



CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name: Hunter T. Jameson

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]

Number of Years Residing in District: 7 (as of September 2023)

Employment Background:

Please see separate sheet.

Employer	Position	Dates of Employment

Education Background:

Included on separate sheet.

High School/Institution	Degrees/Units	Date of Attendance

CANDIDATE INFORMATION – Hunter Jameson

Employment Background:

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas	Instructor, writing and literature, English Department	1976-78
<i>Hillsboro (Ore.) Argus</i>	School, business, and general assignment reporter; proofreader; news editor	1979-85
<i>Ashland (Ore.) Daily Tidings</i>	Editor	1985-86
<i>Albany (Ore.) Democrat-Herald</i>	Business editor; Saturday managing editor	1986-92
Torrance (Calif.) <i>Daily Breeze</i>	Copy editor	1992-95
<i>Investor's Business Daily</i> , Los Angeles	Copy editor; daily column editor; writer	1996-2001
Mullin Consulting Inc. (later Mullin/TBG), Los Angeles	Writer of enrollment materials for executive benefits (deferred compensation) consultant	2002-16

Educational Background:

<u>High School/Institution</u>	<u>Degrees/Units</u>	<u>Dates of Attendance</u>
South Eugene (Ore.) High School		1960-63
Hillsboro (Ore.) Union High School	Diploma	1963-64
University of Oregon	B.A. (Honors College), English Phi Beta Kappa	1964-68
Oxford University (Pembroke College)	B.A., English Language and Literature M.A.	1969-71
Indiana University	Ph.D., English	1971-75



Please put an “x” next to each statement that applies to you:

- ☒ I am 18 years of age or older.
- ☒ I am a citizen of the State of California.
- ☒ I am a resident of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District.
- ☒ I am a resident of Trustee Area 3. The trustee area map was recently updated. The map is attached as Attachment A and a more detailed map may be found at: [SMJUHSD Interactive Map](#)
- ☒ I am a registered voter in the State of California.
- ☒ I am not disqualified by the United States Constitution or the laws of the State of California from holding civil office, and I am eligible to be appointed a member of the governing board of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District.
- ☒ I am not an employee of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District.
- ☒ I am willing to file a Conflict-of-Interest Statement.

Signature of Applicant Hunter J. Jameson Date: August 29, 2023.

REFERENCES – Hunter Jameson

1. Name: Elizabeth (Liz) Gutierrez
Address: [REDACTED]
Telephone Number: [REDACTED]
Relationship to you: Friend; she is a student advocate at Laurus College and mother of two graduates from Santa Maria High School.

2. Name: Barry and Lorraine Schneider
Address: [REDACTED]
Telephone Number: [REDACTED]
Relationship to you: Friends; they are parents of two Righetti High School graduates and grandparents of three Righetti High graduates.

3. Name: Pastor Tim Mossholder
Address: [REDACTED]
Telephone Number: [REDACTED]
Relationship to you: Pastor of my church, Santa Maria Foursquare Church.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS – Hunter Jameson

1. Do you have prior experience serving on a governing board, specifically a school district board? Please list such prior experience.

Early in my newspaper career in Oregon, I covered school boards for several years for the Hillsboro Union High School District (where I had graduated a dozen years before) and the Beaverton School District, both west of Portland. That was another time in another state; nevertheless, I feel attending board meetings in their entirety, as I customarily did, receiving and reviewing board packets, and following agendas and board actions throughout the meetings, often as the only non-school staff person present, gave me a good basic understanding of school board duties and procedures. I also learned about teacher salary ladders, teacher and classified worker negotiations, and budgets and the annual budgeting process.

I also served on church business councils for several churches I have attended including most recently in Santa Monica and currently in Santa Maria, and was board member of my condominium association in Santa Monica from 2002 to 2006.

2. What school district, community or business activities have you been involved in?

I am a member of the board of trustees for the Santa Maria Public Library (appointed by Mayor Patino); I serve on the Business Council for the Santa Maria Foursquare Church; and I am a board member for Right to Life of the Central Coast.

3. Why do you want to be a school board member?

I would like to play a role in helping young people discover and develop their God-given abilities and talents in safe and well-ordered schools that will help prepare them for life after graduation—whether that is to join the job market directly, to seek further education and career training through Allan Hancock College or other avenues, or to attend a four-year college. We need to assure our graduates can read well; write, think, and speak clearly; through our required courses participate in our great country's cultural heritage and history and gain hands-on experience in mathematics and science; and have the chance to take part in character building extracurricular activities, including sports. I would seek to assure adequate resources for students, teachers, administrators, and staff to do a good job with these tasks. It is vital that our district give proper respect and deference to parents as the primary teachers and caregivers for their children.

4. What do you feel you can contribute as a school board member?

I have an eye for and the time to devote to details including consent agenda items, a willingness to listen to presentations, to ask questions about them and typical procedures (including why?). I shall seek to recognize the value and limits of school in a student's life. I will apply the yardstick of common sense to district policy and other decisions. Educational theories and ideologies must be measured against practicality and results.

5. What experience, education, training, or volunteer work do you think qualifies you to be appointed as the board member?

Being a parent of a high school graduate is my most important qualification for being on the high school board. I was a student myself for many years, observing different teaching styles and methods. I still recall with thanks my ninth-grade English and social studies teacher who inspired her students to write well, to think clearly, and to speak confidently to an audience. I also have had experience as a college teacher. As I mentioned in my answer to Question 1, I have observed school boards at work at close quarters. I believe these experiences have helped me understand the challenges of being a student, a teacher, a parent, and a school board member.

6. Identify a recent board decision that you felt strongly about, and describe how you would balance community concerns, student needs, state and federal law, staff considerations, and your personal values and beliefs to determine how to vote on the issue.

A recent board decision I felt strongly about was whether to discard as district logo the flagship Santa Maria of Christopher Columbus. No state or federal law was involved in this decision. Comments came from both sides in letters to the editor and school board (including one of mine) and newspaper articles. Community opinion was divided, but even if it were not, I would need to make a decision on such a matter ultimately based on my own principles. These include having the humility to recognize that historical figures, like us, are imperfect human beings; that in spite of defects and shortcomings, those who achieve history-making deeds can be sources of inspiration; and that insistence on moral perfection under present standards needs to be balanced with historical context; and that the lessons of history can only be taught to those who are willing to engage with it, not ignore it.

7. What do you see as the strengths of the school district?

I think the district's embrace and emphasis on career education, including the recent building of the Mark Richardson Career Technical Education Center and Agricultural Farm, is excellent. As I mentioned in Answer 3, we need to make learning relevant for a wide range of students' gifts and future goals, whether they intend to enter the job market immediately, pursue further classes and job-related training at Allan Hancock College or elsewhere; or enter a four-year college. I believe the district has recognized this need. In addition, the district's arranging the return of school resource officers to campuses this fall is commendable.

8. What do you see as the area(s) most needing improvement in the school district?

I feel the district could seek to reduce class sizes by adding teachers or alternatively add more teacher aides. I understand also that numerous young people continue to struggle with social and emotional problems remaining from the COVID lockdowns that can disrupt learning, posing challenges that need to be tackled.