

Chamber to Host Board of Education Candidates Forum

The Torrance Chamber will host a Torrance Unified School District Candidates Forum on October 8th at 8:30 a.m. The virtual forum will bring together four candidates vying for two seats on the Board of Education. Terry Ragins will be terming off the board in December after 17 years of service. Don Lee will also be terming off the board in December after serving 13 years.

Madison Laster comes with a background of serving as a student board member of the Redondo Beach Unified School District's Board of Education during the 2017 and 2018 school years. Laster graduated in 2018 from Redondo High School as she was receiving her associate degree from El Camino College in Torrance. She finished her four-year degree at Sacramento State in December 2019 with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. "As a board member, you need to advocate on behalf of students, on behalf of the community, to advocate for funding and for a more inclusive curriculum," stated Laster. She believes that her experience as a member of various education-related boards and organizations has prepared her well for membership on the Torrance school board.

Anil Muhammed is well-known amongst Torrance leadership circles and is an administrator at the Huntington Beach Unified School District. He has a degree in Computer Science from UC Davis, an MBA from UC Irvine and a Doctorate of Education from University of Southern California. He currently is an adjunct faculty member at Rio Hondo College, where he teaches programming and information technologies. Having experience and a background in IT, Muhammed is confident that he can support in implementing technological solutions for distance learning. Muhammed stated, "There's a dire issue right now — we're definitely in an unprecedented time, in terms of public education and history with COVID,...now is a time where I think I can contribute because I think I can be ready to go on Day One."

Jasmine Park is a Torrance native who graduated from North High School in Torrance in 2010. She graduated cum laude from Harvard University with a B.A. in History and East Asian Studies in 2014. She went on to earn a Master's Degree in Global Affairs in 2019 at Yale University. Jasmine has served in the Peace Corps for two years and her decision to run for the school board came from a self-examination of her expertise, passions, and where she could best serve her community. Jasmine stated "I've been all over the world, and I think I'm ready to take what I've learned from the education opportunities that have been afforded to me to serve my own community here in Torrance,"

Ron Riggs is a business owner and coach. His formal education includes degrees from El Camino College and the University of Phoenix. Riggs believes his combination of professional knowledge and personal experience can make a difference in the Torrance Unified School District. He is proud of the positive impact he has made in the lives of young men who he has mentored over the years. Riggs believes that his background in real estate brokerage, banking and coaching youth sports at South Bay schools gives him the experience and ability to bridge the gap among parents, administrators, teachers, and students. He feels his history of fundraising, as a past member of various education foundations, may also help him in making a difference at TUSD.