



APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD APPOINTMENT

**APPLICATION TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

To be eligible to serve on the School Board you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a registered voter;
- Be 18 years of age or older;
- Be a resident in the Three Rivers School District for one year immediately preceding appointment;
- Be a resident of Zone II – Hidden Valley attendance area (which encompasses the Hamilton, Robertson, Jerome Prairie, New Hope, Riverside South and Slate Creek Precincts).

(Paid employees of the District, including coaches, substitute teachers, etc., are not eligible for School Board service)

The person selected for this position will serve until June 30, 2023. They may file to run for this full four-year position in the May 2023 election.

This application is due at the Three Rivers School District Office by 4:00 PM on Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

Please complete the following information:

Have you been a resident within the Three Rivers School District for one year?

Yes No

Are you a legally registered voter in the State of Oregon?

Yes No

Sylvia Marr
Name (First and Last)

Address Grants Pass OR 97527
City State Zip

Residence Telephone _____ Cell/Other Telephone _____

Email address: _____

Place of Business Josephine County Educational Fund Occupation/Title administrative assistant

789 NE 7th Street Grants Pass OR 97526
Business Address City State Zip

Business Telephone _____

1. Have you ever attended a Three Rivers School District (TRSD) Board meeting?
 Yes No
2. Are you available to attend monthly meetings (1-2 times/month)?
 Yes No
3. Are you available to attend conferences and seminars as part of ongoing board member education and professional development?
 Yes No
4. Are you available to attend school events and activities (games, plays, assemblies, etc.) and be a visible presence in the school community?
 Yes No
5. Are you able to make decisions that serve the best needs of the District but may not always be popular with the community?
 Yes No
6. Are you able to work collaboratively and in a highly ethical manner as a team member of the School Board?
 Yes No
7. Do you have children who attend a school in the TRSD?
 Yes No
8. Do you have any relatives employed by the TRSD (This doesn't disqualify you from service, but it's information the board may need to consider).
 Yes No *If yes, please complete the following:*

Name of employee: Constance Palaja Marr Relationship: mother
 (Fruitdale Elementary librarian)

9-17: please see attached answers

References (please list three, non-relative, references):
 Name/Occupation: Damian Crowson / principal Phone Number: _____
 Name/Occupation: Peter Maluk / retired Phone Number: _____
 Name/Occupation: Chris Pendleton / athletic director Phone Number: _____

Any other information you would like to share?

Please feel free to attach a resume, letters of reference, or any other documents you feel would help give the Board a clear picture of who you are and how your service would benefit the TRSD.

My signature below indicates that I attest to the fact that the information I have provided in this application is truthful and accurate.

Signature: Sylvia P. Marr Date: 02/08/2022

9. Why do you wish to serve on the School Board?

I want to serve on the Three Rivers School Board because I believe I could make a positive difference in our schools and community. We have all had an incredibly difficult time due to the pandemic, and students are no exception. Over the past four years, I have been studying politics, policy, and communication. These topics are more relevant than ever. I have attended and testified at many School Board meetings over the years. Times are changing, and recent School Board meetings have been more heated than I have ever seen before. While tense debates are not always encouraging signs, I do believe that the increased parent and community involvement makes one thing clear: we are all invested in the wellbeing of our students, families, and staff. I am no stranger to disagreement and am continually refining my active listening and conflict resolution skills. I have endeavored to become a public servant for as long as I can remember, and I feel that serving on this School Board would be mutually beneficial. As a recent graduate of Hidden Valley High School and a former student of Lincoln Savage Middle School and Fruitdale Elementary School, I am familiar with the inner workings of TRSD schools. Attending these schools was a privilege, and I have made countless meaningful connections in this district. My education and experience as a TRSD student give me a unique perspective on the issues we face, and I appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the continued success of our district. My passion for policy, experience with campaigns and communications, and dedication to serving our students and staff make me an ideal candidate to join the Three Rivers School Board.

10. What are your major interests or concerns regarding the TRSD?

My major interest in being involved with the TRSD is student wellbeing. This may seem like a simple answer, but I know that there are many factors to be considered when addressing this issue. My top concern at the moment is COVID-19 safety. I think that the district has done a good job of keeping students and staff safe while balancing the concerns of parents. I would hope to continue the safety practices and listen to the students and staff about what is working and what needs revision.

Another aspect of student wellbeing is mental health. I virtually attended a recent TRSD School Board meeting where a local doctor gave an overview of the Healthy Teens Survey. The data from that survey was heartbreaking, yet not too surprising. It is clear that the pandemic has taken an enormous toll on everyone, and especially school age kids. Students have more troubles than ever, and as a young person and recent student I can relate to them and their needs in a different way than an older adult could. I was a student during the pandemic and know the struggles of virtual classes, limited social interaction, and dealing with the fear and misinformation that comes with an unfamiliar disease.

Finally, I believe that a crucial aspect of student wellbeing is finding a way to collaborate with parents and community members to lessen the tension and polarization we are currently experiencing. Being a young person comes with enough challenges without having to worry about school policies and parent perspectives. I want students to feel confident that their school district can interact with their family members in a positive and productive manner, and vice versa. Of course, the reality of this is different than my goal, but that is the point of new ideas and goal setting – they are something that we have to work towards. I want to help continue your work of creating and implementing policies to make sure all students feel safe and welcome at school. I have experience with consensus-building despite differences, and I realize that the work of the School Board must be middle-of-the-road enough to represent the broad majority of a diverse

constituency. Working together for the betterment of our school district involves hearing from students, parents, staff, and community members, and I hope to be a part of this opportunity and serve on the Three Rivers School Board.

11. What skills and abilities would you bring to the School District as a Board Member?

As a Board Member, I would bring organization, communication, and creative problem-solving skills. Balancing my work as a Resident Advisor (RA), my time on the tennis team, my studies and my life in college required immense organization and time management. I enjoy creating and maintaining systems to keep my life and my work organized, such as Google Calendar and Google Drive. In addition to my degree in communications, I have real life experience in this field. I have worked in customer service, state government, and the lobbying industry. In these environments, clear communication and a positive attitude were essential. Fortunately, I greatly enjoy working with people regardless of their disposition. Effective communication, both written and verbal, is one skill about which I am particularly confident. I believe that being a recent college graduate gives me the advantage of having worked closely with others in classroom and group settings. Finishing my junior and senior years of college during the pandemic presented unique challenges, both as a student and as a Resident Advisor. I had to find new ways of living and working to maintain my schoolwork and involvement. I believe that my skills will translate well to the School Board setting.

12. Please describe any finance and budget planning experience you have.

In my role as a member of the Sunday Services committee at my church, I am involved in budgeting for ministers, guest speakers, and designating the special offertory. We have a running spreadsheet of expenses to ensure we stay within our budget. Budget planning was also a crucial part of my work as an RA for three years at Willamette. I created events for my residents, and sometimes the campus at large, which required careful planning and budgeting. For every program I had to create a budget and fill out a purchase request for the necessary items. My budget depended on the number of residents and the type of program (large event, bulletin board, passive program), so I had to be cognizant of how much money I had to work with. In my work at the Motel Del Rogue, I create and send invoices to contractors and government agencies.

13. Please describe any experience you have with policy and goal setting.

A good portion of my time at Willamette was spent studying policy. I took classes on welfare policy in the U.S., higher education policy, and healthcare policy. While learning about these topics, I also saw them come to life in the legislature. I worked for a lobbying firm and got to see firsthand discussions with lawmakers about many issues including climate change, the wine industry, and vaccines. My politics thesis was about prison labor policy and my communications thesis was about military recruitment policy.

When the COVID-19 pandemic started in my junior year, my job as an RA took on a new meaning. The school created policies to address masking and social distancing but did not take steps to enforce them. Resident Advisors become de facto administrators to make sure that students were taking the necessary precautions to keep our campus safe and healthy. As a result, the administration began to bring RAs into the conversation about creating and implementing

policies. Prior to COVID-19, my focus centered around residence hall policies, setting goals for resident behavior, and working with my residents to create community guidelines. This work was a valuable experience for me in hearing many different perspectives on issues that were important to the students, such as noise levels in the hall, drinking in the dorms, and how to address roommate conflicts. By working together we were able to create a shared community agreement that eased the burden of my job in always having to remind students of the rules. Instead, the residents came together as a community to make their living space a place where they felt safe, respected, and able to accomplish their schoolwork.

14. Please list any previous or present involvement with education such as board member service, budget committee service, other committee involvement, volunteer work, coaching, etc. Indicate the school or district.

I am currently an administrative assistant for the Josephine County Educational Fund which provides numerous scholarships to students in the area. I have attended many TRSD board meetings and worked to stay informed and maintain my involvement in the district over the years. I have also spent many summers working with my mom at the Fruitdale Elementary School library to inventory books and help with organizing and displays.

When I was attending college in Salem, I took several Spanish language classes and volunteered at Richmond Elementary School. It was an incredibly fun and fulfilling experience to helping bilingual students learn to read and write. Prior to my time in college, I was a very active volunteer in Josephine County. While attending Hidden Valley, I recorded over 1,000 hours of community service. Some of my activities included packing backpacks for homeless teenagers, creating the Grants Pass welcome signs with the Ford Family Leadership Institute, and working with the Josephine County Foundation in projects such as Buddy Benches at local schools, the Campus Closet at North Valley, the Teacher Grant program, and several Vision Clinics held throughout the county to provide glasses and eye examinations to low income or uninsured people. I am grateful for all of the opportunities that Hidden Valley provided me to serve my community and learn about the disparities and unmet needs in our area.

15. Please list any other community or volunteer service.

I have been volunteering at my local church for years, but my most recent involvement has been on the Sunday Services committee. We organize the program and speakers for each Sunday and evaluate how our congregation receives them. I joined the committee in September of 2020 and have since served over 150 hours. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been holding virtual services rather than meeting in our sanctuary. Recently I have become a member of the church tech team to help make sure our virtual services run smoothly and are accessible to our congregation and interested community members. While I can't express how much I miss being in church with all of my dear friends and fellow members, I still feel connected to them by volunteering for the church.

16. Employment history (please give a brief overview of the jobs you have held):

I am currently an administrative assistant for the Josephine County Educational Fund. I have worked at my family business, the Motel Del Rogue, for the majority of my life. My work there includes taking reservations, serving guests, handling billing and creating invoices, organization, social media, advertising, and cleaning rooms when duty calls. In the summer of 2019, I taught tennis to children during a summer camp run by the Grants Pass Parks and Recreation Department. I had two assistant coaches and created lesson plans for up to 20 kids, ranging in age from 5 - 15, who attended the camp for four hours a day, 5 days a week for 6 weeks. While stressful at times, I really enjoyed working with the kids and seeing their growth every day. We practiced plenty of tennis skills while also working on communication, listening, conditioning, and teamwork.

After moving to Salem to attend college, I encountered many more exciting job opportunities. My longest and most impactful role was as a Resident Advisor at Willamette during my sophomore, junior, and senior year. Although it was different every semester, I had between 10 and 60 students to oversee in the residence halls. Being an RA was an enormous and time-consuming responsibility. I took the student safety part of my job very seriously, working to ensure both the physical and mental health of my residents was intact throughout the year. I also created hall programs to engage and educate students in a variety of topics from meditation and consensual relationships to car maintenance and plant care. I had several other jobs and internships during my time at Willamette, which I outline in my attached resume.

17. Education (please give a brief overview of your education: high school, technical school, college, continuing education classes, etc.):

I earned my diploma from Hidden Valley High School in 2017. I graduated from Willamette University in 2021 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and double majored in Politics, Policy, Law & Ethics and Civic Communication & Media.

Any other information you would like to share?

I do not take this position lightly. I realize that it is a major commitment and I have incredible respect for current and past board members, the superintendent, and all of the other people who make it possible for Three Rivers to operate at the level at which it does. My family has been very involved in local politics over the years. I want to make it clear that I am my own person and I make my own decisions. Leaving Southern Oregon and attending college in Salem for 4 years really broadened my perspective and helped me develop my own beliefs and values. Growing up in the customer service industry and working in the state capital has allowed me the opportunity to engage with people from all walks of life. I have encountered diverse perspectives and pride myself on respectful and productive dialogue. It would be an honor to serve on this board and have an impact on the school district that made me the person I am today. I hope that you will consider my application and my fresh perspective on the issues that students are facing today. Thank you for your time and your service.

Sylvia Marr

Grants Pass, OR 97527 ||

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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon (3.84 GPA) (May 2021)
Double Major in Politics, Policy, Law & Ethics and Civic Communication & Media

Hidden Valley High School in Grants Pass, Oregon (4.0 GPA) (June 2017)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Administrative Assistant (February 2022 – present)
Josephine County Educational Fund

- Assisting with fundraising, scholarship tracking, and projects in development and communications

Southern Oregon Small Business Organizer (June – September 2021)
Main Street Alliance

- Identified and engaged small business owners to become MSA members, donate to MSA, and lobby legislators about relevant issues concerning their business, employees, and community

Resident Advisor (August 2018 - May 2021)
Willamette University

- Oversaw student residence life & planned interactive programs to promote community wellbeing
- Supported students during roommate conflicts, mental health struggles, and safety concerns

Campaign Communication Intern (September - December 2020)
Strategies 360

- Crafted informative and concise op-eds to persuade voters to support several ballot measures
- Compiled data and spreadsheets for endorsements, press clips, and social media engagement

Director of External Relations (June - July 2020)
Paige Hook, Candidate for State Representative for House District 17

- Designed social media content and branding with Canva and Hootsuite to increase engagement
- Organized and advertised General Election Launch Party which raised \$3000 for the campaign

Elections Division Intern (January - March 2020)
Office of the Secretary of State of Oregon

- Updated user manuals and online materials to increase accessibility for Oregon voters
- Verified signatures for initiatives and petitions to strengthen election security and integrity

State Affairs Intern (January - May 2019)
CFM Strategic Communications in Salem, Oregon

- Interacted with legislators and lobbyists and drafted policy memos to further the interests of clients

Tennis Coach (June - August 2019)
City of Grants Pass Parks and Recreation Department

- Taught children basic tennis skills, teamwork, commitment, work ethic, and conditioning

Front Desk Clerk (2014 – present)
Motel Del Rogue in Grants Pass, Oregon

- Assisting guests, developing social media presence, organizing files and creating invoices

HONORS AND AWARDS

- College Honors at Willamette University for academic achievement (all semesters)
- Intercollegiate Tennis Association Scholar-Athlete Award (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)

VOLUNTEER WORK

- Unitarian Universalists of Grants Pass (September 2020 - present)
 - Sunday Services Committee, Service host, Zoom technician - 150 hours

February 5, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing a letter of recommendation for Sylvia Marr to apply as a member of the Three Rivers School District Board.

I have known Sylvia for the last 10 years as her high school teacher, as her advisor for the Josephine County Foundation, and a friend as she attended Willamette University. In all of her schooling and foundation activities, she had the pursuit of greatness while being at the top of her game.

During her time in high school, she was and still is one of my most amazing students ever. She produced more than any student I have ever known. She gave full commitment to her jobs, homework, and club activities. Her lengthy resume reads as a Who's Who of Involvement at the local and state level. Sylvia will go down as one of the most successful members in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) history. Her achievements include being a four time national winner (1st, 2nd, 5th, and 10th place) at the FBLA National Leadership Conference. These amazing accomplishments prove to her peers that she is a hard worker who is extremely dedicated to FBLA.

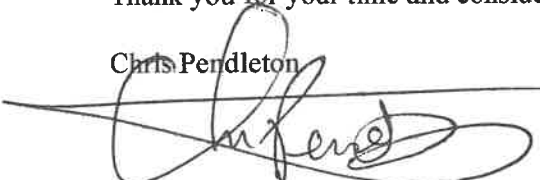
Aside from her activities in FBLA, Sylvia involved herself in numerous high school clubs and positive community service organizations. She was the Immediate Past President of the Josephine County Foundation (a student-led nonprofit organization); a member of the Hidden Valley High School (HVHS) Rotary Interact Club; a member of the HVHS Honor Society; captain of the HVHS Varsity Tennis Team; volunteer at the Josephine Community Libraries; and a part of many other various communities service sponsored events and jobs.

While in college, Sylvia earned a BA from Willamette with a 3.84 GPA. She earned a double major in Politics, Policy, Law & Ethics and Civic Communication & Media while also working as a Resident Advisor and playing collegiate tennis. This degree alone will make her a quality member because of the quality of education that would fit as a school board member. As well, her education will allow her to make tough and logical decisions that need to be made by board members.

If you have more questions about her education, her hard-working attitude, her ability to make quality decisions, please contact me. She should be considered as a member of the board.

Thank you for your time and considering a motivated Sylvia Marr.

Chris Pendleton



Hidden Valley High School

Peter Maluk
284 Southridge Way
Grants Pass, OR 97527

February 1, 2022

To the Three Rivers School District Board of Directors,

I am very pleased to be writing to you in support of Sylvia Marr's application to fill the current opening on The Three Rivers School District's Board of Directors.

I have known Sylvia since she was a young student at Fruitdale School and I had the good fortune of being her principal. Even at a young age, Sylvia's intelligence, maturity and strong interpersonal skills were quite apparent. Since then, I have followed Sylvia's academic career and have never ceased to be impressed with her. Sylvia has consistently proven to be a natural leader, role model and an advocate for education and children both at Hidden Valley High School and in college.

At Willamette University, Sylvia gained experience in a myriad of ways that will, I believe, reinforce her value as a potential board member for the TRSD. Her double major in politics, policy, law & ethics and civic communication & media should help provide the insight and understanding the TRSD Board will need in dealing with the Oregon State Department of Education during these very challenging times. During the last two years when Covid presented numerous challenges to her fellow students and the school in general, Sylvia was a Resident Advisor overseeing student residence life. She planned interactive programs to promote community wellbeing as well as supporting students during roommate conflicts, mental health struggles, and safety concerns.

As the TRSD deals with so many hot button issues in 2022, it seems to me that having a young adult with Sylvia's skill level, experiences and perspectives will provide insight and ideas that will enhance the necessary decisions that the Board will have to make. If ever the district needed a voice on the board that can speak for the students, it is now.

As a former teacher and principal as well as the district's K-12 Curriculum Director, I feel strongly that Sylvia will provide great value to our district as it moves forward. Please give Sylvia Marr your very serious consideration. I am positive she will be a very wonderful asset to our district and community.



Peter Maluk