



Mohammed Fazle Baki

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.

The GECSDB shapes the future of our children. I campaigned to represent Wards 1, 2, and 9 in the 2022 election, securing 2,366 votes and finishing third. I bring a unique blend of leadership experience, commitment to equity and inclusion, academic expertise, and community service. Here's why I am the best candidate for this vital role:

1. **Leadership Experience:** I have served as President of the South Asian Centre of Windsor, Past President of the Bangladesh-Canada Association, Windsor-Essex, and Co-chair of the Windsor Police Service's Community Consultative Committee. Additionally, as a Professor and former Associate Dean at the Odette School of Business, as well as a member of the Senate and Board of Governors at the University of Windsor, I have honed skills in governance, strategic planning, and consensus-building. My governance experience extends to various organizations, including the Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation's Governance Committee, the Multicultural Council, and the WindsorEssex Community Foundation. Through the South Asian Centre, I co-founded a weekend Bangla language school, providing students with transportation, meals, and reading materials. These roles highlight my ability to manage initiatives that address community needs and enhance educational opportunities.

2. **Commitment to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Decolonization, and Indigenization (EDIDI):** I have long championed EDIDI principles in education and the community. Through initiatives like the International Mother Language Festival, I've promoted cultural and linguistic diversity, emphasizing the importance of heritage languages in education. As a trustee, I will prioritize inclusive policies that ensure equitable opportunities for all students, regardless of background. I am committed to fostering anti-racist curricula, equitable resource distribution, and mental health programs to address the diverse needs of students.

3. **Academic and Professional Expertise:** With a Ph.D. in Applied Operations Research and an MBA, I bring a strong academic foundation to this role.

4. **Dedication to Student Success and Well-Being:** Throughout my career, I have mentored students, helping them overcome academic and personal challenges. My advocacy for mental health support, extracurricular programs, and career readiness initiatives demonstrates my dedication to nurturing well-rounded individuals prepared for future challenges.

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5. Community Involvement: Since 2000, I have worked to strengthen the Windsor-Essex community through cultural events, support for marginalized groups, and collaboration with institutions to improve educational access. For example, I partnered with consular services to bring essential resources to local families, demonstrating my ability to advocate for community needs.

6. Vision for the Future of Education: My vision aligns with the GECDSB's commitment to Building Tomorrow Together and emphasizes: 1) Enhancing Equity: Addressing systemic inequities and ensuring all students have the resources and opportunities needed to succeed, regardless of their background. 2) Fostering Innovation: Encouraging personalized learning and integrating interdisciplinary approaches to prepare students for the challenges of a rapidly evolving world. 3) Strengthening Community Partnerships: Engaging parents, educators, and local organizations in meaningful collaborations to create a supportive network that reflects and respects the diversity of our community.

7. Fiscal Responsibility: My experience in financial oversight ensures I can allocate funds efficiently to maximize student outcomes. I will advocate for investments in classroom resources, teacher training, and infrastructure improvements while maintaining transparency and accountability.

8. Advocacy and Collaboration: Collaboration is key to effective trusteeship. My leadership emphasizes diplomacy, respect, and open communication, enabling me to build consensus and foster productive relationships. This approach ensures diverse perspectives are considered and decisions reflect the collective wisdom of the board and community.

9. Addressing Current Challenges: The GECDSB faces challenges such as learning gaps, financial pressures, and creating inclusive environments. I will advocate for: 1) Academic Interventions: Supporting students affected by the pandemic with targeted resources. 2) Mental Health Support: Expanding programs that build resilience and well-being. 3) Safe School Environments: Implementing proactive anti-bullying and anti-discrimination policies.

10. A Candidate of Integrity and Vision: I bring integrity, fairness, and a clear vision to the trustee role. My commitment to education and service drives me to create an inclusive, innovative, and high-quality learning environment for all students.

Conclusion: Serving as a school board trustee is both a privilege and a responsibility. My leadership experience, dedication to education, and passion for equity make me uniquely qualified for this role. I pledge to work tirelessly to ensure every student in the GECDSB can thrive in a supportive and inclusive educational environment. Together, we can build a brighter future for our children and our community.