



Parent Governor Election, March 2018

Candidate Statements

Miss Maritza Erotokritos

As a full time working mother to pupils Rocco and Zackhary Arthur and a local business woman with a keen passion to support the local community, I would like to be considered for the vacancy.

I am a very independent, self-motivated and non-biased person. I have managed the local family hair salon since 2013 and I am responsible for three members of staff, to whom I promote a good work ethic and equality. I also have prior business management skills in property real estate.

I am currently completing my level 3 assessors award in teaching hairdressing. I also hold level 3 Pitman's qualification in business and customer service.

I am very enthusiastic and honest and I always like to offer a way forward and like to promote a positive outlook.

Mr Prathiep Senthilnathan

I am the Head of On-Demand Operations for a company based in Surrey where I am responsible for a team that delivers finance, CRM and PSA systems to clients both in London and internationally. My wife is a secondary school teacher in the area and we have 2 children at Monks Orchard Primary School. My eldest son, Vijay, is in O'Keefe class (year 3) and my younger son, Lakshman, is in Picasso (Year 1).

I have been a Co-opted governor for the last 2 years at another Croydon school with an Outstanding Ofsted rating. I decided to volunteer for this role to become more involved in Croydon. I grew up in the area and becoming a governor at one of the local schools seemed a great way to give back to the community. Whilst I have been able to add value to the existing governing body at that school drawing from my own professional experiences, I have also gained much experience from that role regarding primary education.

I do enjoy my current role and I would find it difficult to leave but I feel if it were to take up a position within the governing body at Monks Orchard Primary then, as a local resident in the area combined with the fact that my children both attend this school, it would be a very good reason to do so.

I am enthusiastic and passionate about primary education and the local community. I feel my skills and experiences would be a very good fit for the vacant role of Parent Governor.

Miss Tanya Williams

Introduction

My name is Tanya Williams and I am a Compliance Manager within an Investment Bank. I have worked in this industry for over 20 years managing large teams globally, covering a broad spectrum of Policies, Procedures, Quality Control, MI and Strategic Planning.

Reasons for Applying

My understanding of the nature and needs of school governor doesn't stem from any previous experience, it stems from information within the public domain and coming from a large family that have all attended various schools within London, and have all equally had different experiences. Now I have a daughter of my own, it has highlighted the importance of each role that contributes to a child's education which ranges from parents, teachers, TA's, lunch time supervisors, etc, and I am a firm believer that whilst there is always room for improvement, the key to sustaining improvement is "partnership".

Every child is different and will have different social backgrounds which may impact their aptitude for learning, concentration, attendance, etc, so it is important to ensure that schools have the correct controls and measures in place to not only monitor these things, but how to implement changes to help support the needs of the child.

Whilst I acknowledge that many factors to driving change are heavily reliant upon budgetary restraints, I feel my experience within managing a large team, whilst maintaining tight deadlines would hopefully be of benefit to a governing body.

Results are important, results confirm whether an establishment is "fit for purpose", but there is so much that goes into obtaining those results. The children are the heart and soul of the school, what they get out of it every day is the most important thing. The teachers, who have a very difficult role, are the individuals that we, as society, are reliant upon to deliver a good solid education, whilst ensuring our children are in a safe and happy environment.

I would like to be part of the governing body to deliver fresh ideas and hopefully be able to view the school with a non-biased opinion, but more importantly, demonstrate empathy and a realistic approach for all stakeholders concerned. I am also a firm believer in raising items/issues where things could have been handled slightly better, but I also believe in giving praise where it is due. It's very easy to point out things that are not working; the key is being able to stand back and assess the situation and provide a solution to the issue, not come up with another problem. My motto is "for every problem, there is always a solution". I currently manage a team of 65 people, and the general feedback is that whilst I am firm, I am also very fair as I always look at things through other people's lenses, and provide a solution that is right for the Bank.

If I were to be successful in my bid to become a school governor, I would welcome the opportunity to not only share some of the skills set that I have learnt over the years, but to also learn new policies and procedures and be able to obtain a better understanding of how a school is run.