



TOWN OF NORTH YARMOUTH

Application to fill the vacant MSAD#51 Board of Directors Seat

Please plan to attend the June 15, 2021 Select Board meeting as part of the selection process.

Please provide the following information:

Name: Laurie Bachelder

Email: lbach@maine.rr.com

Mailing Address: 865 Oak Hill Rd North Yarmouth ME

Street Address if different from mailing address: _____

Telephone number(s): 207-415-8723

1. Please give a short narrative as to why you would like to be appointed to fill the vacant MSAD#51 Board of Directors Seat See Attached

2. Do you have any relevant experience, training or credentials that you would like us to consider? See Attached

3. Have you ever served on any boards/committees before? If so, when and where? See Attached

Laurie Bachelder
Applicant's Signature

Digitally signed by Laurie Bachelder
Date: 2021.06.10 10:03:51 -04'00'

6 / 10 / 2021
Date

Please email this form to townclerk@northyarmouth.org, mail to 10 Village Square Road, North Yarmouth, ME 04097, or drop it off at the Town Office; (207)829-3705

1. Please give a short narrative as to why you would like to be appointed to this Board or Committees you have selected above.

I believe that a school board must be responsive and receptive to parents, staff, students and the community at large, encouraging an open dialog. The board must take input from all groups and weigh all the facts before making a decision. A Board member is a trustee of the community that appoints or elects him or her. That Trustee must be accessible and willing to collaborate with all members of the community; that includes all District staff. Anyone that comes before the board has the right to be heard. A school board member must build public understanding, support and participation.

My efforts as a board member would center on a commitment to honest and open communication within the community as we work to identify problems and find solutions together. We all share the same goal—to support our students to become their best, most fulfilled selves. It is only through sharing information, taking the time to work together, and engaging with one another that we will know where our priorities lie as a community, so that we can work to make that vision a reality.

I will strive to improve communication and transparency. I have heard from so many in our community about their struggles getting information from the district or understanding certain policies or decisions.

Our families are the cornerstone of the district and it's imperative that they feel heard and are given the platform to talk when concerns arise.

I will value everyone's opinions and concerns even when different than mine. I encourage all discussions because I believe that school board members serve the public and should be accountable for the decisions they make. If appointed I will be accessible to all members of our school community, to advocate for the best interests of our children, and to make decisions to ensure that our children have the best public education in the State of Maine.

I love being a part of our small community and I have a strong desire to work with parents, schools and students to continue building a strong school district and community. We owe it to our students to model a community that works hard to set and meet goals together. It is only through support and trust that we can all rise up together to raise healthy, happy and successful children who are well prepared for their bright futures ahead.

It has never been more apparent than this year that we are a community fueled by passion, especially for our children and their future. Yet we should be mindful that as we engage with each other in our community with differing viewpoints, we must be aware-Our children are listening. Our children are watching. Our children are learning.

Therefore, as a community, we must recognize this opportunity to teach our children, through example, healthy conflict resolution strategies, constructive communication and community support. I will look to creatively work together and channel our passions in a constructive fashion.

2. Do you have any relevant experience, training or credentials that you would like us to consider?

In my professional life I founded and own a Registered Investment Firm. For the last 20+ years I manage client relationships and personally manage over \$35M in assets. My years as a business owner has helped me be adept at facilitating positive and productive interactions between workers, leaders and representatives. I am an articulate and decisive professional with a respectful and resourceful approach. I am a persuasive negotiator, talented organizer and complex problem-solver. I am

enthusiastic and eager to contribute to team success through hard work, attention to detail and excellent organizational skills.

As a long-time business owner, I have experienced challenging business situations. The key to managing through these situations is the ability to think strategically, but also develop realistic plans to solve the issue or capitalize on the opportunity. I believe I can use my skills to help the school board think strategically about the long-term growth and health of the district, but also balance the needs of the short term.

As an Investment Advisor I understand budgets and the need for fiscal responsibility.

And most importantly I believe is, I am an independent and critical thinker. I am able to ask the hard and opposing questions and not one to follow the “herd” because it is easier than making a stand.

We need a board that brings varying skills and life experiences. I look forward to serving with others who’s varied skill sets will combine with mine for a strong and diverse board.

3. Have you ever served on any boards/committees before? If so, when and where?

I served 2 years as President and 1 year as Treasurer of Portland Nursery School a Co-op Preschool in Portland. My children went to a Co-op nursery school because I wanted to be involved in decisions about my children’s education.

In those roles over the course of 3 years, I maintained ongoing positive communication between parents and school administration and faculty. Made connections within the community to help market preschool to potential parents and increase enrollment. Ensured compliance with all state and local licensing regulations. Familiarize parents with school policies and provide orientation. Responsible for enrollment, finances (including cost control, cash receipts and receivables from parents, money receipts from state and federal agencies, payroll, and reports to the board). Provided a safe and loving environment for the children. All while working within a very tight budget.

My husband and I (up until the Pandemic) have always been actively involved in volunteer opportunities in school and on the field. And will continue to do so.

I founded and run a non-profit organization, Help ME Recover. Help ME Recover raises money and awareness for people in recovery.