

Bushra Zawaydeh

Parent

Letters of Recommendation received from:

Catherine Witts

Ashley Lebel

Virginia Hennighausen



Re: Windham Academy Board of Trustees Interviews

1 message

Bushra Zawaydeh

Sun, Mar 20, 2022 at 10:06 PM

To: Board of Trustees <boardoftrustees@windhamacademy.org>

hi Brandie

Ok, I edited the letter by removing names. Please see below.

thank you

Bushra

Dear Sean, and Windham Academy Board of Trustees,

I am extremely sorry about the disturbing situation that erupted last week on February 9th, 2022. The result was something I never imagined would happen. I am a number one fan of Windham Academy. My husband and I decided to enroll our two children in Windham Academy the minute we heard the news that the charter was approved. Our intention is to keep them in the school until 8th grade. Since then, I have been actively supporting Windham Academy in whatever way I can. Examples of things I do at Windham Academy are:

- Currently, I am the primary administrator of the Families of Windham Academy Facebook page. Although I do not receive any news directly from anybody (neither the administration, teachers, nor the board), I manage to figure out what reminders to put, and I post them to keep the parents engaged, motivated, and aware of current happenings in the school. I have been doing this for 4 years. I have been an administrator for 3 years.
- This year I am a co-leader in Destination Imagination in a 2nd grade group.
- Last year, I was one of the leaders in the Windham Academy Girl Scouts troop.
- Other committees I was involved in at some point, are the PTO and the Fundraising Committee.
- Independently, I have also kept an eye on the Donors Choose projects of WA when teachers had many projects, and I encouraged parents to donate at a time when there were matches offered by Donors Choose, and we managed to fully fund all the projects within a day or two.
- I have forwarded information about grants to the school on multiple occasions

I do little work here and there to support teachers, the PTO, and whoever needs anything. I have also been a consistent donor to many fundraising efforts whether general or specific to my children's classrooms on Donors Choose or Amazon.

I would like to formally apply for an open position for a board of trustees because I am extremely concerned about the situation of the school, and I want to make sure the school remains open, and functioning following the principals of the founders of Windham Academy. I believe in school choice, parental rights to decide what is best for their child, and as a proud American, I want to see children grow up feeling proud of their country, and believing in liberty and the constitution.

With regards to my own professional background, you can see some information on my [LinkedIn profile](#). I have Ph.D. in Linguistics from Indiana University. I worked in the industry for various companies. Currently I work at a company called Appen, which is based in Sydney, Australia but has branches in the US and around the world. I work from home, and I work throughout the day.

The actual work I do is linguistic data development; building lexicons and corpora that are used for building training data to train systems that do machine translation, speech recognition, speech synthesis, keyword search, etc.

I am very self-driven, active, and goal oriented. I am easy to approach. I like to talk to people, connect with them, motivate them, and help them. I have several people who encouraged me to apply for the board of trustees from WA and the Windham community because they think I would be a good candidate for this position.

When meetings were happening at the Windham Town Hall, my husband and I were attending almost all of them. Then when COVID happened, we attended online but it is not the same. The face to face was better, and we were able to get more out of it. We have the utmost respect for all of the Windham Academy board of Trustees members. We are amazed by what you have been able to accomplish, and we hope we can help you continue the mission and carry the torch of the founders and board members who unfortunately resigned.

One of the challenges that the board faced and was accused of yesterday was the poor communication and lack of transparency. This is something I would want to work on. I would want to improve and strengthen the relationship between the board and the parents on one hand and the board and the teachers on the other hand. I also want to see more STEM at the school, and add a second language such as Spanish. However, more importantly, the important things are building the additional building to have 7th and 8th grade classes, creating a curriculum for the 7th and 8th grades, hiring experienced teachers for these grades, and the renewal of the charter. I am a hard worker who works well under pressure and gets work done on time, and because of my love for Windham Academy and interest in the school, I would like to participate more in making decisions that best suit the school.

I look forward to hearing back from you, and talking with you about this opportunity.

Respectfully with gratitude,
Bushra Zawaydeh, Ph.D.
