

Saddleback Valley USD Board of Education
Candidate Information Sheet

Name: Suzie Swartz

Profession: Governing Board Member SVUSD, Trustee Area 3 and Public Relations Consultant

Education Background: UCLA graduate with additional Early Childhood Education units from Saddleback College and Masters in Governance Certificate from California School Boards Association (CSBA).

School Committees/Volunteer Positions:

Several terms Del Cerro PTA President and several terms on Executive Boards for Del Cerro PTA, Saddleback Valley PTA Council, La Paz PTSO, La Paz Band, MVHS Band, MUN, Tennis and Wrestling Boosters; Phi Delta Kappa South Orange County; various School Site Councils and SVUSD Facility Advisory, Healthy Kids, Textbook Adoption and, Strategic Planning Committees; OC Department of Education Character Education and Early Childhood Education Committees; California State Department of Education Learning Assessment Community Review Panels; OC Education Coalition Steering Committee; Saddleback Memorial Hospital Community Benefit Oversight Committee; and Positive Youth Development Conference Presenter.

Government Experience (Elected Office, appointed positions, etc.):

Past President and current Vice President SVUSD Board, served five terms as President and have served in every capacity on SVUSD Board; Served three terms as President and currently secretary Orange County School Boards Assn. and Representative to CA School Boards Assn (CSBA) Delegate Assembly; past SVUSD Representative and past President Coastline ROP; and past CSBA Federal Governmental Relations Chair; past member County Committee on School District Organization.

Organizations (please specify if PTA member):

SVUSD district-wide PTA member, Saddleback Memorial Hospital Community Benefit Oversight Committee, OC School Boards Association Board of Directors, CSBA Delegate Assembly.

Children's ages, how and where they are (were) educated:

My children are ages 35 and 40. Both attended Del Cerro, La Paz and graduated from Mission Viejo High. The oldest, Mitchell, graduated from Boston University, and the youngest, Jeremy, graduated from San Diego State and Southwestern Law and is a member of the California State Bar Association. My grandchildren attend public school.

Please answer each of the following in 50 words or less each. We reserve the right to edit to maintain the 50 word limit. Why are you running for SVUSD School Board? Why are you qualified?

Our community deserves quality public schools and relies on a collaborative and focused board that puts children first. I have the experience and passion to maintain high standards in the Arts, Career Tech, STEM and the basics, and provide the needed support for our children, teachers and staff to succeed.

What do you think are the biggest challenges facing SVUSD right now and what are your plans to address these challenges?

Classroom behavior and academic challenges, reining in rising costs and the looming state budget deficit. I'll continue to focus on children first as I listen to and collaborate with colleagues, parents, teachers, students, administrators, support staff and community. We must work together keeping children at the heart of every decision.

How will you prioritize the use of finite SVUSD resources?

My number one priority is always to direct resources where they will have the greatest benefit for our children at each school. The schools and children we serve are diverse and I'll continue to listen to staff recommendations and parent input to help prioritize the needs at each school site.