

**OJAI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
APPLICATION TO FILL BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCIES  
TRUSTEE AREA #2**

**DEADLINE: 4 p.m., April 25, 2023**

(Please Print Name & Address)

Name: Solecki Erik M  
(Last) (First) (Initial)

Business Address: N/A

City: Ojai State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: Ojai State: CA Zip: 93023 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Any Former Names Used: N/A

Occupation & Employer: Educator (Teacher) formerly of OUSD, Villanova Prep. ; Historian

Number of Years Residing in the District: 33

Do you have children in the District's school? Yes  No  What grades are they in? \_\_\_\_\_ Ages? \_\_\_\_\_

Have any family members attended District Schools? Yes  No  Which schools? Topa, Matillija,

Dates of attendance? 1995-2011 Myself, my brother, my wife, and sister-in-law Nordhoff, Chaparral

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: (Voluntary. Not Required.)**

High School College/University	State	Degree/Units	Year Issued	Major/Minor
UC Santa Barbara	California	M.Ed.	2013	Teaching
UC Santa Barbara	California	B.A.	2011	History
Nordhoff HS	California	High School Diploma	2008	General Education

**LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES:**

List language competencies, other than English: Spanish

(Please Use Additional Paper, If Needed)

**1. Why do you want to be a school Board Member?**

I am concerned about the current state of the Ojai Unified School District and, as a former OUSD teacher, I would like to do my part to help it transition into its new configuration, however that may be. Just as important, I have a vested interest in the future of OUSD, as my wife and I intend to send our daughter (presently >1 y.o.) through the school system, and I want her to have as good an experience as I did *when I attended*

**2. Please discuss your interest in and commitment to the Ojai Unified School District.**

I grew up in OUSD, attending the Topa Topa Annex as a kindergartener, Topa Topa for elementary, Matilija for junior high, and NHS for high school. My first summer job was working in the NHS library for textbooking, and my first adult job was teaching at Nordhoff (2013). I love OUSD and am proud of it, despite the hardships it has faced since 2008 (and perhaps before). I want every OUSD student to have as *good an education as I had*

**3. Identify the most significant issues in public education generally and in the Ojai Unified School District specifically. State the ways you believe the District should respond to these issues.**

Teacher pay and staffing - Our schools are understaffed and our teachers are underpaid. We have a hardened core of veterans, but have difficulty drawing new teachers. Worse, it means that our teachers are overworked, having been forced to take on too many students and make do with too few resources. I think that the district needs to be aggressively contacting our state and federal representatives until *money can be provided to assist with our financial woes.*

**4. What do you see as the major responsibilities of a Board Member?**

The school board needs to represent the needs and interests of the families of the Ojai Valley in the operation of the school district. Likewise, it needs to be aware of the issues faced by staff (teachers and support staff) and students in order to advocate for the people who make sure the schools get the resources and support needed to run well. Finally, the board needs to provide oversight for the administration.

**5. How does the Board's role differ from that of the Superintendent?**

The superintendent is an employee of the school district who is responsible for ensuring the operation of the district overall. The school board, on the other hand, is meant to give the local community a way to guide and influence the way the school district operates. As representative of the community, the board is the group to whom school district employees must answer to, should it be required.

**6. What should be the relationship between Board members and District administration in the handling of school concerns?**

The superintendent's role should be to provide a vision or plan for the school district to follow in order to provide a high quality education to Administration's responsibility is to enact that vision. The school board's role is to provide community insight, feedback, and oversight.

**7. Please identify and discuss the areas of knowledge or expertise that you would bring to the Board.**

As a former classroom teacher, I am very familiar with the school district, through both personal experience and through the connections that I've made and retained over the years. Based on the current make up of the board, I will be the only board member with actual teaching experience and potentially with the most first-hand experience with the school district and its stakeholders.

**8. Have you worked on any school committees or participated in any school activities recently? If so, please list them.**

I have been an educator in various capacities in the Ojai Valley since 2011. My activities are too numerous to list, but most recently, I was involved in Villanova's graduation, a Villanova Beach Day field trip, and two student clubs at Villanova. If you want a full explanation of *my experience, please contact me directly.*

**9. List any other community or business activities in which you have participated. Describe your role, and whether your work was as a volunteer or employee.**

I have been involved with Poppies Arts and Gifts since the new owners took over; My wife and I helped build the new Libbey Park playground; I have been an active member of Ojai Presbyterian Church (OPC) for the past fifteen years; I have helped the Secure Beginning (formerly Nan Tolbert Nurturing Center) since 2012; and I have been affiliated with the Ojai Valley Museum.

10. Please describe any expertise or experience you may have in the areas of finance, school finance, fiscal matters, education, or service on public boards.

I am a veteran classroom teacher, and have a decade of experience in education in the Ojai Valley (about six of which in Ojai USD and the other four at Villanova). During my time at OUSD, I was involved in the Teachers' Union, though, only an active member for the 2015-16 school year.  
 I do not have a background in finance, however, and this would be my first time serving on a public board.

11. Please fill out the attached Form 700 and submit with your application.

Attached.

12. Please review the copy of Board Bylaw 9220. After reading Board Bylaw 9220, do you certify that you will abide by the requirements of Board Bylaw 9220? Yes  No

I hereby certify that I will abide by the requirements of Board Bylaw 9220.

**CRIMINAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe the offense(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

**ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION:** If you answer no to any of the following questions, you are not eligible to serve as a Board member.

Yes

No

I am 18 years of age or older.

I am a resident of the Ojai Unified School District, Trustee Area #2.

I am a registered voter.

I am not disqualified to hold this office because of a conviction of any of the crimes listed on page 5 nor am I otherwise disqualified under the California Constitution or statutes from holding public office.

**CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK COMMITMENT**

I understand that upon appointment I would be required to file a Conflict of Interest Statement and take an Oath of Office.

I certify I am 18 years of age or older, a registered voter and that I reside within the Trustee Area #2 of the Ojai Unified School District.


I certify I am not disqualified to hold this office because of a conviction of any of the crimes listed on page 4 and further certify I am not otherwise disqualified under the California Constitution or statutes from holding public office.

I understand a Board Member's responsibility requires attendance at: (1) one or two regular Board meetings each month; (2) special meetings or study sessions when called; and (3) numerous school events. I understand that I will be required to read my Board packet and be prepared to make decisions on complex educational issues.

I understand that this application may be made available to the public in accordance with the Public Records Act.

I understand that my failure to complete this application and return it by **4 pm on April 25, 2023** will result in my ineligibility to be a candidate for provisional appointment to the Board.

I certify that the foregoing information is true and correct under penalty of perjury.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature** (Erik Sblecki)

**April 14, 2023**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Instructions - Schedule C**  
**Income, Loans, & Business Positions**  
**(Income Other Than Gifts and Travel Payments)**

**Reporting Income:**

Report the source and amount of gross income of \$500 or more you received during the reporting period. Gross income is the total amount of income before deducting expenses, losses, or taxes and includes loans other than loans from a commercial lending institution. (See Reference Pamphlet, page 11.) You must also report the source of income to your spouse or registered domestic partner if your community property share was \$500 or more during the reporting period.

The source and income must be reported only if the source is located in, doing business in, planning to do business in, or has done business during the previous two years in your agency's jurisdiction. (See Reference Pamphlet, page 13.) Reportable sources of income may be further limited by your disclosure category located in your agency's conflict of interest code.

**Reporting Business Positions:**

You must report your job title with each reportable business entity even if you received no income during the reporting period. Use the comments section to indicate that no income was received.

**Commonly reportable income and loans include:**

- Salary/wages, per diem, and reimbursement for expenses including travel payments provided by your employer
- Community property interest (50%) in your spouse's or registered domestic partner's income - **report the employer's name and all other required information**
- Income from investment interests, such as partnerships, reported on Schedule A-1
- Commission income not required to be reported on Schedule A-2 (See Reference Pamphlet, page 8.)
- Gross income from any sale, including the sale of a house or car (Report your pro rata share of the total sale price.)
- Rental income not required to be reported on Schedule B
- Prizes or awards not disclosed as gifts
- Payments received on loans you made to others
- An honorarium received prior to becoming a public official (See Reference Pamphlet, page 10.)
- Incentive compensation (See Reference Pamphlet, page 12.)

**Reminders**

- Code filers - your disclosure categories may not require disclosure of all sources of income.
- If you or your spouse or registered domestic partner are self-employed, report the business entity on Schedule A-2.
- Do not disclose on Schedule C income, loans, or business positions already reported on Schedules A-2 or B.

**You are not required to report:**

- Salary, reimbursement for expenses or per diem, or social security, disability, or other similar benefit payments received by you or your spouse or registered domestic partner from a federal, state, or local government agency.
- Stock dividends and income from the sale of stock unless the source can be identified.
- Income from a PERS retirement account.

(See Reference Pamphlet, page 12.)

**To Complete Schedule C:**

**Part 1. Income Received/Business Position Disclosure**

- Disclose the name and address of each source of income or each business entity with which you held a business position.
- Provide a general description of the business activity if the source is a business entity.
- Check the box indicating the amount of gross income received.
- Identify the consideration for which the income was received.
- For income from commission sales, check the box indicating the gross income received and list the name of each source of commission income of \$10,000 or more. (See Reference Pamphlet, page 8.) **Note: If you receive commission income on a regular basis or have an ownership interest of 10% or more, you must disclose the business entity and the income on Schedule A-2.**
- Disclose the job title or business position, if any, that you held with the business entity, even if you did not receive income during the reporting period.

**Part 2. Loans Received or Outstanding During the Reporting Period**

- Provide the name and address of the lender.
- Provide a general description of the business activity if the lender is a business entity.
- Check the box indicating the highest balance of the loan during the reporting period.
- Disclose the interest rate and the term of the loan.
  - For variable interest rate loans, disclose the conditions of the loan (e.g., Prime + 2) or the average interest rate paid during the reporting period.
  - The term of the loan is the total number of months or years given for repayment of the loan at the time the loan was entered into.
- Identify the security, if any, for the loan.

STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS  
COVER PAGE  
A PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Date Initial Filing Received  
Filing Official Use Only

Please type or print in ink.

NAME OF FILER (LAST) Solecki (FIRST) Erik (MIDDLE) Matthew

1. Office, Agency, or Court

Agency Name (Do not use acronyms) Ojai Unified School District Trustee Area 2 (applicant)  
Division, Board, Department, District, if applicable School Board Your Position

► If filing for multiple positions, list below or on an attachment. (Do not use acronyms)

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Jurisdiction Of Office (Check at least one box)

State  Judge, Retired Judge, Pro Tem Judge, or Court Commissioner (Statewide Jurisdiction)  
 Multi-County \_\_\_\_\_  County of \_\_\_\_\_  
 City of \_\_\_\_\_  Other Ojai Unified School District

3. Type of Statement (Check at least one box)

Annual: The period covered is January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.  
-or- The period covered is 7/1/2022 through December 31, 2022.  
 Assuming Office: Date assumed \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
 Leaving Office: Date Left 1/1/2023 (Check one circle.)  
 The period covered is January 1, 2022, through the date of leaving office.  
-or-  The period covered is \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_, through the date of leaving office.  
 Candidate: Date of Election May 10, 2023 and office sought, if different than Part 1: Same as pt. 1

4. Schedule Summary (required)

► Total number of pages including this coverage: 23

Schedules attached  
 Schedule A-1 ■ Investments - schedule attached  
 Schedule A-2 ■ Investments - schedule attached  
 Schedule B - Real Property - schedule attached  
 Schedule C ■ Income, Loans, & Business Positions - schedule attached  
 Schedule D - Income - Gifts - schedule attached  
 Schedule E - Income - Gifts - Travel Payments - schedule attached  
-or-  None ■ No reportable interests on any schedule

5. Verification

MAILING ADDRESS STREET CITY Ojai STATE CA ZIP CODE 93023  
(Business or Agency Address Recommended - Public Document)

DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER (805) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

I have used all reasonable diligence in preparing this statement. I have reviewed this statement and to the best of my knowledge the information contained herein and in any attached schedules is true and complete. I acknowledge this is a public document.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date Signed April 14, 2023 Signature [Signature]  
(month - day, year) (File the originally signed paper statement with your filing official.)

**SCHEDULE C**  
**Income, Loans, & Business**  
**Positions**  
 (Other than Gifts and Travel Payments)

**CALIFORNIA FORM 700**  
 FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

Name  
Erik M. Solecki

▶ 1 INCOME RECEIVED

NAME OF SOURCE OF INCOME  
Villanova Preparatory School

ADDRESS (Business Address Acceptable)  
12096 N. Ventura Ave., Ojai, CA

BUSINESS ACTIVITY, IF ANY, OF SOURCE  
Education

YOUR BUSINESS POSITION  
Teacher - history social studies

GROSS INCOME RECEIVED No Income - Business Position Only  
 \$500 - \$1,000 \$1,001 - \$10,000  
 \$10,001 - \$100,000 OVER \$100,000

CONSIDERATION FOR WHICH INCOME WAS RECEIVED  
 Salary  Spouse's or registered domestic partner's income  
 (For self-employed use Schedule A-2.)

Partnership (Less than 10% ownership. For 10% or greater use Schedule A-2.)

Sale of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Real property, car, boat, etc.)

Loan repayment

Commission or Rental Income, list each source of \$10,000 or more

(Describe)

Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Describe)

▶ 1 INCOME RECEIVED

NAME OF SOURCE OF INCOME  
Oak Grove School

ADDRESS (Business Address Acceptable)  
220 W. Lomita Ave, Ojai, CA

BUSINESS ACTIVITY, IF ANY, OF SOURCE  
Education

YOUR BUSINESS POSITION  
Pre-School Teacher

GROSS INCOME RECEIVED No Income - Business Position Only  
 \$500 - \$1,000 \$1,001 - \$10,000  
 \$10,001 - \$100,000 OVER \$100,000

CONSIDERATION FOR WHICH INCOME WAS RECEIVED  
 Salary  Spouse's or registered domestic partner's income  
 (For self-employed use Schedule A-2.)

Partnership (Less than 10% ownership. For 10% or greater use Schedule A-2.)

Sale of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Real property, car, boat, etc.)

Loan repayment

Commission or Rental Income, list each source of \$10,000 or more

(Describe)

Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Describe)

▶ 2 LOANS RECEIVED OR OUTSTANDING DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

\* You are not required to report loans from a commercial lending institution, or any indebtedness created as part of a retail installment or credit card transaction, made in the lender's regular course of business on terms available to members of the public without regard to your official status. Personal loans and loans received not in a lender's regular course of business must be disclosed as follows:

NAME OF LENDER*	INTEREST RATE	TERM (Months/Years)
_____	_____ %	None _____
ADDRESS (Business Address Acceptable)	SECURITY FOR LOAN	
_____	None	C Personal residence
BUSINESS ACTIVITY, IF ANY, OF LENDER	Q Real Property	_____
_____	_____	Street address
HIGHEST BALANCE DURING REPORTING PERIOD	_____	city
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 - \$1,000	Guarantor	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,001 - \$10,000		
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,001 - \$100,000	[ - ] Other	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> OVER \$100,000		(Describe)

Comments : I left Villanova in June 2022 in order to try my hand in a new field, but have not accepted a new position as of yet.

**SCHEDULE D**  
**Income - Gifts**

Name  
Erik M. Solecki

▶ NAME OF SOURCE (Not an Acronym)  
California Paid Family Leave

ADDRESS (Business Address Acceptable)  
Employment Development Department

BUSINESS ACTIVITY, IF ANY, OF SOURCE  
Maternity Leave

DATE (mm/dd/yy)	VALUE	DESCRIPTION OF GIFT(S)
<u>12/12/22</u>	<u>\$6,966.57</u>	<u>Maternity Leave Pay</u>
<u>  /  /  </u>	<u>\$  </u>	<u>  </u>
<u>  /  /  </u>	<u>\$  </u>	<u>  </u>

▶ NAME OF SOURCE (Not an Acronym)

ADDRESS (Business Address Acceptable)

BUSINESS ACTIVITY, IF ANY, OF SOURCE

DATE (mm/dd/yy)	VALUE	DESCRIPTION OF GIFT(S)
<u>  /  /  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
<u>  /  /  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
<u>  /  /  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>

▶ NAME OF SOURCE (Not an Acronym)

ADDRESS (Business Address Acceptable)

BUSINESS ACTIVITY, IF ANY, OF SOURCE

DATE (mm/dd/yy)	VALUE	DESCRIPTION OF GIFT(S)
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▶ NAME OF SOURCE (Not an Acronym)

ADDRESS (Business Address Acceptable)

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DATE (mm/dd/yy)	VALUE	DESCRIPTION OF GIFT(S)
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▶ NAME OF SOURCE (Not an Acronym)

ADDRESS (Business Address Acceptable)

BUSINESS ACTIVITY, IF ANY, OF SOURCE

DATE (mm/dd/yy)	VALUE	DESCRIPTION OF GIFT(S)
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<u>  /  /  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_