

View results

Respondent

118

Anonymous

146:05

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 *

Vaishali Sirkay

3. Full name *

Shali Sirkay (Vaishali)

4. Region/subregion *

20



5. Name of District or COE *

Los Altos School District

6. Years on board *

6

7. Profession

Executive Director, Cities Association of Santa Clara County

8. Contact number *

408-455-4154

9. Primary email address *

shalisirkay@gmail.com

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 want to serve the school districts in our region by raising the level of discussion about the specific issues and concerns that affect us in Region 20. My background in community public health, and the skillset that comes with it, has truly helped me look at issues with a sensitive, solution-driven perspective where the student and family are at the heart of the process. When designing community health programs, you need to understand the community you are serving down to the littlest detail if you want your program to be successful. Likewise, being active in the Santa Clara School Boards Association (SCCSBA) has allowed me to appreciate the insights of my fellow trustees in our county and understand both their unique and common challenges. At SCCSBA, where I am currently the Vice President, I have served as Hoffmann reader, Treasurer and recently joined the Legislative Action Committee (LAC). My experience includes service on my school board (current Board President and in 2021), serving on the board of the Asian Pacific Islander School Board Members Association (APISBMA), Vice Chair of the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission (current Chair of the Education and Equity Committee), and board member for the Eating Disorders Resource Center (EDRC) and Silicon Valley Urban Debate League (SVUDL). I have experience bringing diverse groups together. Districts working together, both within our region and outside of it, is key to creating the school and policy environments that positively impact our students. This is critical because our concerns cross school district boundaries. From the recent LAC survey, our districts let us know the top concerns in their districts, and addressing these needs is critical to closing the achievement gap, supporting special education and English learner students, and addressing our students' mental health and wellness needs.

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

I have been very involved in my community for many years. I have focused my activities on those that support and advocate for children and families. I became a trustee for just that reason. Before joining my board, I co-chaired successful bond and parcel tax campaigns. I am currently Board President and served as Board President in 2021, guiding the transition back to in-person classes. At LASD I served on the District English Language Advisory Committee and the Wellness Committee for several years. I served for three years on the board of the Asian Pacific Islander School Board Members Association (APISBMA), focusing on the needs of our API students. In the previous school year, I joined the leadership of the Santa Clara County School Boards Association, where this year I am the Vice President and member of the Legislative Action Committee (LAC). This particular role has given me insights into the issues that affect our diverse school districts. Since 2019 I have served as a commissioner on the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC), where at various points I chaired the Equity & Justice Committee, the Education Committee, and the Education & Equity Committee. In 2024 I became Vice Chair of the JJC. The JJC has given me access to county-wide organizations that focus on breaking the school to prison pipeline and re-integrating our justice-involved youth and foster youth back into their home districts. I also serve on the board of the Eating Disorders Resource Center and the Silicon Valley Urban Debate League (SVUDL). Serving on the SVUDL board in particular has challenged me to think more creatively about how we can address the achievement gap. I am currently also on the board of the Los Altos-Mountain View Community Foundation, where I serve on the Grants and Development Committees. I have served on the board of a mental health organization that served our students, CHAC, where I chaired the Development Committee for 2 years.

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

The biggest challenge facing governing boards is closing an achievement gap whose root causes are increasing. Not surprisingly, the results of the recent Legislative Action Committee (LAC) survey, where each district was represented, showed that the top four issues facing our region are socioeconomically disadvantaged students, mental health and wellness, special education, and English learners. Each issue alone has an impact on the achievement gap, but the compounding of these issues creates a deeper challenge for governing boards. We need supportive legislative policies that help us address these issues collectively because these issues don't stop at the boundaries of our districts. Of course, lack of funding and unfunded mandates undermine our ability as school districts to address these challenges. Being an optimist, I believe that the opportunities are there as well. One of the best aspects of our county and state school boards associations is that they provide the space for our districts to come together, share their perspectives and insights, and allow for collective, systems-changing solutions to the challenge of closing the achievement gap.

Shali Sirkay (Vaishali), MPH

Overview of Relevant Experience

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY:

Over 20 years of diverse experience with a proven commitment to addressing issues critical to local and regional communities, using an equity-focused lens and a deep understanding of how the breadth and depth of the Social Determinants of Health create challenges and opportunities in communities.

EDUCATION EXPERIENCE:

- Los Altos School District Board of Trustees (2018-present)
 - Current Board President as well as in 2021
- Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission (2019-present)
 - Current Vice Chair of Commission
 - Chair of the Education and Equity Committee
- Santa Clara County School Boards Association (2018-present)
 - Current Vice President
 - Current member of the Legislative Action Committee
 - Treasurer
 - Hoffmann Reader
- Asian Pacific Islander School Board Members Association (2022-2024)

COMMUNITY AND NONPROFIT BOARD EXPERIENCE

- Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation
 - Board Member (2022-present)
 - i. Member of Governance Committee
 - ii. Member of Development Committee
- Board Member, Eating Disorders Resource Center
 - Board Member (2024-present)
- Board Member, Silicon Valley Urban Debate League
 - Board Member (2024-present)
 - i. Member of Governance Committee
- CHAC (Community Health Awareness Council)
 - Board Member (2018-2020)
 - i. Chair of Development Committee

EDUCATION:

Master of Public Health (Area of Specialization: Health Education and Communication)

Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, New Orleans, LA, December 1998

Bachelor of Arts (Major/Minor: Anthropology/Biology)

Barnard College at Columbia University, New York, NY, May 1995

ADDITIONAL TRAINING:

- Masters in Governance, California School Boards Association
- Toastmasters International, Public Speaking Education
- Techniques of Participation, Facilitator Training