

CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET OCT 30 2015

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Please fill out and return by October 30, 2015 (10:00 p.m. deadline) to the School Services Building at 510 G Street, Antioch, CA 94509. Attention: Superintendent's Office

Date: October 29, 2015

Larkin II	Millard	L.
(Last Name)	(First Name)	(Initial)

Business Address. Ph

Home Address. Phor

Occupation: Senior Vice President NO. OF Years Residing in District: 15 years

Do you have children in the district's schools? Yes _____ No X

If yes, please list ages and schools:

Have you worked on any school committees or participated in any school activities recently?

Please list them.

Yes, I recently had the pleasure of volunteering for the second year with the Bite of Reality program, which is held annually to assist Deer Valley High seniors with responsible money management and decision-making. For the past four years I have volunteered with youth basketball, youth football (championship), and youth cheer (national championship). I recently attended a wonderful recital at Deer Valley High.

Other community or business activities?

Currently serve as a member of the East Contra Costa County Transportation Advisory Committee, representing Antioch. Member of the following organizations: Rotary Club, Lions Club and Elks Club. Member of Antioch Home Owners Group; organized to work toward improving the quality of life for homeowners. I Participated on the Juneteenth Planning committee, and the East County Health Fair Committee.

Candidate Information Sheet – Board Vacancy

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Why do you feel you want to be a school board member?

I want to be a board member because I believe that the greatest gift that any society can afford a citizen is a free education. As a homeowner in Antioch for over 15 years, I have seen a continuing, decline in the quality of education, safety, student activities and parental involvement.

I believe that in order to make a change, I must get involved. I believe I can bring a unique perspective and experience that can help the school board and the district navigate state government and work with local governments. I want ensure that our community children have the same strong educational foundation I received from my public education, and then through the University of San Francisco.

I understand that an effective school board member plays an important watchdog role in keeping the local school on track, and setting policies that affect our child and schools. The school board sets the vision and goals for the school district, and holds the district accountable for results. One school board member cannot do the job alone. Effective school board members contribute their unique talents while collaborating and working as a team with other board members. Again, I believe I can bring that uniqueness that will add and strengthen the talents of the existing board members.

What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools?

The future of this country is entrusted in the board's ability to prepare our students for life. Public education allows our students an opportunity to pursue their life dreams guaranteed under our constitution. American public schools have been expected to fulfill many public missions that go beyond the purely academic purposes.

1. To provide universal access to free education
2. To guarantee equal opportunities for all children
3. To unify a diverse population
4. To prepare people for citizenship in a democratic society
5. To prepare people to become economically self-sufficient
6. To improve social conditions

Additionally, public education maintains an educated society that keeps America strong and competitive in the global economy

What is the role of the school board in the fulfillment of that purpose?

The school board offers governance. It oversees district operations and make sure the district is fair and equitable. It is accessible to the public and accountable for the performance of their

schools. Additionally, the school board must be inclusive and transparent in its operations. AUSD board must solicit the thoughtful ideas of all stakeholders, including students, teachers, and community leaders. AUSD board must operate within the constraints of the federal government, the state government, the local government and the needs of the community. The school board must ensure our teachers, administrators, and classified staff has the necessary resources to meet the needs of our changing socio-economics, homeless, special needs students and the changing ethnic demographics of our community; while providing all of our students a safe and productive learning environment.

Forward thinking: The school boards must realize that success goes beyond test scores. Success goes beyond preparing students for college and the workforce; there is a much larger purpose to educating our next generation to make a living, a life, and a difference. AUSD board of education is uniquely positioned to provide leadership for exploring those differences, working with the community to find its shared ideals, and crafting a shared mission and vision for its schools that reflects our community.

What could be done to help improve communications and relationships among the board, staff, students, parents, and community?

To improve communication between the board and the stakeholders there must be:

- Clear expectations
- Frequent and positive communication
- Conveying that the school is a welcoming, caring place
- Develop appropriate strategies for communication that involved stakeholders' input
- Getting information into parents hands

Follow through with what you say you are going to do. Effectively utilize people's time when they come to meetings, when they get involved on committees, and when they participate in surveys and other activities. Follow through with what you say you are going to do and make the stakeholders feel appreciated for their services. Once a plan of action has been developed, make the plan transparent to all stakeholders. Make sure there are realistic timelines and realistic expectations. Understand the different cultures in our district and embrace it. Create different venues for communicating. Use email address or texting our parents. Go where the people congregate and interact with them. Attend community fairs and events. Utilize Facebook if that is where your stakeholders are. Update and improve the district's website; make it interactive and engaging. Make all communications more personable. Make it easier for stakeholders to tell you what they want to see happen. Make district translators available to the community at community events. This will encourage ESL community members to attend English only events (vice-versa); which will facilitate in bringing the community together. When the community see the school board members come from behind their walls and joined them, the relationship between the board and the staff, students, parents, and community will improve. Ask parents

what is the best way to communicate to them and then, again, follow through with what you say you are going to do.

What should be the relationship between the board members and the administration in the handling of school concerns?

Board members and administrators are partners in the development of our children and our community. Given that they both share the same visions of high expectations for our student achievement and quality instruction through clear goals. The two organizations shall work together, as professionals, to address all concerns of the district. When addressing school concerns each group should refer to existing board policies for guidance. If a board policy does not exist to address the concern, the two shall collectively work together to develop a new policy to meet the needs of our students.

In what area of function as a board member would you have a particular interest or skill (i.e., public relations, budget, negotiations, evaluation, long-range planning, facilities, policy, etc.)?

I have worked as a negotiator, public relations, long range planning and policy making in my previous positions in San Francisco. I served as the president of the South East Facilities Commission. I was also a member of the San Francisco Public Housing Board of Trustees. Additionally, I chaired the Personnel and Public Relations and served on the Policy Committee. I am very comfortable with any and all duties that may be given me as a board member of the AUSD.

What do you see as the strengths of the Antioch Unified School District?

AUSD is working at creating programs that will meet the needs of our districts diverse populations. The creation of the African-American Male Initiative is a move in the right direction. Recognizing and providing teachers and other staff members with, necessary, training in multi-cultural relations was a very positive move on the districts part. The district has hired additional counselors to provide additional support for our youngest students in an effort to correct our students' behaviors earlier in their lives.

What do you see as the areas of most needing improvement in the school district?

AUSD must make the schools safer for both students and staff members. It is doing a poor job working with its special education students. Furthermore, there is a need to recruit more teachers and staff members that can relate to our students and parents and students and parents can reciprocate. Many of our students and parents struggles go unnoticed by our current staff because a majority of AUSD is unaware of the culture these students come from. The district has failed in recruiting and hiring teachers from a multi-cultural background.

I have attended various board meetings and I didn't get the feeling that our district is fiscally solvent. The finances of our district need to become more transparent.