

**2024 Saddleback Valley USD Board of Education
Candidate Information Sheet**

Name: Michele Sparks

Profession: Photographer/Business Owner

Education Background: Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a double major in Psychology

School Committees/Volunteer Positions:

Key SVUSD Involvement:

SVUSD College & Career Fair Chair 2023 & 2024

President of SVPSF (Saddleback Valley Public Schools Foundation)

Valencia Elementary School Site Council 6 years

La Paz Intermediate School Site Council 2 years

Mission Viejo High School School Site Council 2 years

Superintendent Advisory Committee 6 years

Numerous SVUSD Hiring Panels

WASC Committee at MVHS

PBIS Team at Valencia Elementary for 2 years

Key Parent LEADERSHIP Roles:

PTA President at Valencia Elementary

PTO President at La Paz Intermediate

SVPTA President (Saddleback Valley PTA Council)2020-2022

SVPTA Advocacy Chair 2022-2024

Fourth District PTA Council President Liaison 2021-2022

Fourth District PTA VP of Communications 2023-2024

Community Experience/Involvement

Nellie Gail HOA Events Committee

Holiday Fair Benefiting Team Darkhorse (2 years)

Girl Scout Leader for 10 years

Government Experience (Elected office, appointed positions, etc.)

Organizations (please specify if PTA member):

I'm currently a member of PTA at San Joaquin Elementary & have been a PTA member for the past 13 years. A couple of my schools did not have PTA, so I joined a PTA that could use additional membership as I served on SVPTA.

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

All 3 of my children attended our SVUSD schools

- Kaleb 19, attended Valencia Elementary, La Paz Intermediate, Mission Viejo High School and is currently attending San Diego State University
- Logan, attended Valencia Elementary, La Paz Intermediate and is currently at Mission Viejo High School
- Dakota, attended Valencia Elementary, La Paz Intermediate and is currently at Mission Viejo High 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?

I have always been a part of the solutions in SVUSD, serving our community at my local school sites & district for 13+ years. My experience as a business professional, involvement as a parent of three children in SVUSD, and commitment to the success and well-being of all students is why I'm the best qualified.

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

My top priorities for SVUSD include:

- Ensure safe and healthy learning environments for all students
- Partnership, Communication & Transparency with all Stakeholders
- Fiscal & Academic Accountability
- Hiring & Retaining Quality Teachers & Instructional Assistants
- College & Career Readiness

With potential budget cuts impending from the state, my focus will be on managing the budget to ensure that any reductions have minimal impact on classrooms and student learning. Fiscal responsibility is about making strategic decisions that protect the quality of education.

How will you prioritize the use of finite SVUSD resources?

As mentioned above, prioritizing funding that directly benefits students and exploring creative ways to maximize resources will be key. Partnership with our stakeholders & community is also a key piece of this equation.