

Guelph Mercury Tribune

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1. Please provide a brief bio, one or two sentences, about who you are and your occupation.

I am an immigrant from Italy/Malta, 38 year Guelph resident, married with three children who attend/ed UGDSB. My education and work includes Adult Education, Employment & Training, Planning and Economic Development. I work with the West Willow Village Neighbourhood Group in community development. I am the current School Board Trustee and Board Chairperson.

2. Why should people care about school board elections?

Education is a public good benefitting everyone, whether you have children or not. Education is linked to better health, jobs, a higher income, and a better local economy. Our excellent education system attracts doctors and other professionals to the city of Guelph, this benefits all residents.

3. What do you bring to the board of education table?

There are three baskets of experience and skills I bring to the Education table.

As a parent I have first hand experience with excellent schools, programs like special education, FI and student supports. As Trustee for the past 12 years I bring a thorough understanding of the board, and a track record of accomplishments like the establishment of IB at GuelphCVI, leading a program review resulting in Dufferin FI, and advocating for Centre Peel's Mennonite secondary program.

In the second basket are years of Guelph volunteering resulting in meaningful community connections. School Councils, working with a determined group to establish the Guelph Youth Music Centre, Child Care parent group, Suzuki String School, Special Olympics coach, and neighbourhood volunteer, to list a few.

Finally I bring board operations experience including budgets, strategic planning and governance. Children are always at the centre of decisions, supporting teachers and schools as we grow our children.