

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Sanjay Desai

1. Please state briefly why you wish to be a governor:

I would like to be a governor at Reading School, as I would like to contribute to this prestigious academic institution especially this year, as the school enters its 900th year anniversary. Being a parent of a pupil at the school, makes it even more personal, as I would like to assist the school's leadership team, in being a critical friend, as well as supporting the governing body with the strategic vision which will ultimately help OUR boys fulfil their potential. I am particularly drawn to the schools ethos of nurturing both academic excellence, as shown by the outstanding exam results, and the development of well rounded young men. This is clear as soon as you enter the magnificent school grounds, where you are greeted by courteous, confident young men with strong character. I have seen first-hand the positive impact that a supportive and well governed environment can have on our children's education and am eager to support the school in their continued success.

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

I am a healthcare professional working for the NHS, which has given me a strong understanding of the significance of regulation, accountability and governance. I have managed budgets of £270million and currently responsible for 154 GP practice contracts, across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and parts of Berkshire. Since 2016 I have served as a school governor at a local primary school in the Wokingham Borough, where I have supported the transition from being a state maintained school to become part of a Multi-Academy Trust. I have been involved in various governing body sub-committees and had the privilege of being the Mathematics and Science link Governor as well as leading on Governor Development and staff welfare, which broadened my experience further. In addition to my Governing Body role, I have academic experience as a former lecturer in the School of Pharmacy at University of Reading. I was previously a Beaver scout leader, as well as a Parent Teacher Association committee member so am familiar with fund raising in the community. I am passionate about inclusiveness and am Chair of an NHS staff network, which supports people from ethnically diverse backgrounds, raises awareness of cultural differences and assists the organisation in its decision making. It would be a privilege and honour to be a parent governor at the renowned Reading School and I feel my skills and experience will greatly benefit to the school, while also being a personally rewarding opportunity for me.

Neil Devavand

1. Please state briefly why you wish to be a governor:

As a parent of a Year 7 child who recently joined Reading School, I have a personal stake in the continuing success of the school. This connection motivates me to contribute actively to the Reading School community, ensuring that it continues to provide an outstanding and holistic education for all its pupils, be it in academia or sports, and continuously retain its excellent reputation for academic success and happy, friendly children. I recognise the critical role that effective governance plays in shaping the direction of the school, and I am eager to be part of the decision-making process that will impact the lives of pupils, parents and teachers alike. I will give energy and time and draw upon my skills and attributes from my experiences gained with my professional full-time job, and other voluntary jobs in coaching sports (cricket and rugby in club and county setting) and philanthropic activities in the corporate and school settings, to advocate for the parents within Reading School.

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

I'm currently a Senior Aerospace Engineer/Scientist for a knowledge-based global company and lead a professional Aerospace Committee to collectively work together and solve aerospace design problems and provide reliable validated engineering design data, methods and software to aerospace engineers and designers. My experiences of working within a scientific committee setting will give me an invaluable insight to take on detailed work, such as research, planning, or problem-solving, and bring recommendations to the larger board for consideration. The experience that I have gained from chairing my son's previous primary school PTA for five years by leading an excellent parents and local community team and creating a positive, inclusive school community will surely help me to make a positive contribution to the board. In this role I have successfully crafted philanthropic visions and fundraised for amazing equipment and facilities for the school and offered the extras that enhance education by organizing social and other events. Also, my experience in organising corporate fundraisers at my company by bringing together various organisations under the corporate social responsibility (CSR) umbrella and help global philanthropic activities such as 'Action Against Hunger' and 'Save the Children' will help me guide in this role. For the past many years, I have also been coaching, voluntarily, cricket for group of children aged up to 17 years in Club and County (Hampshire County) settings and have passionately advocated cricket at the highest level by liaising with parents and cricket leaders to provide the best coaching programmes to promote the game and improve players technical aspects. Also, I have been doing the same with Rugby at Camberley Rugby Club and have been promoting and coaching rugby at the highest level for junior players. All my experience has given me a valuable experiences and insight into the importance of teamwork and communication and to bring out the best in a team and find positive solutions collectively for common problems. I want to contribute my skills, experience and dedication to help shape a positive learning environment for all students at Reading School and support the teachers and school leaders, with their needs, to promote excellent education at Reading School. I am excited at the prospect of serving as a parent governor, if elected, working collaboratively with the board of governors, school leadership, staff and parents to contribute to the school's excellence. All my experiences mentioned above and my passion for education and promoting sports at the highest level I believe will all help me steadfastly for an immediate positive contribution to Reading School Governing Body.

Jagadeesh Ratnala

1. Please state briefly why you wish to be a governor:

I have studied and then worked in the similar Grammar Schools in India (Jawahar Navodayas) and grown up in the education oriented family where my Parents, Grand Parents are in teaching and education sector. Education (Governing, Teaching) always motivates me as it always helps in the making of future talents (Kids) for UK and World, also brings the value addition to the society.

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

My Educational backgrounds (B. Tech Computer Sciences), and I am working as IT Consultant (Programme Manager). Moreover I am a Leader since my childhood, always supports fund raising events and charity events in UK (We raised the funds for RBH (Royal Berkshire Hospital) in the recent past as well.

Kathryn Winter

1. Please state briefly why you wish to be a governor:

Thank you in advance for considering my application for the Parent Governor role. My son has just begun his journey with Reading School, and as a family, we already feel part of a community. I am passionate about the importance of education for young people and have previous experience as a Parent Representative in a Nursery setting and 3 years experience as Parent Governor of a Reading-based primary school. I would like to be involved in supporting the future strategies that will impact not only my own son, but those who are already part of the Reading School community and boys yet to join. Not only is there the educational side of learning, I am also mindful of the care and practices needed to allow all children to thrive. I have many years' experience working together with different cultures, languages and methods, which is one of the reasons we love Reading School – the cultural diversity is fantastic and allows our children to learn so much from each other. I have knowledge of not only working in a small company, but also a global one. Seeing business practices in both, offers insight into the demands financially and ethically that must be adhered to – within strict rules and regulations. This certainly supports working as a Governor, to understand the parameters the school must operate within. I care deeply for the area we live in and the people within it. I volunteer at two local charities supporting vulnerable people, to try and help in the community and offer support to my neighbours. I also work at a Reading-based law firm that champions social mobility, which I hope can inspire the boys. I would welcome the chance to undertake any training necessary for the role as Parent Governor; working predominantly from home allows me the flexibility to take on this challenge, whilst of course meeting the time scales and deadlines set. Thank you once again.

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

Skills I would bring to the role of Parent Governor include - 3 years prior experience as a Parent Governor. - Experience with the training and commitment required for the role. - A passion for supporting the education of young people. – A passion for supporting local people, with local links to Reading based charities including Readifood and Homestart.