New Hope-Solebury School District Committee Member Application

[redacted] Robert Whelen Phone: [redacted]

[redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Occupation: Investor

Committee(s) Interested in:

- [x] Curriculum Advisory
- [ ] Policy/Human Resources
- [ ] Facilities
- [x] Finance
- [ ] Equity

Please state the reason(s) for your interest in participating in a Committee(s):

Please see Curriculum Committee and Finance Committee letters on next pages.

Signature: RGWhelen   Date: 8/3/2026

To: New Hope-Solebury School District
From: Robert Whelen
Subj: Curriculum Advisory Committee Application
Date: August 3, 2026

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to apply for a seat on the Curriculum Advisory Committee.

My family relocated to New Hope to years ago after moving out of state for career reasons. We specifically chose New Hope for the quality of schools and independence of the district. Three of my children will pass through this district. The oldest just started second grade and her younger siblings follow over the next three years, which puts us here for roughly two decades. I want to help steward this district and take part in the decisions it makes, because I am not sure anything else we do as a family will matter more to how they turn out.

Whatever this committee helps decide is what my kids will actually sit through, day after day, for twenty years. That alone would be reason enough to want a seat. The pace of change makes it more pressing. I have spent much of this year reading and thinking about how artificial intelligence is and will impact the our kids' futures, and have found little agreement in what is best. I believe this committee faces critically important questions today that will shape the outcomes of all the children learning in the district. When something is proposed here, I would want to understand what problem it solves, how we would know a year later whether it worked, and what we want our kids to be able to do without a machine in front of them.

Artificial intelligence happens to be a significant part of my professional life, from two directions. I use these tools every day, and I evaluate and invest in the companies building them. Being that close has made me unromantic about it. Most of my job is separating a real track record from a well-built pitch, which means asking what a result actually measured, over what period, against what alternative, and whether it would hold up outside the conditions that produced it. Instructional programs arrive with claims of exactly that shape. While none of that gives me a view on what New Hope-Solebury should do, it would make me useful in the room.

Beyond that, my daughter and I are both level 1 Autistic. When a program is adopted I pay attention to how it works for the children who are not in the middle of the class, and I would want that question raised routinely, while a decision is still being made rather than after the fact. It is the same question I started with, asked about a smaller group. What we adopt for everyone is also what we adopt for them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Whelen
[redacted]

To: New Hope-Solebury School District
From: Robert Whelen
Subj: Finance Advisory Committee Application
Date: August 3, 2026

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to apply for a seat on the Finance Advisory Committee.

We moved to New Hope two years ago, and the schools were the reason. I have three young children. My oldest is in second grade and the other two will be enrolled within three years, which commits my family to this district for the better part of twenty years. I would like a role in the stewardship and the decision making behind something that matters that much to our future.

This is the committee where a great deal of that gets settled. Whatever makes the schools good here has to be paid for every year, and the choices that determine whether that stays true are made in this room: what the district commits to across multiple years, what it holds in reserve, what it signs and for how long. Those decisions compound. The ones taken over the next few years will still be shaping the district when my youngest is in high school, and I would rather help make them carefully than read about them afterward.

I invest for a single-family office, where I work on capital allocation, long-range forecasting, investment diligence, and – ultimately – decision making. The work is long-horizon by design. I spend relatively little time focusing on how a given year looks and a great deal on whether the decisions made inside it will still hold up in fifteen. Much of that translates. Evaluating a service contract or an audit engagement is the same exercise as vendor diligence, which is understanding what is actually being bought, what the alternatives cost, and where the renewal terms limit you. I spend my days inside multi-year projections and am practiced at asking which assumption an answer is most sensitive to and what happens when one of them is wrong. I also work on an investment committee, so I have a fair sense of what makes that kind of body effective, and am more than content to let the people with deeper expertise do the talking.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Robert Whelen
[redacted]