



Merlin M. Hanauer
Department of Economics
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To whom it may concern,

I write this letter to express my interest in serving on the Gravenstein Union School District's Board of Trustees. Along with this letter of interest you will find my responses to the application questions, which describe my motivation for application.

I am an Associate Professor of Environmental Economics in my eighth year at Sonoma State University. I currently have three children enrolled in the District with another who will be enrolled in the future. I will be invested in the District for many years to come and would like to represent and serve the community and District.

I am confident that I will make a strong addition to the Board. My research is empirical in nature and thus requires me to address questions with a high degree of objectivity, and to interrogate assumptions and opinions that I may hold. I think that this objective approach will be beneficial as a Board member, where the objective best interests of students, parents, and the District is paramount.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the Board and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Merlin M. Hanauer", written over a horizontal line.

Merlin M. Hanauer



GRAVENSTEIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jennifer Schwinn, Superintendent
3840 Twig Avenue
Sebastopol, CA 95472
707-823-7008 (v)
707-823-2108 (f)
Email: jschwinn@grav.k12.ca.us

Board of Trustees
Jim Horn, Board President
Desiree Beck, Board Clerk
Gregory Appling, Member
Steve Schwartz, Member
Jennifer Koelemeijer, Member

Candidate Questionnaire

Appointment to finish a Term on Board of Trustees for the remaining 14 months of a Four Year Term

*Completed Questionnaire and a cover letter of interest must be received in the Gravenstein district office by noon on **Monday, October 1, 2018**. Upon receipt by the District, this Questionnaire will be a matter of public record.*

*Candidates will be interviewed in open session, and the Board will vote to appoint a trustee, at 5 PM on **Wednesday, October 10, 2018**, in Room 13 of the Gravenstein Elementary School, 3840 Twig Avenue, Sebastopol, CA.*

Please type or print neatly in the spaces provided or attach additional sheets as necessary.

Date 9/28/18

Name: Merlin Mack Hanauer

Residence Address: 1249 Bing Tree Way Sebastopol CA 95472

*Home Phone 861-9112 Work Phone 664-2410
merlinmack@gmail.com*

Are you a registered voter in the Gravenstein Union School District? Yes

Have you ever been disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding a civil office? No

How long have you lived in the Gravenstein Union School District? 7 years

1. What are your qualifications for appointment to the Board of Trustees?

I am currently an Associate Professor of Economics at Sonoma State University (SSU). During my seven-plus years at SSU I have served on various governance bodies at Department, School, and University levels. Through my service I have developed a good understanding of how educational governance works, how I can use my talents and perspectives to benefit the committees on which I have served, and how to diplomatically navigate the politics inherent to governance.

2. Why are you interested in serving on the Board?

I am interested in serving on the Board of Trustees for a number of reasons. On a personal level, I currently have three children enrolled in the District, and a fourth to follow. I want to ensure a rich and fulfilling educational experience for my children. However, I don't want this motivation to be perceived as purely self-serving. In fact, the experience of my children is a reflection of the experience of all the students and the overall health of the Gravenstein District. The fact that I will have children in the District for the next 11 years only serves to deepen my feeling of investment. On a professional level, I would like to better understand how the Board functions and influences the direction of the District. As a social scientist I am interested in the way in which institutions shape society and how those institutions are ultimately shaped by the individuals that compose them. Serving on the Board would provide me interesting insights from that perspective. Finally, I am simply interested in becoming more involved in, and providing service to, my community.

3. What do you see as the key issues facing the Gravenstein school district?

Based on the last meeting of the Board and anecdotal discussions with parents, the most immediate issue facing the District, in my mind, is the dual program. There is an understandable urgency to formulate a plan as to what the Enrich/Traditional program will look like in the coming academic years. Because of the need to provide information for the next academic year, I think this topic will be at the forefront of upcoming meetings of the Board. Another key topic is the long-term objectives of the District and how they shape the complexion of the campuses and the experience of the students and teachers. For instance, is there going to be a focus on extensive or intensive growth? What is the roll of the District in the immediate community and the regional community? These questions, and many like them, are ones that should be considered by the Board on a regular basis.

4. What are the most important roles of a Board member? How do you see yourself filling those roles?

The most important role(s) of a Board member is to approach issues objectively with the best interest of students and their families, teachers, and staff in mind. If those parties are happy it is a reflection of a well-functioning district. As an educator, I feel that I have good insight into student well-being, and compassion for the families of students. As an empirical economist, I have been trained to address questions with objectivity and to interrogate assumptions, results, and opinions.

5. How much time and energy will you be able to devote to this position if appointed?

As a graduate student I learned what it takes to be successful in a field where work is never finished. As a professor I have a flexible schedule, which means that I necessarily allocate work to accommodate various competing interests. Because of this I feel confident that I will be able to allocate whatever time is necessary to be successful as a member of the Board. I would not take my duties lightly and would not feel comfortable providing anything but 100% effort.

The above is accurate to the best of my knowledge.



Signature

9/28/18

Date

Please return to the Gravenstein district office at 3840 Twig Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472. Deadline for receipt is 12 noon, Monday, October 1, 2018.



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Date 9/25/18

Name:	First	Middle	Last
	Alexander	Gordon	Kahn
Residence Address:	Number/Street	City	State Zip
	5060 McFarlane Road	Sebastopol	CA 95472

Home Phone ^{cell} 707 698 0840 Work Phone _____
 Email Kahnale@sonoma.edu

Are you a registered voter in the Gravenstein Union School District? ✓

Have you ever been disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding a civil office? N

How long have you lived in the Gravenstein Union School District? 1.5 years

1. What are your qualifications for appointment to the Board of Trustees?

- child currently attending Gravenstein elementary
- experience in the non-profit sector (college professor, director of a non-profit chamber orchestra)
- leadership/organizational management experience as a music director and conductor

2. Why are you interested in serving on the Board?

I am interested in creating a joyful, creative, stimulating and fulfilling experience for all students ~~in~~ the Gravenstein School District

3. What do you see as the key issues facing the Gravenstein school district?

- Deep rift between traditional and enrich students - unequal educational opportunities
- competing fundraising goals between MAF + G-SF
- lack of cross-campus community
- transportation and parking
- need to update non-academic offerings

4. What are the most important roles of a Board member? How do you see yourself filling those roles?

- to listen fairly to all constituents - students, parents, staff, faculty, + community members
- to ensure that students receive the best education possible
- I will work as a team member to fulfil both changes to the best of my abilities

5. How much time and energy will you be able to devote to this position if appointed?

- I am passionate about Gravenstein and will devote substantial time + energy to my board membership.

The above is accurate to the best of my knowledge.



Signature

9-25-18

Date

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