Beth St. Denis

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FORM Office of Public School Trustee

APPLICANT INTEREST

Please explain why you feel you should be the successful candidate for the position of Trustee (maximum 1000 words). Outline your commitment to public education as reflected in your involvement in Greater Essex County District School Board public schools or its committees, including your background, qualifications, interests, and experience that support your candidacy.

As a lifelong resident of Windsor, a mother, godmother, and Christian woman, I am seeking the position of Trustee for the Greater Essex County District School Board. I am dedicated to ensuring that every student has access to a safe, supportive, and high-quality learning environment. I believe that a good education is essential to building on the faith and family values that guide children's character. It supports their academic growth, personal development, and future opportunities. Serving as Trustee is an opportunity to combine my professional experience, community involvement, and passion for accountable leadership to strengthen public trust, promote meaningful engagement, and support policies that benefit all students and families in our region.

I bring to this role almost 20 years of executive business management experience, which has equipped me with strong organizational skills, sound judgment, and a commitment to accountability. My experience overseeing operations, managing staff, implementing efficient workflows, and ensuring compliance with standards has strengthened my ability to manage complex issues, coordinate multiple priorities, and lead with clarity and integrity. These skills translate directly to the governance responsibilities of a Trustee, from evaluating policies and budgets to ensuring that board decisions serve the best interests of students and the community.

My professional experience is complemented by a wide range of community involvement. I currently serve as a Young Adults Mentor and Seniors Ministry Coordinator within my church, roles that require attentiveness, communication, and the ability to support individuals with specific needs and challenges. I also serve as Secretary for the Windsor/Essex Christian Heritage Party Electoral District Association and am a long-standing member of the Joint Health and Safety Committee within my workplace. This combination of leadership, advocacy, mentorship, and community service has prepared me to contribute meaningfully to the Greater Essex County District School Board.

One of my strongest motivations for seeking the role of Trustee is my commitment to transparent and accessible governance. Trustees are elected representatives responsible for listening to the public, facilitating open communication, and upholding provincial standards while remaining accountable to their communities. In recent years, I have spoken at GECDSB meetings, including the School Board and Policy and Bylaw Committee, to express concerns about public engagement, policy implementation, and accountability. These experiences have shown me how deeply parents, students, and residents care about their schools and the importance of ensuring their voices are heard and respected.

I am committed to advocating for policies and practices that ensure student achievement, safety, and well-being. I have closely followed and provided feedback on critical regulations, including those related to student gender identity and expression, as well as board governance and community engagement. I believe in balancing the rights and needs of all students while respecting parental authority and fostering safe, supportive, and respectful learning environments. Education should serve every child with equal opportunity while maintaining accountability, transparency, and responsiveness to the community.

If elected as Trustee, I will draw on my professional expertise, community involvement, and personal values to actively support the Board's strategic priorities. I am committed to promoting student success and well-being, engaging communities through partnership and consultation, and ensuring ethical stewardship of resources. I will work diligently to foster transparent communication between the Board and the public, encourage meaningful participation from parents and community members, and support policies that reflect the best interests of students and families. My goal is to help create a school system where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally in a safe and supportive environment.

In conclusion, I am motivated by a sincere dedication to public service and a commitment to representing the voices of the Windsor and Essex County community. My experience in executive business management, combined with extensive community involvement and active engagement with GECDSB meetings and committees, equips me to serve effectively as a Trustee. I am prepared to listen, learn, and lead with integrity, transparency, and accountability. I aim to help create a school system where families feel heard, students thrive, and the community has confidence in its governance, always keeping the best interests of students, families, and the community at the forefront of every decision.

Personal information on this form is collected as part of the trustee application process and will be used to assist in the decision-making process to fill the vacancy for the position of Trustee.

The Notice of Application form will be a public document and posted to the Board's website. The Greater Essex County District School Board reserves the right to post the information on the Board's website.