

Reading School

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION, NOVEMBER 2018– CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

DAVE HUDSON

Please state briefly why you wish to be a governor:

I am passionate about the education of children, and particularly ensuring that education is equally accessible to all children in the school through effective structure management.

My previous time as a parent governor in Whitewater C of E primary school has allowed me to contribute to the school, assist the teaching team and make a real and positive difference to the school environment and to the education and wellbeing of the children. It is important for me to give something back to school personally, and to feel that my skills and experience in both industry and in education help support the teaching team in their delivery of the very best education and environment possible.

My Son Tyler, has joined the school this year in class 7L and as such, I would very much welcome the opportunity, were I successful, to contribute in any way that I can to the continued success of the school. As a parent governor, I would ensure that the link between parents and the governing body is maintained, and that the parents views and needs are represented as part of the strategic governance of the school.

The governing body is, I believe, as well as being statutory, essential to the effective development and continued successful operation of the school. I have always approached the role of governor as being an engaged and supportive member of the school team, ensuring that the Head Teacher and staff have the tools and support needed to execute the school strategic goals.

Whilst the role of the governing body through monitoring is absolutely to ensure that the school has effective financial management in place, and that the school is maintaining excellent educational performance, my approach has always been one of working closely with the headteacher and staff, working together on the development and execution of the School strategic plan.

Please detail any skills and experience you have that you feel would benefit the role of governor:

I have been a governor at the Whitewater C of E Primary school for over 6 years, and have previously served as chair of the premises committee, and currently sit on the Teaching and Learning committee within the school. I am additionally the lead governor for more able children.

As a governor, I believe that I have contributed positively to the development, growth and strategy of the school, and have used my experience as a senior leader in predominately the IT and Telecoms industries.

My background as a senior leader in a number of technology, utility and facilities companies have additionally given me some invaluable skills and experience which I believe contribute to my effectiveness as a governor, and would provide benefit to the school as a whole.

Whitewater has been subject to Ofsted inspections during my tenure, each of which has recognised the effectiveness of the governing body, and have resulted in the school be rated as consistently good.

I have been director of my own limited company for a number of years, and have previously been a member of the Institute of Directors. As Reading School holds academy status, My experience will be of value to governing body and school.

In addition, It is my intention to leverage my industry network and contacts to identify areas where they can provide benefit to the school for example in the provision of work experience, training, IT opportunities etc.

RAVI MANTHRI

Please state briefly why you wish to be a governor:

I value education and bring a systematic and creative approach to my work. As a parent and distant learning student, I give most of my free time nurturing young minds to create a positive impact on their knowledge, personality, development and the society in some shape or form. I would give my very best to work with parents, teachers, the Head and other governors to make Reading School a top notch academy, not only in the UK, but also globally. Opportunity to work as a Parent Governor will fulfil my wishes. My family and friends tell me that I can bring those capabilities to the role. So, please vote for me and I will try my very best to make a difference for you and your son(s).

Please detail any skills and experience you have that you feel would benefit the role of governor:

I have over 18 years of experience in leading and managing larger scale projects and Programmes in IT/Telecom firms. Worked as a student ambassador – promoting education in developing countries.

Worked as a Local President of St John Ambulance, Reading bringing awareness of First Aid in public and has helped raise funds for the charity.

Ravi Manthri B.Eng.,MS, MBA, FBCS, Cert (Psychology)

GBENGA OLATUNJI

Please state briefly why you wish to be a governor:

I have a strong desire to play an active role in the development of the School, an institution that has increasingly become an important part of my own son's development and a source of pride to our community for its achievements. As a young boy growing up in West Africa, I had the benefit of attending a selective school and have seen the amazing impact such high quality education can have. It has given me and my peers opportunities beyond what we might have imagined. It was only available to a relatively few so I see the difference it has made when I look at friends who didn't benefit from the same quality of education. So I see the value and know that it is precious. And I realise that it is important for people to step up and help the School continue to have an impact here in Reading, and internationally through partnerships.

I want to contribute my skills, resources and time to helping the School continue to transform the lives of these young boys- including my son- who will soon be the leaders in the UK and internationally. I want to contribute, but also learn. To learn from all the wonderful people who work at the School, the other governors and from the student community. I am certain that the experience will be fulfilling and helpful in my work and other activities. I hope that I get the opportunity and privilege to serve in this way.

Please detail any skills and experience you have that you feel would benefit the role of governor:

I have carefully considered the skills that have been highlighted as desirable and think that I bring a range of skills and qualities that can be useful in the role of governor:

1. I have a set of academic and professional qualifications including a BSc in engineering, an MBA from London Business School and qualified chartered accountant, I have had a very international professional career that combines core business objectives with working to deliver lasting impact including working with colleges of surgeons across Africa to develop expertise that enable them to deliver better quality healthcare. I have led projects across all areas of an organisation's operations – procurement through to financial management. I can work across a number of areas that governors cover while bringing a unique perspective.
2. I currently work as a Director in PwC's Reading office which has very strong links to the business community around the School, and gives access to businesses across a broad range of sectors.
3. I have some experience of applying my expertise in a community service role while acting with integrity at all times. For example I served as a member of a committee to implement a set of justice reforms for the attorney general of Lagos State (Nigeria), pro bono, being the sole non-lawyer to help focus the group on selecting and implementing practical reforms in an environment where integrity – or the absence of – has very wide ranging impact.