JOAN MALCZEWSKI
Professor/Parent

It has been an honor to serve on the Laguna Beach Unified School District Board of Education. I bring to this work a deep commitment to public education, years of experience working with teachers and school leaders, financial expertise, and a personal commitment as an LBUSD parent.

My time on the Board has reinforced what I have believed throughout my career, that strong schools are built on trust, collaboration, and a shared commitment to students. Every decision should begin with an effort to create opportunity for students, support outstanding teachers, and ensure every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. Excellence does not happen by accident. It requires thoughtful leadership, respect for professional expertise, strong partnerships with teachers and families, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

I am a tenured faculty member in history at the University of California, Irvine, where my research focuses on education policy and the relationship between schools and democracy. Prior to moving to Laguna Beach, I served as an administrator at Columbia University's Teachers College and at New York University's Steinhardt School of Education, where I also served as a faculty member and prepared and mentored future teachers.

Before entering education, I earned a degree in economics from the University of Michigan and worked as a CPA in New York. That experience helps me approach district decisions with careful analysis, long-term planning, and a commitment to ensuring public resources support the educational mission of our schools.

I believe public schools are among the most important institutions in any community. They prepare students not only for college and careers, but also help them to develop the curiosity, judgment, and critical thinking skills needed to navigate a changing world. I am committed to protecting what makes LBUSD exceptional while continuing to improve student outcomes by strengthening reading and deep thinking, supporting outstanding educators, ensuring technology enhances learning, and creating opportunities that allow every student to thrive.

I will continue working to bring together parents, teachers, staff, administrators, students, and community members to support our schools. Strong schools build strong communities, and I remain committed to thoughtful leadership, trusted relationships, and keeping students at the center of every decision.