

CITY HEIGHTS PREP

CHARTER SCHOOL

Board of Directors 2020 - 2021

Johanna Afshani

After graduating from the University of Southern California where she served as a Research Fellow at the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics, Johanna Afshani worked as Special Assistant to then-former President Ronald Reagan in Century City, California. Johanna is an attorney with specialized training in mediation from Pepperdine Law School's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution and Harvard Law School's Program on Negotiation. After practicing law for two years in Hawai'i, Johanna relocated to Massachusetts and served as a courthouse mediator under the auspices of Mediation Works Incorporated. Johanna serves on the Board of Directors of the National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC), which provides dispute resolution through client services, training and education.

She is the Chair of the NCRC-KPBS Community Heroes Selection Committee, which honors individuals who make significant contributions to our community and give selflessly to build civility in San Diego. In addition, Johanna sits on the Board of the San Diego Diplomacy Council and is the Chair of the Cultural Diplomacy series. She has been credited in several publications. She attributes her passion for world affairs to her multicultural French, Iranian and American background, as well as her travels around the globe. Johanna lives in Solana Beach with her husband and three children.

Scott Himmelstein

Scott Himmelstein is the former Deputy Secretary of Education/Chief of Staff and later Acting Secretary of Education for the State of California. In that capacity, he served as chief policy advisor to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on K-12 and higher education. In 2008, Himmelstein was appointed by the Governor to the California Community College Board of Governors which oversees 113 colleges, the largest system of higher education in the world. He served as its President from 2011 to 2013.

Established by a gift from the William D. Lynch Foundation, Himmelstein recently served as the Director of the University of San Diego's Center for Education Policy and Law (CEPAL). Established by a gift from Irwin and Joan Jacobs he was also the Director of the Mobile Technology Learning Center (MTLC). Mr. Himmelstein is an instructor of Law and Politics of Education Policy Development in the USD School of Leadership and Education Sciences. Prior to his appointments by Governor Schwarzenegger, he served as Chairman and CEO of the National Even Start Association, President of the William D. Lynch Foundation for Children, and Chairman and CEO of San Diego Reads. Himmelstein serves on the San Diego Museum of Photographic Arts board and education committee. His expertise encompasses the financial, political, governance and workforce dimensions of educational policy development.

Lisbeth Johnson

Dr. Johnson retired as Superintendent of the *Santee School District* (K-8) in San Diego, California in 2009 after serving ten years. She earned her Ed.D. from the *University of La Verne* in Educational Leadership in 2002. Lis began her career as a head teacher for *Head Start* schools. She then became a K-6 teacher and evaluation consultant in *South Bay*, a Principal of three schools and Area Director of eight schools in *Cajon Valley* (K-8), Director of Curriculum in *Walnut Valley School District* (K-12) in San Gabriel Valley and ultimately an Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services and Superintendent in *Santee*.

Dr. Johnson has won several awards including the County's ACSA Superintendent of the year award. She is also credited for rallying the community to pass a school bond measure for the first time in forty years that brought Santee new science classrooms and digital infrastructure. Upon retirement, Dr. Johnson worked at USD as an Educational Leader in Residence for SOLES where she coordinated professional development for Executive coaches in a *Linked Learning* High School Grant Program. Currently Lis serves on several school boards as chair and member and is an adjunct Professor at

Brandman University in Transformational Leadership. Lis' expertise is as a consultant to governance teams, and an Executive Coach for aspiring Superintendents. Dr. Johnson is also the co-author of *Transforming Ice Age Schools*.

Regina McDuffie

Dr. McDuffie is currently Head of School at the Rhoades School in Encinitas, California. She received her Ph.D. in Language, Literacy and Learning from Fordham University in New York in 2003. She is also an instructor of continuing education at the University of California San Diego Extension where she works with students focused on obtaining specialist credentials in reading or clearing their California teaching credential. Dr. McDuffie is a published author and has published her research detailing cognitive and metacognitive strategies that high school students used to design and develop web pages entitled, *Web Page Design: Developing Cognition and Metacognition in all Learners: Constructivist Approaches to Technology and Literacy Education in the 21st Century*. Over the past 25 years, Dr. McDuffie has held numerous administrative and teaching positions, including high school social studies teacher, curriculum coordinator, elementary school principal, and academic dean.

Michael Watts (Chair)

Michael Watts is vice president of investor relations and corporate communications at Hologic, a \$17 billion, S&P 500 medical products company with approximately 1,000 employees in San Diego. He is responsible for the company's internal and external communications efforts, including financial communications, media relations, employee communications and corporate branding. Previously, Mike was vice president and general manager of acquired businesses for Hologic. In that role, he managed a portfolio of five businesses in transplant diagnostics, infectious disease testing, prostate cancer diagnostics, pharmaceutical research services, and agricultural biotech. These businesses generated more than \$80 million in annual sales and employed approximately 240 people in San Diego, Wisconsin, Connecticut and the United Kingdom. Before that, Mike was an executive at Gen-Probe, a molecular diagnostics company based in San Diego. He played a key leadership role in Gen-Probe's growth over eight years, which culminated in Hologic's \$3.7 billion acquisition of the company. Before joining Gen-Probe, he held positions of increasing responsibility in strategy, finance and communications at Baxter, Ligand and Merck. Mike earned a BS from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and an MBA from UCLA's Anderson School of Management. He lives in San Diego with his wife and two children.