

Dear Members of the Chelsea School Board,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in serving on the Chelsea School Board.

Chelsea has always been my home. I grew up here, learned here, worked in many local businesses here, and I even taught here. When I heard that there was an open board seat, I thought that now, with over ten years of experience in the classroom, it was my time to give back to the community that shaped me into the person I am today: an empathetic listener, a critical thinker who synthesizes all information to make an informed opinion, a determined advocate for those who may be marginalized, and a committed hard worker who won't back down from a challenge. I would like to bring these traits, my lifelong connection to this community, and my first hand understanding of the complexities of public education to the board.

Education has always been close to my heart. Nelson Mandela once said that education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world, and that insight will always influence my thinking because I believe it wholeheartedly. A strong education doesn't create mindless drones who can spew off Jeopardy trivia, rather it gives students the tools to craft themselves into competent citizens who are able to understand their world and imagine new possibilities. As someone who was given most of these tools during my time at Chelsea, I want to help continue to nurture students' potential so that when they graduate high school, they feel confident to face the challenges of the real world. To me, the best way to do this seems to help shape the policies that support the people in our schools: the students, the teachers, the families, and the support staff alike. After all, Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world," and because I believe in the power of education, I believe that the Chelsea School board is such a group. I would be honored to contribute my experience to that work so that the board can continue to lay the foundation, brick by brick, policy by policy, to develop citizens who are leaders in their communities.

Mead also reminded us that children should be taught how to think, not what to think. That principle is aligned with the goals of Chelsea's Portrait of a Graduate, which is a vision that I fully support and want to help bring to life. It is essential to maintain classrooms that inspire inquiry, that foster creativity, that cultivate independent thought, that encourage meaningful collaboration, and that promote emotional growth. Students deserve to become adaptable, empathetic, self-directed learners who are empowered to lead meaningful lives. I am passionate about helping the board ensure that this happens.

I respectfully ask for your consideration as you think about who is best to fill the open seat on the board. I believe in public education, I believe in our community, I believe in our kids, and I believe that by working together with honesty, respect, and a shared sense of purpose, the board can help every student in Chelsea thrive.

With appreciation for the work that you do,

Alexandra Doering