

New Bios from potential parents for nomination

Eden School Council
2022-2023 School Year

NAME	Bio
Melanie Smith	I am the managing partner with the law firm of Beresh Smith Professional Corporation, and I serve clients in the areas of corporate commercial, non-profit, estate planning & administration, and real estate law. I have served various boards and community councils, in both an advisory and director capacity. I am very happily married with three beautiful daughters; my eldest is currently in Grade 10 at Eden and is an avid member of the rowing team, the cross-country team, and several school clubs. I love the spirit of community at Eden and I have a strong desire to foster Eden's community relationships across the Niagara Region, and to support the students and staff and parents to the best of my ability. I am seeking the role of Vice-Chair on the executive team.
Julia Simatovic	Greetings Eden Families, my name is Julia Simatovic and I am running to be elected as a Voting Member of our School Council. The mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being of our student body and staff is of the utmost importance to me, and as such, I would be humbly honored to offer my service and years of experience as an elementary school council member, community-involved entrepreneur and charitable worker, and compassionate world view as a Yoga Teacher to our council initiatives. I believe that holistic wellness and academic success begin with an open and honest partnership between parents and staff, so we may sustain a healthy and productive student-centered environment rooted in academic success, emotional growth, and peace of mind.
Amber Dyck	I'm a proud parent of two Eden students (Grade 10 & 12) and one more hopefully in the years to come. I've been an active part in their elementary parent council and was able to see the huge positive impact that parent councils can make in supporting the school community and enriching the school experience for the students. My husband and father-in-law attended Eden in their youth and it has been exciting to have another generation be part of this supportive community especially with the unique component that the SLC brings. I currently sit on the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Community Advisory Committee for DSBN and spent the previous 5 years on the Family Advisory Board for the Niagara Children's Center. As an educator and a parent of a child with complex special needs, I understand the immense importance and value of collaboration. I'd be honoured to represent Eden parents as a voting member on the Eden Parent Council.
Karen Cerca	Daughter in Grade 10. Experienced President with a demonstrated history of working in the insurance industry. Skilled in Property & Casualty Insurance, Customer Service, Integrated Marketing, Strategic Planning, and Business Development. Strong business development professional with a CIP focused in Insurance from Insurance Institute. Many years sitting on committees and boards: *currently active: United Way Golf committee Gateway board

	<p>St. Catharines Club board; VP St. Catharines Hospital foundation committee Hospice committee* St. Catharines Insurance Brokers Association Board; President* OPSWA committee; chair* I would be honoured to sit as treasurer or any capacity that is deemed appropriate</p>
Eric Alguire	<p>I am Eric Alguire; a St Catharines native; a father of three and happily married for 26 years. My two oldest children have graduated from Eden, one has finished college and the other is in her final year. My son is currently in grade 12 at Eden. As a profession, I am a member of the purchasing team of a local manufacturer. My volunteer experience includes ten years on the planning committee of the annual charity walk for cystic fibrosis, 17 years coaching high school rowing and 10 years coaching kids softball. In June I completed my second and final term as a member of the Eden Advisory Board, overseeing the Spiritual Life Centre. I wish to continue to contribute what I may toward future growth and success of the Eden community and so I am seeking a spot on the Parent Council.</p>
Amanda Goulet	<p>Hi everyone! My name is Amanda Goulet and my daughter started at Eden last year. She was so excited (and still is) to be a part of the Eden Community! I attended Eden for 4 years. Two years in NOTL (such a fun building!) and 2 years here in St. Catharines where the current Wheatley school is located (Formerly Scottlea). I have another daughter who is 12 and a son who is 10. My husband and I have lived in the Niagara Region for most of our lives. We have 3 wonderful dogs. I currently serve on the council at my younger children's school. I have been co-chair for 5 years and have enjoyed it so much! Last year, I had the pleasure of serving on the Eden Parent Council and it was so great getting to know everyone and helping out where I could! I truly believe in what Eden is and what it stands for. I look forward to the potential opportunity to serve for another year on the Parent Council at Eden! Wishing everyone a wonderful school year!</p>
Dr. Sarah Danial	<p>My youngest son is in grade 10 at Eden, and I attended School Council meetings virtually and in-person regularly last year. I am a psychiatrist and lawyer, and understand the important role of mental, physical and spiritual health in the lives of children, adults and society. I have participated as an active member of elementary and secondary school councils in Niagara for almost 20 years, with a view to improving student life and education. I think it is very important that parents are involved in their children's education and are willing to provide constructive suggestions to improve the school experience for all students. As a member of the Eden School Council, I would use my experience and education to help Eden High School meet the challenges of the 21st century.</p>
Holly Mundula	<p>I'm interested in being part of the Parent Council. My son recently moved to Eden, and I love the atmosphere and culture at Eden and would love to contribute. I have history on both parent councils and other boards and committees in our community, but my passion for a positive school experience is the driver for me putting my name forward. To ensure we strive to make every student, regardless of interests</p>

	<p>being athletic or tech or anything else, have an opportunity to excel, and despite their own means have an opportunity to participate. I'm happy to support others as a council member, and bring forward new ideas as needed. I look forward to being part of the Eden community!</p>
Allana Andrew-Minovski	<p>Hi everyone! My name is Allana Andrew-Minovski and I am a mom to three amazing young humans (Grade 8, 10, and Dalhousie Med School). I sat as a voting member on council last year and enjoyed being a part of the Eden experience.</p> <p>I am a Domestic Violence Counsellor at Gillian's Place and am currently attending McMaster University to study Mental Health and Addictions. I have a degree in Psychology with a focus on Indigenous Studies and Criminology. I have an extensive background in volunteer work with Brock University, BBBS, Out of the Cold, Niagara United, and NCDSB. Being a part of the elementary parent's council for seven years and joining Eden's council last year has provided me with a well-rounded viewpoint of how important it is to put the needs of our children first in a positive and productive manner.</p> <p>I am very excited to get to meet everyone in person this year and look forward to contributing in any way I can. I feel blessed that my daughter (and soon my son) gets to experience such a unique and fantastic school. Thank you so much for your time!</p>
Lori Barrett	<p>My name is Lori Barrett and I would love to be a part of the Eden School Council this year. I am an Eden graduate myself and have always held Eden High School in high regards. I value Eden's academic, athletic and arts programs and believe the school is producing successful and independent students. I appreciate all the SLC has to offer the students in terms of chapels and having a safe space to discuss some of the challenging aspects of teen life. I have been a member of my children's previous school councils for the past 10 years and have held the position of chair for 4 years. I want to come together with other parents to discuss the various ways we can work to make Eden better every year. I am excited to work alongside some more veteran parents and some new ones, like myself. I look forward to meeting regularly to brainstorm together and navigate another great year at Eden!</p>
Poonam Singh	<p>I have been working in the health care sector in the Niagara Region for 12 plus years helping families in providing best care. In my current role as Area Director at Bayshore Home Health-Niagara Private Branch, I lead a team of about 250 plus health professionals and educate the community in how to manage their health in home care settings. My passion is to help the youth population to realize their full potential and thrive in this challenging environment. I am confident that with my leadership and experience I will be able to contribute to the school and improve in providing the core key skills that our children will be using not only for the 4 years at Eden but throughout their life.</p>
Maritza Soles	<p>Maritza is a parent of a grade 9 student. She has been in the accounting industry for over 16 years and has been working with different corporate entities in different industries such as family offices, medical professionals, financial institutions, construction companies, and telecom companies. Currently, she owns a Liberty Tax Office in the Niagara Falls region along with her husband. She is trilingual with fluency in English, Spanish, and Chinese – Cantonese with functional French and Chinese – Mandarin. Maritza has been actively involved with her daughters' elementary and middle school council for more than 8 years.</p>
Val DeVries	<p>I have been on the School Council for 4 years and have contributed to different sub-committees such as, "Re-Writing of the Constitution", and "The Future Principal Profile".</p>

	<p>My son enjoyed 4 years at Eden, graduating in July, and my daughter began grade 9 at Eden this year. As a parent, I care about Eden. I would like to see it continue to flourish and grow as a safe and healthy place for our teens to grow and develop.</p> <p>I would like to see the academic standards remain high.</p> <p>I desire to see the Spiritual Life Centre thrive and continue to be a support and "safe-haven" to many students.</p> <p>I feel that the School Council is a unique and privileged experience, where every person should feel heard and respected.</p> <p>I would love to contribute by becoming a Parent Voting Member.</p>
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