



# 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, Wards 1, 2 and 3 (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, experience, and experience that support your candidacy.

I am writing to express my interest in becoming a Greater Essex County Public School Board Trustee representing Wards 3,4, and 10. I believe that schools should be safe spaces for everyone and as a society it is important for us to support our public education system to ensure that everyone has equal access to quality education in order to build a better tomorrow. I believe a strong education system should be one that highlights and values the diversity of its community members. My support and commitment to public education is evidenced by my volunteer, personal, and career experience. I have lived in Windsor Essex County for a total of ten years and now call Lakeshore my home. As such, I will highlight my educational experiences within Windsor Essex County and those which transcend the borders, and how such experiences make me the successful candidate for this role.

My commitment to the betterment of my educational communities has been a life long passion. While completing my combined Honours Bachelor of Social Work and Women's Studies degree at the University of Windsor, I was the Vice President of the Women and Gender Studies Student Association. In this role I planned social events, organized a yearly publication and participated in meetings with professors to discuss educational opportunities and advocate for the needs of students. Additionally, I was also employed as a Teaching Assistant in the fourth year of my degree at the University of Windsor and a Graduate Assistant while completing my education at King's University College at Western University for my Masters of Social Work degree. My experiences as a Teaching Assistant and Graduate Assistant allowed me the opportunity to better understand the roles and responsibilities of educators. During my time at Western University, in addition to being employed as a Graduate Assistant, I participated in the Social Work Week committee as a Student Representative. This experience allowed me to not only garner the skills of collaboration and financial acuity, but also skills to inform decision making to meet the wants and needs of my educational community.

My commitment to community engagement and support for public education endured beyond my educational career. In between my University degrees, I always found a way to stay engaged within the public education system and my community at large. In Toronto, I volunteered in Public School classrooms and In Windsor, I volunteered for the Windsor Essex branch of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and worked as a Support Worker at Family Respite Services Windsor Essex. These volunteer and employment experiences fostered a sense of compassion and empathy for vulnerable populations. This compassion and empathy is a driving force for my desire to be a school board trustee and ensure that school environments are safe, supportive and accessible for all students.

Creating supportive and trusting relationships, advocacy and social justice are hallmarks of my career as a Registered Social Worker. Currently, I work as a Social Worker in private practice where I provide social work services, counselling and psychotherapy to individuals 13 and up. My practice is located at the intersection of Tecumseh and Howard, situated within the boundaries of Ward 3 and 4. Prior to opening my private practice, I worked at the Sexual Assault Crisis Centre of Essex County where I provided intake, counselling and community outreach services to survivors of sexual violence. Working within the wards I am hoping to represent provides me with particular insight into the needs of the community. Public education touches the lives of all community members whether it is through their own education or employment, through family members or people they interact with on a daily basis in their social lives.

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As such, by supporting the mental health and wellness of the community at large, I am in turn supporting the educational community within the neighbourhoods I serve. As a social worker, and during my time as a Director on the board of directors at Trans Wellness Ontario, I have had the opportunity to create supportive and collaborative professional relationships with community partners to advocate and foster a positive learning environment. My experience as a board member taught me the tools necessary to review policy initiatives, implement strategic plans and reach agency goals while adhering to financial limitations. I plan to carry my learned experience over in my position as a trustee.

My career experience as a social worker and previous experience as a board member make me an asset to the Greater Essex County District School Board and the Board of Trustees. Throughout my life I have always strived to be an active member in my community. I grew up in Toronto, Ontario and attended schools within the Toronto District School Board. I was raised within a family of public servants and educators which allowed me to become privy to the strengths and challenges of public education. While I was attending public grade school, I practiced my commitment to public education by volunteering in the peer mediator program, where I was trained to assist my classmates to engage in conflict resolution. In high school, I continued to actively engage my school community by participating in various sports teams and utilize advocacy skills by participating on student council. These experiences provided insight into the importance of a public education to ensure it's students gain the tools and opportunities to prosper. As a trustee, I would continue to navigate decision making with the utmost respect for how crucial the school environment is to empower students to flourish outside of its walls.

Windsor Essex is my home, it is where my friends and part of my family live. It is where I want to raise my future children and grow my family. I want to be an active participant in creating and supporting education that will teach and empower our future generations. I believe my volunteer, personal and career experience make me a qualified and strong candidate to represent 3, 4 and 10 as a Trustee.