

View results

Respondent

62

Anonymous

80:23

Time to complete

1. I have been... *

☐ Appointed

☒ Nominated

2. Your signature indicates your consent to be placed on the ballot and serve as a Delegate, if elected *

Jessica Speiser

3. Full name *

Jessica Shannon McNabb Speiser

4. Region/subregion *

20



5. Name of District or COE *

Los Altos School District

6. Years on board *

7

7. Profession

Public Servant

8. Contact number *

650-773-1873

9. Primary email address *

jessica@speiser.net

10. Are you an incumbent Delegate? *

☒ Yes☐ No

11. Why are you interested in becoming a Delegate? Please describe the skills and experiences you would bring to the Delegate Assembly. *

I am running for Delegate because I am a dedicated proponent of public schools. I attribute my professional and personal successes to the strong public school education I received. I grew up in a very low income family and in order to rise above my situation, I realized early that I would need to succeed in school. I am a mother of three and I am passionate that each and every child in my community and beyond receive a great education suited to their individual needs and want to widen that community by continuing to represent more school districts in dealings with CSBA (I was appointed in December 2022). I know from first hand experience that a strong public school education can be a great equalizer and am working hard to ensure that remains the case.

12. Please describe your activities and involvement on your local board, community, and/or CSBA. *

In December 2018 and again in December 2022, I was elected by my fellow Trustees to be President of the Los Altos School District (LASD) Board of Trustees. During my first tenure as Board President, I ran a 6 month long Community Engagement Process on Facilities, in addition to the normal Board President duties. This open, neutral and transparent process involved my crafting and facilitating the creation of background documents covering the history and context of facilities issues to date, scheduling the process, marketing the process through varied types of media and managing the process implementation with help of a 3rd party consultant. Throughout the process there were nearly 1,000 participants from across the district representing all different type of demographics offering facilities solution ideas and levels of support to said solutions. During my second tenure as Board President I helped our LASD evaluate renewing an expiring parcel tax, educating the community regarding it, and was an active participant in the successful campaign. As a Trustee, outside of my regular duties, I make sure to meet with constituents individually, in office hours or at PTA meetings to answer questions and keep them informed, attend special school or district wide events to see LASD education in action, and regularly draft blog posts informing constituents about what to expect at each board meeting or cover special topics of interest to the District to help ensure we have an informed and heard constituency. Furthermore, I have been on the executive board of Santa Clara County School Boards Association (which encompasses the entirety of Region 20) since September 2022, as Treasurer, then Vice President, and now President. In those rolls by participating, or running membership meetings, I have grown a keen understanding of what the varied districts in Region 20 are concerned about and need through active discussions in the meetings or reviewing responses to surveys of the membership.

13. What do you see as the biggest challenge facing governing boards and how can CSBA help address it? *

The biggest challenges facing governing boards in Santa Clara County and beyond is the ever perennial issue of the underfunding of public education in California and more importantly the effects of the COVID-19 shutdowns and subsequent reopenings on all our students and staff. CA is the 5th largest economy in the world, yet is 19th in per pupil spending in the US. Community funded districts in our area (like LASD) are dealing with unfunded (Universal TK) or underfunded (Universal Meals, Special Education) mandates requiring them to stretch resources used to educate our current students to educate a full year more of students, to feed all students, and provide appropriate services for our special education students. Even our LCFF funded districts are struggling with funding these mandates with the limited state or federal monies they receive. They are all wonderful programs, but we need CSBA's continued vigilance in advocating for more funding for all districts for these initiatives (and any other mandates that come our way). Furthermore, COVID-19 left many, if not all, of our districts with a wider achievement gap and increased social emotional issues, be it mental crises of student and staff, or socialization delays. We need CSBA's help in advocating for more resources from the state and/or federal government to combat these issues.

JESSICA S. M. SPEISER

1225 Magdalena Court ♦ Los Altos, CA 94024 ♦ (650) 773-1873 ♦ jessica@speiser.net

Summary	I have a strong work ethic, an attention to detail, and am a quick learner. My current specialties include community engagement, public relations, and fundraising. I enjoy working across teams, educating others, and building super-efficient processes. I love being involved in my community with a strong passion for our public schools and equity.		
Professional	Member, State Bar of California, 2004		
Education	EMERGE CALIFORNIA	OAKLAND, CA	
	Graduate, 2019		
	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, HASTINGS COLLEGE OF LAW	SAN FRANCISCO, CA	
	Juris Doctor, 2004		
	WELLESLEY COLLEGE	WELLESLEY, MA	
	Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, 1997		
Experience	LOS ALTOS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES	LOS ALTOS, CA	
	Governing Board Member, December 2016 to Present		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend and prepare for twice monthly board meetings and periodic subcommittee meetings.• Make decisions effecting over 4,000 students and 500 employees in the school district involving public health, safety (both mental and physical), equity, curriculum, facilities, and funding.• Respond to a variety constituent questions and concerns at office hours, through email, Zoom, or at community engagement events.• Responsible for hiring and supervision of the Superintendent of Schools. Hired new superintendent in April 2022.		
	President, December 2018 to December 2019		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managed, ran, and set the agenda for twice monthly board meetings.• Ran a six month long, open, transparent, and neutral community engagement process for school facilities with just under 1,000 participants. Duties involved drafting and editing documents covering the history and context of the issue, marketing the process in person, online, and through print media, and managing the implementation of the process.		
	OUTREACH CIRCLE	LOS ALTOS, CA	
	Chief Outreach Officer, August 2017 to April 2019		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted weekly webinars for this friend-to-friend platform used for digital relational networking and persuasion.• Managed customer relations by promptly responding to client inquiries and troubleshooting customer campaign issues.• Developed training materials for, and drafted periodic communications to, customer campaigns.		
	LOS ALTOS SCHOOL DISTRICT, KEEP LOS ALTOS SCHOOLS STRONG	LOS ALTOS, CA	
	Co-Chair, Measure GG, August 2016 to December 2016		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ran successful parcel tax renewal campaign to maintain critical funding needed to provide an excellent education to all students.• Engaged with community at PTA meetings, special community meetings, and through the local press to advocate for and answer questions about the initiative.• Coordinated, edited, and approved all direct mail pieces and print advertisements.• Spearheaded fundraising efforts to pay for the implementation of the campaign.• Recruited, managed, and worked with campaign volunteers in canvassing and phone banking efforts.			
Co-Chair, Measure N, August 2014 to December 2014			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ran successful campaign for \$150 million bond ballot initiative aimed at funding the siting and building of a new school and other capital improvements across the district.• Engaged with community at PTA meetings, special community meetings, and through the local press to advocate for, and answer questions about, the initiative.• Coordinated, edited, and approved all direct mail pieces and print advertisements.• Spearheaded fundraising efforts to pay for the implementation of the campaign.• Recruited, managed, and worked with campaign volunteers in canvassing and phone banking efforts.			
MY NEW RED SHOES	REDWOOD CITY, CA		
Development Associate and Special Projects Advisor, January 2009 to August 2012			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assisted this nonprofit in obtaining grants from foundations, community organizations, corporations, and individuals.• Discovered opportunities, authored grant applications, and managed calendar relating to fundraising.• Researched, contacted, and coordinated in-kind donations from various types of donors.			