

First Name	Last Name
Serge	Lafontaine
Applicant Interest	
<p>As an engaged father of two girls currently in the English Public School system (grade 7 / Broadview and grade 10 / Nepean HS), it would be a privilege to be considered as a candidate for the position of Trustee, Zone 10. In this role, I see an exciting challenge to work with other Trustees with the scope of promoting student achievement, fostering an inclusive environment for all, ensuring the effective, timely and current delivery of educational programs and helping to safeguard good governance within the School Board.</p> <p>From 2015-2019, I managed the Juniors Program at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club. In this role, I worked with students aged from 6 to 18 years and had the unique opportunity to initiate young golfers to the sport and define the strategic trajectory of the Junior Program at the Golf Club. We exposed the young athletes to focus, team building, honesty, networking, physical activity, discipline, responsibility and independence. For the older student athletes, the focus was on leadership. I had to be conscious of the desires of each of the Juniors in the program, as some wanted to participate in golf as a leisure activity and others were more interested in the competitive aspect of the sport. This meant that I had to communicate closely with each of my Juniors and their parents to identify their desires. This also meant that I acted as the liaison for the parents and the other Golf Club Committees to ensure harmony between the Junior Program and the adult members.</p> <p>In 2013-2014, I was an elected member of the Joan of Arc Academy (JOAA) Board of Directors, an All-Girl bilingual privately funded Elementary School in Ottawa. As a Board member, I was involved in setting the strategic direction in a challenging recruiting environment; recruiting for new students and retention of educators. I was part of a team who oversaw the effective operation of the school and ensured budget rigidity. As a Board, we worked together to have a fulsome fundraising schedule, created a communication plan and coordinated outreach volunteering activities for the girls. This was important to encourage the girls to develop their leadership skills, understand financial responsibility and build a strong sense of community. Also, as a parent volunteer with a scientific background, I acted as judge for two annual science fairs.</p> <p>In 2002, at the Holy Trinity High School (Kanata), and in 2003, at the Immaculate High School (Ottawa), I introduced the Junior Achievement Company program. This after-school activity ran from October to April, aimed at high school students interested in learning how to establish a business from the ground up. I was part of a team of three adult advisors, with the role of mentoring up to 15-20 students in their path to building a real company. They participated in product development, learned how to produce marketing, communication, business and risk analysis plans, appointed executive leadership positions, etc. With an operational company, they promoted and sold their products. In addition to the mentorship role, I also participated in various weekly in-class</p>	

business simulation activities.

In 2002-2004, I was on the Board of Directors of Hosteling International /Ottawa (formerly Youth Hostels). This global association provides low cost accommodation to youth travellers. As a Board member, the challenge was to stretch the minimal funding budget to ensure that all strategic goals were met for the year.

In recognition of the real requirement for our future generation's understanding and alignment with the world of hardware and software technology, in January 2019, I developed, proposed and presented a half-day mini-course on electronic circuits. This activity was aimed at grade six students at Broadview Public School, to introduce them to the world of robotics.

I am excited for this unique opportunity to make a difference for our next generation. On a global scale, education is evolving rapidly and I want to be part of influencing its development and progression so that Canadian students aren't left behind. I strongly believe that priorities should emphasize the following:

1. Use and understanding of technology for current learning and future career opportunities
2. Bilingualism, Polyglotism - in the spirit that language is a critical tool for communication; the more languages you know, the more cultures you understand, the more accepting you will be of others.
3. Leadership and Critical Thinking through strong communication skills; and
4. Inclusivity amongst all through understanding of other cultures, through food / music / language.

On a personal note, I graduated from the Royal Military College in Kingston with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering. Over the course of my career, I was a former Naval officer, held various engineering and leadership roles in hardware development and have been employed in technical sales for the last 15 years. I am fully bilingual in French and English, reside in the Kitchissippi Ward and hold a P.Eng. license from the Professional Engineers Ontario. I also enjoy traveling, photography, snowboarding and golf.

Finally, I have consistently exceeded my professional goals in the Ottawa hi-tech community. With my working experience on various technical leadership roles and extra-curricular committees and board assignments, I have demonstrated being a team player and shown a proven track record of handling confidential or sensitive material and information. In order to be able to effectively deal with potential customers/stakeholders, I must possess strong communication, problem solving, negotiation and conflict resolution skills.

Thank you for taking time to consider my application and look forward to hearing from you.