

June 10, 2020

To Whom It May Concern.

I am interested in applying for the open board seat with Contra Costa Performing Arts (COCOSPA). I am a native of Berkeley, California. I just obtained my Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership from Mills College. I serve in a leadership capacity within my home, in my community, and in my workplaces. I am an advocate for quality educational programs for children. I am a founding member of the Village Group at Jefferson Elementary. This is a parent-led group that supports and encourages equitable opportunities for all children and creates welcoming spaces for families. Social justice is a passion of mine. I constantly want to confront the status quo and create dialogues and spaces to think about ways to support children and families of color.

I excel academically and remain focused on my goals even in the midst of substantial challenges. I was “pushed-out” of the traditional school model. First hand, I experienced a broken school system. This has fueled my passion to create quality and equitable spaces for children, beginning in the early years. As an instructional coach, I work with teachers and administrators to improve their programmatic practices. In addition to my employment, I also volunteer as the co-chair of the Parent-Advisory Committee with Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD). As a member of the PAC, I advise the school board about LCAP funding and expenditures. In addition to making recommendations about possible programing, I also make committee comments at school board meetings in favor of the students being served by LCAP funding.

As a woman of color, I am more attuned to the social injustice plaguing our society today. Over the past decade, I have strategically mentored and coached teachers, administrators, and families, helping them advocate on the behalf of children, and supporting them to navigate the complexities of the K-12th academic system. I entered into the field of Education because this system is designed to fail children of color, and I wanted to make a difference, one family at a time. African-American men are more likely to go to prison than to college. I want to be apart of a movement to change this, and I think COCOSPA has a great platform to do just that!

I hope you consider me for the open board position. I am passionate about supporting people of color, empowering families, and fostering a sense of hope within my community. The children are our future! It takes a village to raise a child, and I want to have an intricate part in creating that village!

Sincerely,

Deminika Spears