the inter-dependencies with the District Administration, the process of how decisions were made, the various levers involved, the variety of community opinions on often very complex issues, the meaning of a range of acronyms from CBED to ADA, and on and on.

I met many, many parents and realized that there were ranges of highlights but also struggles parents were experiencing from cafeteria food to school bus routes to concerns around safety and more. Recognizing that I was spending an increasing amount of time engaging with my School District Board, attending board meetings, engaging with the community, and educating parents on how to communicate with their District or principals, raise issues and more, and being a local leader in my community as an elected leader of our pool committee, I seized upon this opportunity and co-founded the CUSD Parents group on Nextdoor which now represents nearly one thousand current CUSD parents!

As a co-admin of the CUSD Parents group, I regularly receive messages and questions about the district on a variety of topics. As a result, I have become increasingly abreast of challenges and wins across CUSD as well as other neighboring districts and more relevantly have come to learn of issues that have been impacted as it relates to district boundaries.

CUSD, being the largest K-8 district in Northern California, has experienced unfortunate calamity post-COVID. CUSD was slower to reopen schools in part because of its sheer geographical size. CUSD has been unable to pass a parcel tax after two failed attempts in the past 2 years, again, in part because the district spans 6 cities and has to serve so many different constituents with different priorities. CUSD recently voted to close schools, again, touching boundary-related issues such as enrollment, feeder patterns, priorities, the role of neighborhood versus alternative schools, and more. CUSD is also one of the lowest funded LCFF districts in the state, shockingly in a city that most associate with Apple but much of their property tax revenues go to Santa Clara. CUSD also is a district where the wide majority of the electorate are not current parents and many current parents are not eligible to vote, in part impacted because of its boundaries. Finally, in my own efforts with a parent group and the Vice Mayor of Cupertino Liang Chao, I've been exploring a Citizen's Initiative for a square-foot-based parcel tax for CUSD, which again faces increasing complexity because of CUSD boundaries spanning 6 cities.

I recognize that this role involves looking at things holistically across districts and I believe that my knowledge and experience gained in studying CUSD and its neighbors can transcend to a broader jurisdiction. Many of these issues CUSD is facing are not unique to CUSD and are being experienced across the county from declining enrollment to school closures.

My personal background is that I'm a multiple-time tech entrepreneur. I started my first company during my undergrad as a Computer Engineering major at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and have never looked back. Although the public sector is vastly different from the private sector, as a tech entrepreneur, I have served or participated in private company Boards for many years and understand the dynamics involved in driving consensus, making decisions, and uniting a community. If you are interested, my full tech background can be found here:

<https://linkedin.com/in/rajansingh>

I hope I have provided sufficient background for consideration. I believe schools are the bedrock of society. My father is a Professor, my sister-in-law is in District Administration and my mother-in-law is an elementary school teacher. I care about schools. In this role, I hope to apply what I've learned and my passion for schools to provide an educated and unique viewpoint.

Thank You.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rajan Singh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rajan (Raj) Singh