

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Ted Meriam
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August 24, 2011

Clayton Valley Charter High School
Governing Board Election Committee
1101 Alberta Way
Concord, CA 94521

Dear Governing Board Election Committee:

Please accept this letter and application as my intent to represent the community by applying for a Community Member-at-Large seat on the inaugural Clayton Valley Charter High School Governing Board. As an active alumnus in the Clayton Valley community, I am well aware of the importance of this next chapter of the institution's legacy and the level of commitment required of the Board. If accepted into the CVCHS Governing Board, I will fully execute the responsibilities asked of me during my term.

My tenure with Clayton Valley High School began as a member of the Class of 2001. As a student, I was exceptionally active in student leadership, and partnered with faculty and staff in organizations like Renaissance, Leadership, CA Scholarship Federation, Human Relations Commission, and Senior Men. These experiences provided me insight into the operations of a public high school, a subject that personally intrigues me and, in part, drives my continued support of Clayton Valley. My contributions through academics, scholarship, and leadership were recognized with the Grand Altair award upon graduation. My positive experiences and breadth in learning during high school left me with a sense of tremendous pride in the school, which ultimately led me back to Clayton Valley during the 2008-2009 school year.

After completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, I returned to Clayton and purchased my first home in 2008. I was eager to give back to the community that gave so much to me in the past. For example, I recently chaired Clayton Valley's 50th Anniversary celebration as a way to pay tribute to five generations of Eagles. For over a year, I led a committed team of alumni in creating numerous experiences designed to connect alumni to campus and to the current student body, faculty and staff. The 50th Anniversary reminded me of the deep history of Eagle Pride and the relevant relationships that still exist in the community today. While listening to alumni telling stories about "the good old days," I wondered why the similar level of pride, performance, and community no longer resonates through contemporary

Clayton Valley. I believe the Clayton Valley Charter High School can revive the level of excellence and address the current concerns embedded in the culture and performance of the institution.

In addition to my desire to give back to my community, my intent to serve on the inaugural Governing Board is driven by my belief that the charter's Mission and Shared Vision will transition Clayton Valley into a 21st century school meeting the needs of all stakeholders. The six goals outlined in the petition are accomplishable and the level of passion exhibited by the Steering Committee is a reflection of the support behind this initiative; the Governing Board will continue to drive this mission and vision forward.

Throughout my professional career at Microsoft, I have had the privilege to be a part of a forward-looking company that enables people and businesses around the world to realize their full potential. This is what I envision for the students, faculty, and staff at Clayton Valley: that we enable them to realize their full potential every day. The charter school, backed by passionate leadership and community involvement, is the vehicle to get us there. This is a mission and vision I want to help execute to take our Eagles to the heights at which I know we can soar.

Thank you for your time in reviewing my application materials and considering me as a Community Member-at-Large in the inaugural Clayton Valley Charter High School Governing Board.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Meriam". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ted Meriam '01

QUALIFICATIONS

Education History:

1989-1994: Mt. Diablo Elementary School

1994-1997: Diablo View Middle School

1997-2001: Clayton Valley High School (Grand Altair)

2001-2005: University of Puget Sound (Cum Laude, Business Leadership Program)

Current and Prior Leadership Roles:

Clayton Historical Society, President

My work with other non-profit organizations has prepared me to serve on the Governing Board. As a multi-term President at the Clayton Historical Society, I helped modernize the organization, examining the way to engage volunteers, donors, and operational processes to run business. My business-minded approach has brought this 35-year-old organization into the modern era.

Clayton Business & Community Association (CBCA), Technology Chair, Scholarship Committee Member, Former Art & Wine Chair

My membership in the CBCA has introduced me to local businesspeople and like-minded philanthropists in the community. These well-connected individuals are united by their love for the community and their desire to make it even better. It is important for the Governing Board to be connected to the goings-on of the community outside of CVCHS and the CBCA is one excellent platform for that involvement.

Microsoft Corporation, Technical Account Manager and College Hire Program Manager

My six-year tenure with the Microsoft Corporation has paired me with other professionals working in a demanding environment. As a member of the Governing Board, I will advocate for the same high standards that I am used to in the corporate world. I am fortunate that Microsoft provides me with a schedule that will accommodate the time demanded in this vital role.

University of Puget Sound Alumni Council, Career & Employment Services and Regional Clubs

Working beside professional university staff to deliver alumni programs has taught me a lot about alumni, faculty, student, and staff engagement. All of these populations must work together to make a successful school and we can do the same at the CVCHS.

Passport to Communities Foundation (P2C Foundation), Founder

Together with Clayton City Councilman Joe Medrano, I established a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that raises money and grants it back to the local community. Joe and I created the P2C

Foundation with the hopes of bringing together families and businesses, while supporting the larger mission of giving back to Clayton. I have learned a lot about creating a non-profit corporation and how to run one.

City of Clayton, Former Planning Commissioner

With one foot in Corporate America and the other in local city politics, I am constantly reminded how these two worlds work and differ. While in some ways a high school is a non-profit business, it also is a government-influenced entity. Understanding both of these worlds is important to the ongoing operation of a high school.

There are four main areas, with associated experiences and activities, which particularly qualify me for an appointment to the Clayton Valley Charter School Governing Board:

1. Career and Professional Development

- As a board member on my University's Alumni Council, for three years I worked on the Career and Employment Services committee, focusing on building bridges between students, alumni, and business owners for professional development purposes. I can bring this perspective to CVCHS to support similar work with faculty, staff, and students.
- As a Microsoft employee, I am currently leading the recruiting and onboarding of college hires into my business division at Microsoft. Understanding the unique challenges of transitioning from academia to the workforce is another area where I have deep knowledge that could be leveraged.

2. Technology in Education

- At the University of Puget Sound, I worked for four years in the Office of Technology Services, delivering and supporting IT services to students, faculty, and staff. The technical skills I have can translate into technology planning, support, and training of personnel at CVCHS.
- Microsoft has a wealth of technology solutions that can be used in the classroom and to run the non-profit charter school. As a member of the IT industry, I can bring knowledge around how to best leverage technology to support the mission, vision, and operation of the school. This is especially important in the foundational years while we establish the charter.
- As a Microsoft employee, I can provide access to reduced-cost Microsoft software to support the mission of the charter school and Microsoft will pay Clayton Valley \$17 per hour for each hour that I volunteer with the school.

3. Innovative School Leadership

- While working at Microsoft Corporate, I joined the Microsoft Partners in Learning team to help establish volunteer channels between employees and schools. Through that work, I learned about the thought leadership and innovation at Microsoft and the Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation with regards to education reform. The frameworks for creating 21st century learning environments through new models are something to consider during the formative years of CVCHS. If desired, I can setup meetings between the Governing Board and Microsoft Partners in Learning and/or offer an onsite tour of the School of the Future, in Philadelphia.

- My thought leadership can also be noted in my involvement in other organizations, including the Clayton Historical Society, Clayton Business & Community Association, P2C Foundation, and the City of Clayton. In each of these organizations, I have innovated operational processes, enabled better business through technology, and helped increase efficiency and effectiveness. We can do the same at Clayton Valley.

4. Alumni Community

- As Chair of Clayton Valley's 50th Anniversary, I built the beginning of an alumni network that can now be fostered for the benefit of alums and the institution. Community involvement, including alumni, is vital for the success of any school. We can use this foundation to continue to connect and deepen relationships with prior Eagles.
- As part of my University's Alumni Council, I lead the West Coast Regional Clubs and am tasked with building alumni communities across the United States. This higher-education approach to nurturing alumni relationship is relevant to high schools as well.

In summary, I bring the aforementioned unique experiences and qualifications that support Clayton Valley Charter High School's mission and vision. I look forward to discussing these further with the Election Committee and your consideration of me as a Community Member-at-Large on the Governing Board.

References available upon request.