

Carla Drina Collins

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www.linkedin.com/in/carladcollins

January 10, 2019

To the Honorable Members of the San Jose Unified School Board:

My name is Carla Drina Collins and I enthusiastically seek your acceptance of my application for the San Jose Unified School District Trustee Seat 3. I'm a San Jose native, lifelong feminist, firm believer in democracy, proud public servant, and mom to three amazing SJUSD students, ages 6, 8, and 13. I believe that my personal history, professional development and commitment to community make me an ideal candidate for this opportunity to represent the residents of area 3. Here's why:

My commitment to our community is deep and inclusive.

I'm deeply rooted in our community, the product of some of the hardest working women you could ever meet starting with my maternal grandmother, Carmen Hernandez. She was a devout and loving single mother of five, a migrant field worker who settled in this valley with a dream for her family to have the opportunity to know the health, stability, and opportunities she could not imagine for herself. My mother, Drina Collins, bridged professionalism and upward mobility to provide me with great opportunities that made my childhood question not *whether* I would go to college but *where*. More than anything today I'm grateful to be raising my own family in the city where I grew up and to work in the Equity & Social Justice Division of our County administration. Each day, I am aware of the incredibly privileged space I hold and feel a deep sense of obligation for our community. That obligation includes working to ensure my children – and the 30,000 children that SJUSD serves – have a safe, positive environment where they too can thrive.

I'm progressive and collaborative with proven policy experience.

I have volunteered and worked for issues I care deeply about since I was a child. My professional life has allowed me to explore how organizations can better meet the needs of historically underserved communities. In the last decade I've created collaborative space for decision makers to explore how every policy, every program and every funding decision made impacts the lives of women and girls in Santa Clara County. This translates well to the work of the SJUSD Board as it tackles critical issues such as closing the opportunity gap, setting policy to implement Title IX in a way that is victim centered, or supporting educational programming that provides students and families options that meet multiple learning styles and interests to create joyful, kind, and successful global citizens.

Decades of experience serving on boards and commissions as well as providing staff support to Brown Act bodies leaves me well-versed with the structural elements of the SJUSD Board. I come to

Carla Drina Collins

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the table with an understanding of the Brown Act, Roberts Rule of Order and guidelines for conflicts of interest needed to successfully employ partnerships in the community that are transparent and set policy that hold the district accountable.

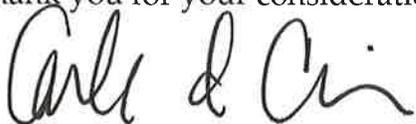
If we don't stand up for children, then we don't stand for much. – Marian Wright Edelman

My entrance to our SJUSD community began in 2010 with my oldest child's enrollment in kindergarten at River Glen. I quickly learned the effects of decades of underfunding of education at the state level and the absolute need for strong parent support and collaboration with faculty and staff. In various roles I learned much more: as a room mom (a privilege I served during a maternity leave) I learned the need for effective, direct communication between teacher and parents; as a classroom volunteer I learned how difficult it is to keep students engaged and what an awesome responsibility and incredible gifts teachers have. I also learned that there is something for everyone to do: some do bigger efforts like ensuring art is part of the classroom, some do smaller efforts like cutting pieces of construction paper to save time for our artists to focus on creating...but all efforts are essential to enriching the lives of our children. As an HABLA fundraiser I learned the need to bring outside resources to our small community so that every child has access and opportunity. As a co-leader of two campus-based Girl Scout troops I learned the importance of both planning and flexibility and, best of all, the joys that come with sharing time with talented, curious, brilliant kids.

Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world. – Nelson Mandela

Public education is patriotic and a cornerstone of our democracy. Despite persistent national efforts to privatize and demoralize this essential right, we have an incredibly strong and vibrant workforce within SJUSD and a beloved community that inspires many of us to try harder and do more in support of each child's right for the best opportunities and future possible. If appointed to the Board I commit to represent each of the schools in District 3 with integrity and with a deep respect and understanding of the larger community of diverse students, families and staff working toward a common vision that holds each child as sacred.

Thank you for your consideration.



Carla Drina Collins, Applicant for SJUSD Trustee Seat 3

Carla Drina Collins

CarlaDCollins@sbcglobal.net • 2187 Bello Ave, San Jose, CA 95125 • 1-408-655-8766
www.linkedin.com/in/carladcollins

Expert in: Government Compliance – Policy & Planning – Leadership & Collaboration

Consummate collaborator, change agent and public servant. San Jose native deeply invested in community and fierce protector of democracy. Nationally recognized for groundbreaking work to improve local government with cross-system initiatives, reducing taxpayer expense and improving service for residents. Recognized as an innovative, results-oriented professional with a strong background in comprehensive project management, mediation, program evaluation and training to effectively bridge government and community.

Professional strengths:

Strategic Planning

Project Management

Gender Responsive Strategies

Budget Preparation & Analysis

Fund Development

Public Engagement

Ethics & Compliance

Campaigns & Elections

Strategic Partnerships

Public Speaking

Leadership & Mentorship

Policy Analysis

Published articles and a regular presenter at public forums, conferences, and workshops.

Education

Santa Clara University

1993 Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy

- Jesuit Fund Scholar, 1987 – 1991
- Everett Alvarez Scholar, 1990

Benchmarks & Milestones

Fiscal Achievements

- Provides oversight of \$1.7 million budget for the Office of Women’s Policy (general funding, grants and trusts) and supports the implementation of a newly approved \$6.125 million budget to address intimate partner violence
- Administers all aspects of various funding streams including budget prep, contract negotiations for expenditures, procurement process of supplies and services, revenue enhancement, and preparation and dissemination of monthly fiscal reports
- Leveraged \$15,000 donation to create the 2009 Ladder Project (an opportunity for women with histories of incarceration to have comprehensive services during a 100-hour pre-apprenticeship with Habitat for Humanity Silicon Valley) into a \$400,000 federal appropriations grant to expand the effort, potentially saving taxpayers several million dollars by investing in women’s ability to successfully reenter the community (vs. incarceration)

Civic Engagement and Compliance

- Over 15 years’ experience staffing commissions, ensuring compliance with Brown Act, posting agendas and minutes, bylaws and ordinance revisions, and organizing public forums for 600+ participants
- Successfully designed and facilitated the implementation of the 2013 Female Jail Monitoring Program and training for all monitors, commissioners, and lead departments to work with incarcerated women
- Successfully facilitated a multi-year reorganization and ordinance change of the Domestic Violence Council from 34 to 22 seats increasing efficiency, quorum, and outcomes of the Council

Carla Drina Collins



Collaborative Success

- Successfully completed the *2012 State of Women & Girls in Santa Clara County Report* and Public Policy Agenda with the staffing of over 40 advisory board members, all leaders in government, education, economics, crime and violence, and health arenas
- Designed and implemented a Girls Advisory Team curriculum and workshops to increase high school students understanding of local policy implementation and annual Strong Girls, Strong Women Leadership Conference
- Project manager for the award-winning 2008 *Breaking Cycles, Rebuilding Lives Report* which highlighted the input of over 70 local stakeholders across local and state systems and included original research of female inmates, focus groups, interviews with staff and stakeholders, and an analysis of forms, policies and procedures

Professional Experience

County of Santa Clara | 70 W. Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 95110

2002 – Present

Assistant Director, Office of Women's Policy

2018 – Present

As Deputy Director of the Office of Women's Policy duties include addressing the day-to-day activities of the office, oversight of staff, interns, and volunteers while implementing new practices to create a more gender-responsive, trauma-informed workplace. Current primary duties include policy support for the local implementation of the Task Force on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination of Against Women, the development and implementation of civic engagement and women's leadership initiatives including policy support to the Women's Equality 2020 Leadership Council and its working groups, and support of the newly established intimate partner violence budget. Represents OWP in local, regional, and national efforts to bring a gender lens to policy and decision making.

Program Manager, Office of the County Executive/Office of Women's Policy

2015 – 2017

As Program Manager primary duties included principal analyst on gender equity, leadership development and women in the criminal justice system; staff to the Commission on the Status of Women; previously staffed the Domestic Violence Council, Bay Area Equal Pay Collaborative and the Domestic Violence Information & Resources (DVIR) Collaborative; developed implementation plan and facilitates Start Smart Wage Negotiation Trainings; event and conference planning; additional duties include managing contracts, addressing media on related issues. Responsible for advising the Director and other stakeholders on assigned projects, preparing legislative files, reports and findings for County departments, commissions and Board of Supervisors. Worked in the Office of Women's Policy as a Management Analyst 2005 – 2015.

Human Relations Coordinator, Office of the County Executive/Office of Human Relations

2002 – 2005

As Staff to the Network for a Hate Free Community and Immigrant Relations and Integration Services (IRIS), duties included day-to-day support to over 100 Network members, responsible for the collection and analysis of all hate violence data within the County. Facilitated prejudice reduction and diversity appreciation workshops.

Relevant Experience & Additional Training

Stanford University – Latino Leadership Institute

2013 Fellow, Cohort 4

County of Santa Clara – San Jose, CA

2014 Candidate, Project Management Certification

2002 Mediation Certification

Working Partnerships Leadership Institute, San Jose, CA

2009 Fall Fellow

Department of Justice – Los Angeles, CA

2009 Federal Grants Financial Management Certification

Institute of Cultural Affairs – Oakland, CA

2005 Technology of Participation (TOP) Group Facilitation Certification

San Jose State University – San Jose, CA

2002 Master's Candidate, Women's Studies

- Women's Network Scholar, 1998

CEMA Executive Board 1st Vice President, 2017- Present; HABLA At-Large Board Member, 2016 – Present; San Jose/Evergreen College Chancellor's Community Advisory Group, 2013 - 2016; President, Democratic Activists for Women Now, 2011 – 2014; Girl Scout Troop #60605 Co-Leader, 2011 – Present, Troop #61682 Co-Leader, 2015 - Present; Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women, 2000 – 2006; Good Neighbor Awardee, Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Santa Clara County, 2005; Baer Awardee, Outstanding Activist, 2003; San Jose Youth Commissioner, 1987 - 1988



MICHELE G. BERTOLONE

1068 Fairview Avenue | michele@boldblue.net

January 10, 2019

Board of Education
San José Unified School District
855 Lenzen Ave.
San José, CA 95126

To the Honorable Members of the San José Unified School Board:

I write in enthusiastic support of Carla Collins' application for appointment to the SJUSD School Board Trustee, District 3.

Carla and I have worked together supporting public education for more than a decade. While I could go on for paragraphs about Carla's excellent experience and leadership qualities, I confine myself to two essential points for your consideration:

1. **Commitment to Every Student, Every Family.**

Many parent leaders choose school projects that best align to the interests of their children. The positive impact they make enriches each child their time and talent touch. Some parents actively seek broader opportunities to benefit schools in ways that reach every student and family as well as the teaching and school staff as a whole.

Carla has proven to be a leader in the latter category through her many accomplishments including her role as the Fundraising Chair for HABLA, River Glen's Parent Teacher Organization. Her organizational efforts as well as her dedication to parent leader mentorship has provided financial stability to the academic support and enrichment activities that benefit the wider River Glen community.

In addition, as the leader of the 3rd grade Girl Scout troop, she has expanded a culture of humble service to River Glen families in need through the coordination of the school's annual holiday food drive. Her willingness to roll up her sleeves and dig into the work at hand comes from a place of deep gratitude for the many gifts our community has given her as well as an obligation to make life better for others whenever and wherever opportunity presents itself.

2. **Constructive and Positive Leadership Style.**

Carla is an excellent listener who first seeks to understand. With understanding, she actively works toward common ground in a spirit of honest engagement. Her reputation is one of collaboration firmly rooted in how much good can be done in each circumstance and with strong consideration to those who might benefit most. She is universally recognized as someone who is trustworthy and well intentioned; a servant leader with a community-minded approach to decision making.



In closing, I firmly believe Carla is an outstanding candidate for School Board Trustee. She is a seasoned SJUSD parent leader of three children. She understands, at a visceral level, how our schools operate. She has broad practical experience working in the public arena on issues related to historically unrepresented people. She has a deep, life-long commitment to a public education system that builds opportunity equity. And, she is an honest, hardworking person who seeks collaboration and understanding above the trappings of ego and personal advancement.

With the sum of her many excellent qualities, she is an outstanding representative of Willow Glen as well as the students and families, teachers and staff, and residents of the District.

With sincere gratitude for the time and sacrifices you make in order to serve the residents of SJUSD,



Board Member, Willow Glen Education Foundation
(Former) Board Member, HABLA Friends of River Glen School
9th and 11th Grade Parent, Willow Glen High School

1258 Butterfly Drive
San Jose, CA 95120

January 10, 2019

San Jose Unified School District School Board
855 Lenzen Avenue
San Jose, CA 95126

Dear Honorable Members of the San Jose Unified School District School Board:

I have had the pleasure of knowing Carla Drina Collins since 2010. Carla's interest in joining the San Jose Unified School District's School Board is a natural extension of the many qualities I have seen her demonstrate over the many years I have known her. I can say with the highest confidence that she would be an excellent addition to the School Board.

Since first meeting her, when our eldest daughters were in first grade together, Carla has displayed exemplary leadership, a strong commitment to the tasks she takes on, an unparalleled passion for equality and social justice, and a genuine belief in the value of listening to and respecting all individuals. Carla has managed to volunteer in many capacities at River Glen School, while juggling demanding work and family responsibilities.

Carla's leadership and commitment have been very evident over the years. In 2010, Carla along with four other parents founded and lead a Girl Scout Troop at River Glen. She helped to lead it through its growing pains of elementary and middle school, providing various learning opportunities and activities for the girls. She is now one of two remaining Troop Leaders guiding our 13-year-old girls through their last year at River Glen. For the second year in a row, Carla is co-chair of River Glen's Gala, one of the school's largest fundraisers. This huge undertaking requires the ability to work closely with a team that can plan and organize many details of such a large event, as well as delegate key responsibilities, and most of all, it requires abundant humor and wherewithal to come through it successfully.

Carla has a keen sense of the big picture. She understands not just the many tasks that need to be done, but how these fit into a much larger context, whether she is organizing families to attend marches and other political events, or ensuring that students understand the larger impact of their actions. For example, before her Girl Scout Troop took over the leadership of the Food Drive at River Glen, Carla organized an outing to Sacred Heart so the girls could gain a better understanding of the complexities surrounding poverty. She would often reinforce what the girls learned by reminding them that food security and "dignity for all" are crucial elements to the Food Drive. She also guided the young teen Girl Scouts through a session on media literacy and ways of thinking critically of how girls and women are portrayed on TV, in film and on social media.

Carla's kind and approachable demeanor is evident when you meet her. She views each individual as important and as someone whose point of view deserves to be heard. She may not agree with what others are saying, but she will listen with an open mind to what people are trying to tell her and discuss these differences professionally and respectfully.

In hiring Carla, the School Board will gain an invaluable member who will bring relevant talents and passions, along with deep commitments to the community. She will work tirelessly on behalf of the School District and the community to achieve positive results for all the School Board constituents.

Sincerely,

Margaret Hawley



SAN JOSE CITY COLLEGE

Extended Opportunity Programs & Services

**2100 Moorpark Avenue
San Jose, California 95128-2799
Phone: 408-288-3788**

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Carla Collins. I support Carla Collins as a candidate for the vacancy on the San Jose Unified Board of Education in Trustee Area 3. I have known Carla for 9 years as our children attend River Glen School. In addition to working with her as a parent, I have also have had the privilege to work with Ms Collins in my current role as an educator at San Jose City College.

Carla Collins has a great deal of experience dealing with local, county and state legislation as the Deputy Director at SCC Office of Women's Policy. In this position, Ms. Collins has gained respect from the community as well as the law makers and local government officials. In my current role as a Counselor at San Jose City College, I have partner with her and her staff to collaborate on internship opportunities for students at SJCC with the Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy. She is a person who has the skills to build partnerships and create civic engagement for our students.

Ms. Collins is a long-time Willow Glen resident, and has been an active member of the community. As a member of the River Glen School community and resident of Willow Glen, I have seen her commitment to civic engagement specifically in our schools. She and her husband have been highly involved in their children's education at River Glen School. Both are very well liked and respected in their community, where she has served long hours as co-chairs for the largest fundraisers at River Glen School.

I most admire Carla Collins for her selfless volunteer work. I served with her on the *River Glen Class of 2019* fundraising committee work and there I acquired respect and admiration for her generosity, intelligence, and dedication to making sure that all students have access to resources and opportunities. She is committed to building a strong community. She works well with parents, teachers and administrators. She has put many hours into making our school community richer and we are very fortunate to have her as part of our school.

With proud enthusiasm, I support Carla Collins Area 3 Trustee for the SJUSD School Board. She has the demonstrated leadership skills, experience with policy making, and community involvement to represent our voice on the School Board. Feel free to call me at (408)813-2846 or contact me via email at olga.morales-anaya@sjcc.edu , should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Olga Morales-Anaya
EOPS Counselor/Coordinator

January 10, 2019

Board of Education
San Jose Unified School District
855 Lenzen Avenue
San José, CA 95126



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RE: Carla Collins, Candidate for Board of Education

Selection Committee,

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic endorsement of Carla Collin's application to serve on the Board of Education of San Jose Unified School District. I firmly believe that Ms. Collins brings a unique and important set of competencies that will serve the Board of Education and our community well.

Ms. Collins has devoted her professional career and civic participation toward the advancement and empowerment of women, children, and families. Bringing her unique voice to San Jose Unified's Board can only serve to strengthen the Board's commitment to ensuring that the voice and values of families, especially low-income immigrant children, are lifted up in critical decisions. As Deputy Director of the Office of Women's Policy for the County of Santa Clara she is at the forefront of critical conversations about the challenges faced by parents and children in our valley. Her sensitivity to issues of equity and justice, and experience in engaging communities not often heard, are essential and complementary talents she will bring to the Board of Trustees.

Perhaps just as critically, Ms. Collin will bring strong policy and political analysis to the Board as the District seeks to navigate critical decision making in Sacramento over the next few years. Budgetary challenges remain of paramount concern for San Jose Unified, and someone with the comfort, experience, and respect that Ms. Collins can bring to conversations with legislators will be of tremendous value to the District.

On a personal level, I have had the pleasure of witnessing Ms. Collins direct engagement in the schools, with students, and other parents. Her commitment to ensure every student thrives in our system, comes from a very authentic place, from her genuine love for our community, and the dignity of everyone in it. I have great confidence in her leadership and her ability to work collaboratively to strengthen SJUSD as a member of the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Poncho J. Guevara", with a long, sweeping underline.

Poncho J. Guevara
Executive Director

S. Raquel Alvarez
5511 Russo dr.
San Jose CA, 95118
ralvarez@unitehere19.org
408-439-4045

January 9, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I Am honored to write a letter of recommendation for Carla Collins.

I have known Carla Collins for 9 years, since our daughters began kindergarten at River Glen School in San Jose. Carla is a great example of an intelligent person with high set of values and ethics, she is an honest person that will go over and above to help people.

Carla has always been a kind, active and positive member of our school community. She has been very involved and has volunteered at school in many ways (in the classroom, at evening and weekend events). This includes participating in school fundraising events by volunteering her, staffing events, and assisting during class activities and field trips. Despite, all her volunteering at the school, she is also actively involved in the community.

Carla had been a bridge between the immigrant and non-immigrant parent communities by always including everyone.

While it is not easy juggling a full-time job and raising 3 kids, Carla has always been there to support not just her kids, but all the kids at River Glen. In addition, Carla has stepped up to help lead the Girl Scout troops of both her daughters and one of my daughters.

Carla is a trusted leader in our community, and I urge you to support her as trustee for area 3.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any question.

Sincerely,

S. Raquel Alvarez

President of UNITEHERE Local 19

