

PARENT CANDIDATES

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL ELECTIONS



CARYN LESHYNSKI



I believe my unique experience as an active parent volunteer and former controller and treasurer of a fortune 100 company will allow me to bring some fresh ideas to the SGC. I have been a CAT mom since my children started at new prospect and understand the importance of parent participation and perspective in continuing to build the best educational experience for the students. Now that the twins are a little older, I want to participate more actively in the PTA, and, as a former controller and treasurer, I have had extensive experience in strategic planning, resource allocation and budgeting so I think SGC is a good fit for my skills.

JULIA MILORD



I am a former elementary school teacher who has worked with children in a classroom setting for over 25 years. I specialized in the workshop model in reading, writing, and math as well as the implementation of the Lucy Calkins writing model. I served on the school governance council in Gwinnett county while I worked at White Oak elementary. While there, I played an instrumental role in the implementation of inquiry and project based learning in the classroom. I was also a member of our technology implementation committee and worked to incorporate the BYOD (bring your own device) program into the school. Ultimately, our school became a state certified STEM school after undergoing a tedious process to ensure the implementation of inquiry and STEM across all content areas. I believe that my experience would prove to be an asset to our school's governance council. As a Harvard graduate, I majored in sociology while also completing coursework in psychology. I am multi-lingual as I am completely fluent in English, Spanish, and French/Creole. I can also speak and understand conversational Italian and Portuguese. These multi-lingual capabilities coupled with my understanding and respect for different cultures would help bridge any existing gaps between our school and the community at large. I would love to be able to give back to our community in any way that would positively impact our youth.

CAMIE CHRISTENSEN



As a parent and an educator, I am passionate about creating a school culture with rigorous, engaging, and personalized education opportunities for each student. As a member of the new prospect SGC, I will enhance the collaboration between school and community, listening to diverse perspectives and effectively communicating to enable progress toward a shared vision and desired outcomes. I will prioritize building a sense of connection and belonging, as well as excellence and equity for all students. With a background in education, I have a unique understanding of the challenges and opportunities inherent in public schools. I have an med in education leadership with an emphasis in multicultural education. I worked as a secondary Spanish and ESOL teacher and am a fluent Spanish speaker. I was the lead teacher and curriculum director for an online foreign language school and oversaw. My work as a parent volunteer has spanned all levels of education. My four children attend AHS, WBMS and two at NPE. I have volunteered extensively at the classroom, school and district levels. At the district level, I served for two years on the legislative action committee, working closely with state senators and representatives to ensure that the needs of the district were represented in education legislation.

I am a strategic thinker who is detail oriented, engaged, and committed to enhancing educational outcomes for each student.

MEGHNA GANDHI



Being with children has always been a true pleasure. Professionally I am an engineer and have been working in the telecommunications arena for past decade and personally a mom to two wonderful kids. I am always finding a way to find interesting and motivating ways to teach my children to not only learn academics but life skills. By joining the SGC at NPES I want to be more involved in this journey - after all school is their second home. Being an engineer I understand how education was foremost in shaping my life today and working in the corporate environment has given me experience that I can use on the board - how to manage projects, deadlines and communicate among different groups. And now being a mom - and being around kids all the time I understand their needs better and a need to bring some definite and futuristic structure in their lives. I look forward to working with the school, teachers and parents in supporting this cause.

TEACHER CANDIDATES

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL ELECTIONS



BECCA MCGOWAN



“Every child in my class is someone’s whole world.” I keep this posted in my room as a reminder that I must approach all I do in the classroom as both a teacher and a parent. As a teacher I want to help every child succeed, but I must accomplish this with the love of a parent. It’s this combination of perspectives that I would bring to new prospect’s school governance council. I’m Becca McGowan and I have been an ESOL teacher at NPE for two years. Before new prospect, I taught 1st and 2nd grade at Dolvin elementary and at schools in Minneapolis and Los Angeles. I have been active in school leadership and grade-level leadership, and was honored as a teacher of the year. When we look at new prospect’s school goals and student achievement goals, it’s clear that our success requires a successful school governance council; one that listens effectively to each other and to those outside of the group, one that interacts respectfully during governance council discussions, and one that clearly communicates ideas and actions to the larger new prospect community. These types of respectful and thoughtful interactions have always been a personal priority. As a grade-level chair I had to help eight 2nd grade teachers listen, discuss and agree on a PBL. As a 1st grade teacher I’ve had to clearly communicate honest concerns about a child to a worried parent.

SANDY TURTURRO



I have been a classroom teacher for the past 35 years. It is my belief that teaching is not just a job. It comes from the heart, with the students we serve always in the forefront of all decisions. I believe that to help our students reach their highest potential, we must provide them with a positive, safe learning environment. If elected, I would continue to put our students first. With my years of experience, I believe that I can help guide in the decision-making process at NPES to ensure that our students, faculty, and staff all work in unison toward our strategic plan. From budgeting to evaluating programs to meet the needs of all our students, I believe I would bring experience to the table. As an ambassador to NPES, I would continue to share my love of teaching with our students, faculty, staff, and community.