

First Name	Last Name
Jerry	Kovacs
Applicant Interest	
<p>I am applying for the position of Public School Board Trustee for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Service. I am a firm believer in public, community service. I wish to make a positive and valuable contribution to my community. I am presently serving as a Director on the Centretown Community Association. Serving as a Trustee will enable me to further contribute to community, public service by showing an example of community engagement as my personal “culture of caring” in the educational community. 2. Volunteerism. As a community resident, I also believe that volunteer activities are important to the life of a thriving and vibrant community. As a Zone 10 resident for over ten years, I have volunteered with many organizations at many festivals and events in centretown. My volunteer activities reflect my personal values of ethical leadership and community contributions as part of my personal “culture of social responsibility” in our community. 3. Education. Having earned numerous educational qualifications, I am a firm believer in the value of a good quality education. <p>I have taught classes at colleges and universities in Ottawa and overseas. Obtaining a good, quality education at the primary, junior high and high school levels enables individuals to gain entrance to college and university programs where they can pursue educational and career goals enhancing their well-being and careers in a highly competitive job market.</p> <p>Innovation in creating welcoming and inclusive learning environments that promote a participant centred, innovative approaches to teaching and learning have always been important in my teaching at the University of Ottawa and Algonquin College. I believe this approach applies at the public school levels as well and is reflected in the “culture of innovation” that engages students, educators, individuals and families.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Good Governance and Board Governance. As a candidate for public office, I believe in good governance and board governance which contributes to the overall health and well-being of an organization in meeting its organizational goals and objectives. <p>This includes meeting organizational goals, board governance, administration, fiscal responsibility, board administration, and delivering and maintaining effective policies and practices. I regularly attend professional development seminars at which these subjects are discussed as they relate to the public and not-for-profit sectors.</p> <p>As a volunteer director on many boards in the past, I understand the importance of good governance and commitment to ethical values. Lawyers, like Board Members, have a</p>	

code professional conduct which is important to ensuring the smooth and effective functioning of boards by their members.

5. Public Participation and Community Input. Important elements of public participation are accessibility from individuals and the community, the role of school councils and the input of councils and parent involvement committees in contributing to the success of the school board in meeting its goals and objectives. As a Director the Centretown Community Association and veteran's advocate who has attended many Veterans Affairs Stakeholder Meetings, I understand the importance of public participation and community input.

This applies to a wide range of issues of importance to the community and stakeholders. This is important in developing advocacy policies, strategies, and plans that advance the interests of the members in being their voice and championing their beliefs, positions and values as leaders that accomplish the important objectives that community leaders are entrusted to do by stakeholders.

6. Background and experience. I believe my educational background and work experience in politics, law, and teaching will enable me to make valuable contribution to the Board. I have been a member of many committees in the past and understand the value and importance of well-organized, goal oriented committees that perform many functions such as the many committees of the school board. As a college and university teacher I understand the importance of education and lifelong learning

I am presently a non-practising lawyer in Ontario. Should I be the successful appointee, I intend to renew my membership in the Law Society of Ontario.

As a lawyer, I will be able to provide the Board with legal advice and opinions on issues and topics arising before the Board, its bylaws and governance. As a lawyer I also learned the importance of active listening, representing individuals, being open minded and compassionate, being accessible, providing them with the best information in formation and advice possible, and being an effective advocate and voice on their behalf.

7. Security and Safety. Safe and healthy communities and school environments provide places and spaces where teacher and students can collaborate and learn together. Safe schools can only exist in safe communities where teachers, students and students can all work and learn together. As an employee of Elections Canada and Elections Ontario who has worked elections at many polling stations located in schools. I have good background in the schools located in Zone 10.

As a Commissionaire in Ottawa, I have worked at over ten security locations in Zone 10. I understand the importance of promoting the security and safety of everyone in public spaces and learning environments.

School security and safety is essential in having safe learning environments where everyone looks forward to fearlessly learn in welcoming and safe places and spaces.

8. Communication. Feedback and Review. This is extremely important from

parents, students, teachers and student groups. Progress can only be measured when constructive feedback is welcomed, encouraged and obtained. As an educator and lawyer, I know the importance of positive interactions, communications, feedback, review and at all levels of the educational system.

A healthy and collegial board is essential to achieve success. Feedback and review between the Board, board members, stakeholders, students, families and community members is a very important part of being a trustee. It is how many programs and initiatives are assessed for their value and effectiveness in the education system.

Developing positive relationships with other board members, students, teachers, their families, community stakeholders, municipal and provincial politicians and others, is crucial in being an effective board member in advancing the interests of students as a community leader focused on the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan.

Jerry Kovacs