



DESERT SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
47-950 Dune Palms Rd.
La Quinta, California 92253

PROVISIONAL APPOINTMENT 2022

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is there a vacancy?

Board of Education Trustee Donald B. Griffith has been appointed as a Superior Court Commissioner and thus tendered his resignation as a DSUSD board member effective January 18, 2022.

2. What are the qualifications for serving on the Board?

A person must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of Desert Sands Unified School District Trustee Area 2, at least 18 years old, a CA registered voter, not an employee of the school district, and not be disqualified by the Constitution or laws of California from holding civil office. Trustee Area 2 generally includes portions of Indian Wells, Bermuda Dunes, La Quinta, Indio, and Palm Desert.

3. What is Trustee Area 2?

In 2014, the Board of Education moved from at-large elections to trustee area elections. This means the appointed candidate must reside within the trustee area indicated. Trustee Area 2 includes the following schools: Carrillo Ranch Elementary, Gerald Ford Elementary, James Monroe Elementary, Ronald Reagan Elementary, Colonel Mitchell Paige Middle School, Horizon Alternative School, and Summit High School.

4. What do I need to apply for the position?

Individuals meeting the qualifications noted in question 1, must apply to the Governing Board which includes a complete Qualification Form and Application. Applications must be received by 10 a.m. on February 7, 2022. Completed application packets may be completed and submitted online, mailed via U.S. postal service, or delivered in person to the District Education Center, 47950 Dune Palms Road, La Quinta. Applications may also be

submitted via email to Blanche Ramirez at blanche.ramirez@desertsands.us. All completed applications must be received no later than 10:00 a.m. on February 7, 2022. *Applicants must be available for interviews with the Board at an open meeting on February 15, 2022.*

5. If I am selected by the Board, when do I take office and when do I run for election?

The Board anticipates making a selection at a Special Board Meeting on February 15, 2022. The appointment will become effective immediately, and the appointee will be sworn in and may immediately begin performing the duties of the office.

During the initial 10 days after the appointment, the Board will notify the community of the provisional appointment, including the name of the new Board member. The appointment will become final in 30 days unless a petition is filed with the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools requesting an election, in which case a special election will be called to fill the vacancy.

After the appointment becomes final, the Board member will serve until November 2022, at which time he or she may run for election to serve this role for the next term. The successful candidate will be subject to the District's standard fingerprinting and background check process.

6. What other information should I consider?

Serving on the school board can be a valuable and satisfying way to make a significant contribution to the community.

As public officials, Board members do have to comply with certain restrictions not encountered in their private lives. Upon assuming office, a Board member must file a [Statement of Economic Interest](#) which is a public document that discloses the Board member's financial holdings and other economic interests within the boundaries of the District (excluding a personal residence). Board members must refrain from Board activities which constitute a conflict of interest or which are incompatible with their role as Board member. Board members are subject to the [Brown Act](#).

Election campaigns are separate from district activities and the candidate must fund their campaign with private contributions in accordance with the rules of the Fair Political Practices Commission ([FPPC](#)).

7. Is there compensation for serving as a Board Trustee?

Yes, Trustees receive a monthly payment of \$852 per month for his or her services and are eligible to receive \$16,551 towards participation in a health benefit package made available to district employees.

8. Where can I get additional information on the role and responsibility of a Board Member?

The [California School Boards Association](#) offers several publications on School Board Leadership, New Member Orientation and Governance Briefs.

[District Board Bylaw and Policy](#) outlines the role of the Board.

For more information, contact the Executive Specialist to the Board of Education and Superintendent, [Blanche Ramirez](#) at 760-771-8503.