

Statement by Parent Nominees for Election to the Board of Management of Hansfield ETSS (2017 – 2020)

Four nominations were received, one of which was withdrawn. The Patron Body has clarified that it is not essential that each constituent of the Board nominate a male and female, although this is desirable in order that gender balance is achieved (see other posting on website).

Nominee: Malgorzata (Gosia) Fiedot-Davies

My name is Malgorzata Fiedot-Davies and I am the proud parent of a student in the first Transition Year at Hansfield ETSS.

From 2015 to 2017, I have been very active as the chair and co-chair of the Executive Committee of the Parents' Association of Hansfield ETSS. For the last twelve months I was also involved as the parent nominee in the work of the Hansfield ETSS Board of Management. In this period I became familiar with board activities and policies and procedures of school management.

I believe that as the (co-)chair of the Executive Committee of the Parents' Association and the parent nominee on the Board of Management, I was able to contribute with my previous experience of being a member of several committees and my professional experience in the area of formal and non-formal education, to the excellent work of both bodies and improved communication between them.

As a strong believer and supporter of the Educate Together ethos, I was delighted to initiate an open and fair discussion between board members and parents on how to best implement the Educate Together ethos at Hansfield ETSS. We worked together on school policies, including the dress code policy, its implementation and future evaluation, and discussed how Educate Together principles of democratic, inclusive and participatory consultation processes can be best applied. I have also strongly supported parental involvement in school life at all levels.

I am delighted to be nominated again as a candidate for the post of the parent nominee on the new Board of Management. I see this as a valuable and unique opportunity to further contribute as an involved parent and an enthusiastic, hard-working and reliable member of the board to the efficient management and development of the school.

I would like to further support democratic and inclusive consultation processes as well as positive collaboration and communication between the board, the Parents' Association, the students and the teachers.

I believe that only through listening to each other and working together can we make Hansfield ETSS a great place for our children to learn and flourish and to become not only *"future workers, but [also] future engaged and participative citizens."* *(Michael D. Higgins)

Nominee: Tracy Beesley

My name is Tracy Beesley and I am a mum to 5 boys, 2 of whom are current students in Hansfield ETSS. Matthew is in 5th year after just completing the Junior Certificate and William has just started 1st year.

I have vast experience of sitting on a school board of management as I completed 2 terms, 8 years in total, on the primary school board my children attended.

I found this role extremely interesting. It gave me a great insight into the work that goes on behind the scenes of running a school and why some decisions made are not always clear to parents. It was fantastic to be the voice of parents in the school and bring any concerns of parents to the Board. I always made myself available to parents through email and they felt very assured they could contact me with any concerns that needed brought up.

I am very aware of the difficult decisions a board has to make from time to time and the effort involved in being a voluntary member of a board but this is something I am more than prepared to take on if I am elected.

I have volunteered in the local area in a sporting capacity for many years and I am very much involved on a child welfare basis in the club.

I run and own a business in the Dublin area which consists of Fitness Classes for Children on the Autism Spectrum and young adults with intellectual disabilities.

If elected as Parent Nominee, I will ensure to be the voice for the parents of Hansfield ETSS. I feel I would be diverse in the opinions brought to the board, having two children at different stages of their education in the schooling system and I feel I am the right candidate for all parents voting.

Nominee: Alina Amir-Qureshi

My name is Alina Amir-Qureshi, proud mum of two daughters; my older daughter has just started 1st year at Hansfield ETSS.

I never thought that I would be writing a short piece outlining my interest in, and suitability for, the role of parent nominee on board. I have to say; it made me think the way I mightn't have imagined before. It's simple; I am growing as a parent alongside with my children and trying to be part of their lives and supporting them along the way.

I am very passionate about education. If it had not been for the education, I would not be writing this down; my life would have been totally different. It's the story of the impact that I would like to bring to students, parents, and teachers.

I am involved with Educate Together Schools for more than ten years. I started off as a Junior Achievement volunteer delivering their programs in CETNS. Also, I have swapped books, helped with baking, cooking, Lego workshops and maths for fun. I haven't stopped and have no intentions of stopping soon. Currently, I deliver Online Safety Workshops at CETNS.

Giving back is very important for me, I know the impact it can have after being on the receiving end during my early academic and professional years. Giving back is what drives me and puts a smile on my face.

In my current role, I act as a coach, mentor, trainer and a facilitator. I am a Lean-Agile Coach. I work with teams and individuals and help them look for continuous improvement opportunities. I support them through the process not only professionally but at a personal level too.

Over the years I have worked as a primary science teacher, a secondary school maths and physics teacher and a third level computer science lecturer before moving into the corporate world. I am a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths) enthusiast. I love arts and craft and DIY. In my spare time, I like to make jewellery, do a bit of sewing and make things out of recycled stuff.

In the past, I have been part of the Board of Management for another local primary school. I understand the importance and value of this role and how it can contribute to the school's progress.