

M. Polly Titcomb
53 Burpee Road
Swampscott, MA
01907

July 6, 2023

Via E-Mail

Nicholas Santoro
MCCPS
17 Lime Street
Marblehead, MA 01945

Dear Mr. Santoro:

Please accept this letter of interest and enclosed resume as my formal application to the MCCPS Board of Trustees (“Board”).

I am interested in joining the Board for multiple reasons. Generally speaking, I am fulfilled by and committed to constructively engaging in the community in which I live. The type of engagement and particular community focus have taken many forms over the years, but I have always been driven by the principles of participatory democracy and a need to contribute to the positive evolution of society.

I became specifically interested in joining the Board through my son, Ellis Rogers’s, enrollment in 5th Grade at MCCPS last year (2022-23). I personally witnessed how the MCCPS model positively transformed Ellis on social, emotional, and academic levels. Concurrently, I also witnessed how the social, emotional, and academic development of my daughter, Elena Rogers, was not positively impacted by the academic model of her prior elementary school.

This coming year, both Ellis and Elena will be attending MCCPS. I am extremely grateful that my children have the opportunity to be part of an environment that has the freedom, dedication – and duty – to consciously choose and manifest its educational principles and goals. I could not imagine a more appropriate or fulfilling role than to participate in this responsibility and community service.

I believe I would contribute to the Board and MCCPS in several ways. First, I am dedicated to the volunteer roles to which I commit. During my three years on the Swampscott Select Board, for example, I was instrumental in the adoption of the Town’s Financial Policy Guidelines, which ensure uniformity in the budget process and provide long-term strategic vision; I drafted and pushed the implementation of the Select Board Handbook, Board and Committee Handbook, and Board and Committee Code of Conduct; and I was primarily responsible for the research and implementation of Swampscott’s Waste Reduction Program, which has significantly reduced the Town’s volume of solid waste disposal.

Additionally, through my roles on various boards/committees, I have developed the ability to understand and balance the competing and often contradictory demands of public office. I have experience weighing fiscal responsibility against public perception and opinion, and I have practiced honing the qualities of determination and efficiency with citizen engagement and transparency. It is not inevitable that public officers develop this capacity, but I believe such a skillset is necessary for any Board to transform its ideas into reality.

Finally, I believe that my professional background would positively contribute to the fulfillment of the Board's duties and responsibilities. I am a practicing trial attorney with a focus on the areas of child welfare law, Child(ren) Requiring Assistance cases, juvenile delinquency matters, and criminal defense. I am routinely representing and engaging with families, parents, and children whose social, educational, economic, and emotional trajectories are very different from my own. Through my practice, I have developed a broad perspective on many relevant matters that would benefit the Board and MCCPS.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of my application to the Board. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Polly Titcomb." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Polly Titcomb

Enclosure

cc: Paul Baker