



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

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Headteacher: Ms J Rutherford BA (Hons)

1 December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Parent Governor - Ballot

I wrote to you on 19 October 2020 to invite nominations for two vacancies for parent governors. As you may recall, the Governing Board was particularly seeking nominations from parents/carers with skills and experience in any of the following areas: finance, HR, law and project management, and who also have community links.

I am delighted to say that there has been a good response and there seven candidates. This means we must now hold a ballot. Attached to this letter are the personal statements from the candidates, who were asked to write up to 250 words in their statements. These statements have been listed in alphabetical order by surname.

All parents or carers with pupils currently at King Edward VI School may vote in this election. You can do so by completing the brief form [here](#). You may vote for up to **two** candidates. Each parent or carer can submit one form, regardless of the number of children you have attending the school. Please respond by **3 January 2021**.

If it is not possible for you to vote in this way, you may request a paper ballot form from: Samantha Jones, Clerk to the Governors, sjones@keslichfield.org.uk.

The election will be decided by a simple majority of votes cast. When the election has been completed, we will let you know the outcome.

Yours sincerely

Jane Rutherford
Headteacher and Returning Officer



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Candidates' personal statements

Neil Ballantyne

I am an award-winning education technologist with vast experience teaching, teacher training and developing educational products. I am currently leading product development at a major digital education company, recently announced as one of the 50 most transformational growth companies in education technology in the world.

The world has changed in 2020 and we need to support our teachers and provide the best opportunities for our learners whatever challenges are thrown at us. I believe it is vitally important to blend face-to-face and digital learning to not only continue providing quality education whatever external challenges occur, but also to prepare our young people for a highly competitive and fast moving workplace.

I started my career teaching English around the world and have been using technology to enhance education since the start. I know teachers can often require support in how to use technology and I spent many years running teacher training programmes globally for the British Council.

After many years in different educational jobs abroad, I settled back in Lichfield a few years ago and my children are enjoying life at King Edward VI School. When choosing a local school, I was impressed by the dynamism and commitment shown by the school management and would look forward to helping the school achieve even greater success.

With a combination of project management skills and pedagogic understanding, I hope I could bring valuable insights and experience to the board of governors and the school.

Andrew Caffrey

I am Andrew Caffrey, most importantly parent of Evie Caffrey in Year 7 and the CEO at Canopy, a team of educational technologists who help schools to use digital technology to enhance teaching and learning. I am the Global Program Lead for the Google for Education Certified Innovator Program, a global community of over 2000 passionate teachers who use technology to solve big challenges and advocate for impactful use of technology in education. I manage the delivery of Innovator Academies which use design thinking to support top educators from around the globe to launch transformative projects in their own schools.

I am a former Secondary School Assistant Headteacher, Geography Teacher, Duke of Edinburgh Lead and Specialist Leader of Education (SLE) and received an Inspirational Educator Award from the Worshipful Company of Educators in 2016. In 2020 I was named in the EdTech 50, as one of the key people shaping Education Technology in the UK. In my spare time, I am the Volunteer Head of Compliance at The Scout Association, managing our Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme ensuring our 600,000 members complete adventure safely.

As a Governor I firmly believe I have the educational background to understand the strengths of King Edward's School at the present and how to continue to offer outstanding education for all of your students in the future.

Hannah Gallimore

From Cambridgeshire, with a long and winding education and employment journey including a law degree, Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice and 16 years in resource management at KPMG. I am currently Corporate Responsibility Manager at Central England Co-operative (CEC) based in Lichfield, where I live in with my husband. We have four children.

I manage CEC's responsible business programmes designed to support our colleagues, suppliers, communities and the environment. Key to my role is partnership recruitment and management. Partnerships are built around our most material issues including food justice, colleague safety and crime reduction, diversity, mental health and wellbeing, carbon reduction and plastics - local and national government, law enforcement, local ambulance services, schools and charities including local foodbanks, Trussell Trust, FareShare, Time to Change, Mind and Dementia UK are all vital to this work. I work with internal stakeholders including HR, procurement, finance and facilities to embed responsible business in our policies and processes.

I am saddened that coronavirus is deepening inequalities between students and that youth unemployment is set to rise disproportionately. It would be convenient to only look to the government and educators to provide the solutions, but I hope to support the teachers and pupils of King Edwards by joining the Board of Governors.

Through confident communication I would hope to contribute to strategic conversations. My everyday skills can support the Governing Board with all aspects of project management – planning, budgeting, building business cases, resource management, monitoring and reporting and post investment ESG reviews.

Jennifer McGregor

Having been students ourselves at King Edwards we moved back into the area to be within the King Edwards catchment area for our children, given the fantastic reputation. It is also important to us as a family that we support the school as much as possible.

Applying for a parent governor position is key to that, I am keen not only to be part of supporting the school from the children's education aspect, but also ensuring that the children of our school learn about inclusion and diversity, where there is a culture for inspiring young minds both in school, as part of the local community and where they have the opportunity to become the very best versions of themselves in an environment that creates endless possibilities.

I currently run a large frozen distribution hub for the UK and have held various leadership roles over the last 12 years. I have vast financial, operational and HR knowledge, which support my skills in planning, organising and project management.

The best part of my job is listening to my team and supporting them on their personal journeys for their career, where they feel comfortable to try new challenges, step out of their comfort zone and feel proud of what they do every day for their own teams, customers and communities, giving them support to make a difference even if in some small way.

Stephen Mikos

Stephen Mikos is the father of two boys; the eldest in year 7 at King Edward VI, the youngest at Whittington Primary, where Stephen is an active member of the Parent Council.

Stephen is a widower and single parent, which gives him a very clear understanding of the pressures faced by many families, along with a valuable insight on parenting from both the father's and mother's point of view!

Stephen has decades of experience leading sales teams with responsibility for developing business strategies and meeting profit targets. Notably, he served 15 years as Head of Sales in a local business, specialising in the manufacture/supply of electronic sub-systems and software to industry worldwide. Following exceptional growth in international sales, the company was awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise (Export).

Being a keen participant in team sports for many years, he frequently competed at International level in the 1990's. He believes competitive team sport in schools is crucial to a child's development and should be promoted alongside academic subjects. Stephen also believes that observing British values of tolerance, liberty, and fair play, with a strong emphasis on discipline and good behaviour are the cornerstones of a successful school.

Stephen's background and business experience as Company Director have provided him with the ability to ask probing questions, make strategic decisions and deliver results within an agreed budget. Now semi-retired, he has the time and motivation to deploy these skills for the benefit of all parents and their children at King Edward VI school.

David Wallbank

I live in Tamworth with my wife, 3 children and dog. I have first-hand knowledge of what being a school governor entails, having been a primary school governor for a number of years. My Daughter (Katie) is currently in Year 12, having recently joined the six form.

With a background and career in finance, I am well aware of the need for schools to present balanced budgets so that it can make the best of its resources and give everyone a fighting chance as they continue their next journey through life.

As schools strive to meet narrowing government targets, it seems increasingly important that we devote as much attention to getting the most from all resources in giving our children the best possible opportunities. We need to make sure they are given the best opportunity to develop themselves in all aspects of, not only their education, but socially as well.

As a Parent Governor, I believe I can add value to the Governance of the school in maintaining the schools good standing and excellent attainment levels.

King Edwards has a fantastic reputation which we must maintain for current and future generations.

Nurturing communications across all levels of the schooling family is very important if we are to preserve current successes. This is something I am keen to develop.

When not being "Dad's Taxi", I enjoy walking, football and motorsport (in particular motorcycling).

Craig Watson

My name is Craig Watson and I currently have two adopted children attending KES, my husband and I are also foster carers and have three more children who will be educated at KES in the coming years. Prior to becoming a foster carer, I worked for a merchant bank at a senior level, therefore having financial acumen and knowledge.

As a foster carer I have first-hand experience of the powerful effect a school community has when it comes together to support a child in need. I have also undertaken many training courses including: Safeguarding, Adverse Childhood Experiences and Brain Development.

I am not looking to add another achievement to my CV, instead I am looking to use my hands-on experience as a parent and carer. With five children currently in education, all with varying needs and abilities means I fully understand the pressure schools, parents and students are under. I see my relationship with school as a partnership and I'd see a governor role in the same vein.