

Public Charter School Governing Board Member Information Sheet

Name of Public Charter School: Ecology Learning Center

Name of Board Member: Donyse H. Babin

Email Address: donyse.babin@ecologylearningcenter.org

Occupation: High School Guidance Counselor

Please respond to the following questions:

1. Why do you wish to serve on the governing board?

I am a lifelong resident of Unity and have been intrigued by the growth of the Ecology Learning Center in my own community. I hope to be able to support the growth of the ELC as it continues to help students reach their greatest potential. As I am nearing retirement, I want to stay involved in education in a meaningful way, as I believe it is the greatest investment I can make.

2. What is your understanding of the educational needs of students in the catchment area?

Many of the students in this demographic need hands-on experiences and opportunities for authentic practical application of their learning. For some, the value of education is not emphasized at home and therefore there needs to be a great deal of scaffolding in order to help them gain confidence as they learn new skills.

3. Please list any previous or present educational involvement; such as board member, budget committee, citizens committees, etc. List school(s) or district(s).

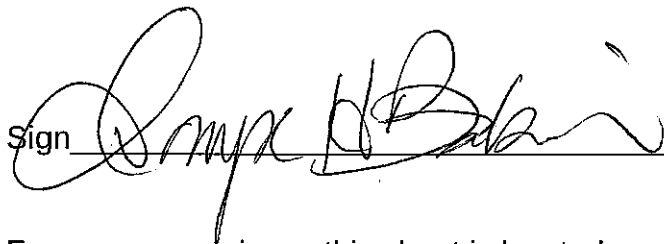
Most of my educational involvement has been 'in the trenches' as a teacher and counselor at Mount View High School (RSU 3), and now at Nokomis Regional High (RSU 19). As a parent, I was president of the 'parent-teacher club' at Unity Elementary when my own children were students there. When they were in high school at Mount View, I was class advisor for their classes, planned and organized graduation, and organized project graduation activities. I have had vast experiences in fundraising through these various involvements.

4. What special qualifications do you have that will help you to be a board member?

I have a wealth of experiences in the field of education, having taught high school English for 25 years followed by serving for 10 years as a school counselor. In both of these roles I have been an educational leader and been involved in curriculum development, grant writing, budget development, and peer coaching, to name a few. I have a deep understanding of the trials and tribulations involved in being an educator, as well as the challenges many of our students are faced with every day. I also have a fairly solid read on the community that serves the Ecology Learning Center.

5. What is your understanding of the role you will play as a public charter school board member?

I see a board not only as a governing body for the school but also a group of people who make up a team committed to the education of young people. I would like to think I could contribute to student-centered conversations that are based on a shared vision with the best interest of students as the outcome. I also would like to be able to play the role of sounding board in the conversations about academic excellence and educational growth at ELC.

Sign  Date 3-20-24

For your convenience this sheet is located on our website under Resources for Authorized Schools (<http://www.maine.gov/csc/>).

Please see the Maine Charter School Commission's Policy on Public Records.