

Northwood Elementary SGC Candidate Statements

Teachers:

Annie Jo Perry: I have been a teacher at Northwood Elementary School for 13 years. This community has become my family and I'm so proud to be a part of Northwood. My ties to this school, as well as being a long time member of the community make me an ideal candidate for the SGC. I want to continue to make Northwood a great place to work and go to school. As a member of the leadership team, I have experience working on the budget and the strategic plan. I am a curriculum architect for the county and have had experience creating assessments and curriculum at the county level as well as standards based report cards. My time at Northwood and in Fulton County have afforded me the experience to help create a high-achieving school that students and parents are proud to call home.

Parents:

April Flint: As the parent of 2 first-graders and an educator myself, I see so much value in being involved in the education of the next generation. Working at an institution of higher education allows me to see daily the connections needed between P-12, future career success and global citizenship. I have also been lucky enough to volunteer at Northwood in a variety of ways. I feel I am well qualified to contribute positively through the SGC. I strive to help create an interactive culture that promotes divergent thinking and originality. Because of my professional work and research, I bring a unique perspective to the table. I have led several educational strategic planning processes including budget and resource allocation informed by assessment data. I see the knowledge combination of project experience, scholarly thinking and well-being as integral parts of helping today's child generate ideas and practices that build a base for positive, healthy and effective life and career skills application. I am excited about this opportunity to engage on a different level. The SGC is an integral member of the school community providing a solid foundation alongside the administration while focusing on innovation and the true educational needs of our children. Steve Jobs said, "Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower." The time is now to be innovative and collaborative in our school. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to working with the Northwood community.

Crystal McSwain-Farr: I grew up in Gwinnett county, graduated from Ga Tech with BS in Industrial and Systems Engineering, and now work in the IT field. My husband and I have 2 kids (3.5 and 6) and I want to ensure their generation is provided numerous opportunities to succeed and to fuel their passions- both of which will make the world a better place. I became a Girl Scout troop leader this year for these exact same reasons. I believe education isn't just about reading books and doing worksheets in a classroom. Education is about experiences, experimenting, doing project based work (like a lot of us do in the real world), combining subjects to tie key learnings together, being creative, and letting the students lead where appropriate. Education should also include fine arts, athletics, and community service either as a creative outlet or as a way to become more well-rounded and not so narrowly focused. Elementary school is the perfect time to introduce an array of opportunities and allow students to try something new. As my daughter will be in starting first grade in Fall 2017, and my son will start kindergarten in Fall 2018, I want the opportunity to work with a team on the strategic plan that will benefit all the students at Northwood. This is a perfect way to get involved locally and make a difference.

Airam Gutierrez-Hammond: I was selected from a large pool of international teachers from around the world to complete three successful years of exchange teaching in Charlotte-Mecklenburg county, NC during 2005-2008. I represented my native country of Venezuela and my sponsoring program with enthusiasm, skills, diplomacy, and dedication. I was asked to begin teaching a week after my arrival to the US. I had not only to adapt to the new culture and education system, but also to locate housing, make automobile arrangement, secure driver's license, a SSN, and adjust to new demands and routines. I earned the confidence needed to teach effectively and learned significant skills that have been assets to serve well in my future employments. I coordinated a Parents as Teachers program within the Latin American Coalition in Charlotte, NC. I administered the program's budget, purchased the program's literacy books, and materials needed to perform home visits. I organized volunteer projects with local agencies and managed recycling campaigns and a reading club, etc. I monitored families to prevent/report child abuse & neglect. I provided one-on-one team meetings to assess, follow up and refer families' needs. From 2009 as of today, I have been in education as an

ESOL teacher and Honors Spanish teacher in an elementary, middle and high school in NC. My experience has been highly rewarding, enjoyable, and successful. I'd love to continue embracing the impact of education and to devote on improving NES's mission and plans.