

Candidate Statement of Susan Merrifield Prieto

I currently live and work as an educator in this area and I am employed by Los Angeles Unified School District. I have been a teacher for 21 years and have experience and certification in several areas, including credentials in:-

Multiple subject elementary teaching
Bilingual credential in Spanish
Language/reading specialist credential (LDS)
National Board Certification with early childhood emphasis
BA in Fine Arts from UCLA
MEd. from UCLA

I am also a master teacher and act as a mentor and facilitator for new teachers from the time they get their preliminary credential, during all professional development, until they receive permanent status and are fully credentialed.

I am seeking the position of member for Educational Interests as I feel strongly that we need more input at all levels from teachers who are currently “in the field”. Education in this city has too long suffered from continual application of “band aids” and stop gap measures, instead of a strong and thoughtful long term plan being given the time to work. I believe that high school students need vocational training, which, as well as giving them skills, will also prepare them for the working environment, help them feel self worth and allow all students to graduate and not feel they have failed, or are wasting their time, due to not being considered college material.

As well as being employed in the public schools system I have been active in private schools too. My husband and I were joint presidents of Immaculate Heart Parent Council for 2 years and I was extremely active during my daughter’s time at St. Casimir School, helping raise funds for the student body and supporting the faculty.

If appointed my goal would be to represent the educational interests of our area and to give a view from the inside. I would hope to dispel some of the misinformation stated in newspapers and other media and use my knowledge and experience to help raise the level of all education in our community.