



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.

As the former Student Trustee for the Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB) and a candidate for Trustee in the 2022 municipal election, I bring a unique and informed perspective to the Board. I am committed to fostering meaningful change by advocating for student achievement, well-being, and equity, and I am eager to serve as a passionate and effective Trustee for Wards 1, 2, and 3 and the community at large. My passion for education and work towards meaningful change stems from my personal experiences as a GECDSB student and my deep ties to the Windsor-Essex community. As a lifelong resident and proud graduate of Vincent Massey Secondary School, I've seen and experienced firsthand how our exceptional community shapes lives and creates opportunities. I recognize that public education is the cornerstone of society and must provide meaningful ways to encourage individual growth. As such, I will work tirelessly with stakeholders, parents, students, and staff in a collective approach that reinforces the Board's motto of Building Tomorrow Together.

During my term as Student Trustee for the City of Windsor region (2021-2022), I had the distinct honour of advocating alongside 36,000 students across the district. I consistently worked effectively alongside Trustees, the Director, and Senior Administration to address student concerns and develop innovative solutions to enhance the educational experience. I helped establish the first-ever Student Success and Development Committee as the Co-Chair of the GECDSB Student Senate. Our focus was identifying barriers to student achievement and well-being and working with individual school administrations and student leaders to implement actionable and meaningful solutions to address them. This led to the creation of a new Student Leadership scholarship to address financial barriers in post-secondary education and reward notable student contributions to our GECDSB community. The committee also worked to implement peer-tutoring programs at each of our secondary schools, recognizing that by maximizing the resources available to students, we would be able to foster student success through various avenues. These experiences motivated me to run for Trustee in 2022, where I campaigned to amplify the voices of students, parents, and educators by introducing a new voice and fresh perspective. While I may not have been successful, the campaign allowed me to engage directly with families and community leaders, reaffirming my dedication to addressing challenges in education.

As an engineering student at the University of Windsor, I have continued to deepen my commitment to advocacy and student success. Through my role as Vice President Academic (2023-2024) and incoming President of the Engineering Students' Society (2024-2025), I have further reinforced my passion for advocating alongside my peers and contributing to a memorable experience. As Vice President Academic, I spearheaded curriculum development initiatives and created accessible resources such as an Exam Bank and a Textbook Archive to support students in their academic pursuits. I also collaborated closely with faculty and administration to address student concerns, ensuring their voices were heard and their needs met. These efforts reflect my unwavering dedication to equity, accessibility, and continuous improvement. It also provided me with firsthand practical experience in governance, policy implementation, compliance, and strategic planning in an education setting beyond the GECDSB.

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Name of Applicant **Malek Mekawi**

Moreover, I have actively contributed to community well-being through my involvement in organizations like the Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare Youth Advisory Council. There, I gained a deeper understanding of critical issues such as mental health, poverty, and substance misuse, which intersect with student well-being. These experiences have shaped my approach to education, emphasizing the importance of addressing not only academic success but also the mental, emotional, and physical health of every student.

The GECDSB is currently navigating significant challenges, including a financial deficit and the implementation of a multi-year recovery plan that has raised concerns among parents and educators. I am acutely aware of the challenges our board faces and the importance of making informed, compassionate decisions that prioritize the needs of all students. My experience in governance, community engagement, and advocacy equips me to navigate these complex issues effectively. By fostering a respectful, caring, and professional climate, I aim to build collaborative relationships that support continuous improvement and accountability within the GECDSB. My goal is to maintain the integrity of our educational programs while addressing the financial realities we face, always keeping the well-being and success of our students at the forefront of every decision.

My leadership roles have equipped me with the skills necessary to excel as a Trustee. I understand the importance of representing constituents effectively by engaging with parents, students, and community members to ensure their voices shape Board decisions. I value open dialogue, consensus-building, and collaboration as pillars of effective leadership, and I am committed to fostering a respectful, caring, and professional climate within the Board. I have consistently focused on uplifting every student, regardless of their background or circumstances, by taking on a united and all-hands-on-deck approach in my roles.

The role of a Trustee demands a deep commitment to stewardship and advocacy—ensuring that public education serves the interests of all families in the community. My candidacy for Trustee is grounded in a unique combination of lived experiences, professional expertise, and visionary leadership. As someone who has served in governance roles and engaged directly with students and families, I understand the complexities of balancing provincial directives with local needs. I am confident that my extensive experiences as outlined in my resume and the above-mentioned, passion for advocacy, and commitment to education make me an ideal candidate for this position. As a Trustee, I will work tirelessly to ensure that every GECDSB community member has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed or implement the change necessary for success. It would be an honour to serve the GECDSB community in this capacity and I look forward to continuing to engage in roles that enable positive and meaningful change.