



Stamford Green

Primary School and Nursery



5 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parent Governor Election 2024

Further to my letter to all Parents/Carers on 23 January inviting nominations for the Parent Governor vacancies, I am pleased to say that we have received six nominations for the two vacancies. This means a ballot will now be held. The candidates, in alphabetical order, are listed below. Their personal statements can be found overleaf.

1. Lisa Chan
2. Lenka Goodwyn
3. Mellody Mondini
4. John Nicolaou
5. Vicky Sumner
6. Matt Taylor

Every Parent/Carer of a registered pupil at the school is eligible to vote. The voting procedure is as follows:

- You will receive an email on Tuesday 6 February with a link to vote. Please do not forward this email, as its survey link is unique to you. If there is someone you believe is eligible to vote but has not received a link please contact Ms Saunt, clerk@stamford-green.surrey.sch.uk
- As there are two vacancies, each Parent/Carer eligible may vote for up to two candidates, regardless of how many children he/she may have registered at the school.
- Voting must be completed by Tuesday 27 February at 12 noon.

The election will be decided by a simple majority of votes cast. In the event of a tie, the successful candidate will be decided by the returning officer drawing lots in the presence of a witness and any candidates who have attended the count.

The result of the election will be posted on the daily message boards after the count and subsequently published in the newsletter. If, in the meantime, you have any queries, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Louise Druce
Headteacher and Returning Officer

Candidate 1 – Lisa Chan

I am applying for the role of Parent Governor as I am passionate about supporting children to be the best they can be, through continuous improvement in education, creating an environment where they can thrive, ensuring there are equal opportunities for everyone and effective engagement with all involved.

I have experience as a Parent Governor and have working skills and knowledge of safeguarding, monitoring spend, assessment of progress and challenging decisions where appropriate.

I have been working in learning and development roles within government for several years, supporting apprentices and graduates to gain qualifications and promotion, ensuring they have what they need to succeed.

I have experience of working with various stakeholders to meet targets set by central government, analysing data, chairing focus groups and submitting progress reports, as well as implementing policy and creating guidance to support departmental policies.

Working within government has highlighted for me, the importance of ensuring governing bodies reflect the communities they serve and as someone with an ethnic minority background, I always welcome diversity on school governing bodies, particularly when it better reflects the community they serve.

As a volunteer, I have acted as a parent assistant on a number of class school trips and feel lucky to have done so.

I am currently on a career break, so I can invest in my own personal growth and make a positive contribution to the community, and see the role of Parent Governor as an ideal opportunity to do this.

Thanks for your consideration.

Candidate 2 – Lenka Goodwyn

I am humbly excited to apply for the position of a parent Governor at Stamford Green Primary school. As a parent of a child in Year 4 and local resident, I am highly motivated to contribute to the continuing success of the school and supporting its leadership and vision into the future.

Having supported the school by reading regularly with children in school, charity fundraising and volunteering at events, I would like to make further commitment to the great way the school is run by bringing a wealth of experience which I believe I have to offer.

As somebody who is trained in the developmental emotional health and wellbeing of children and having learned to better understand neurodiversity, I am excited by the opportunity of helping children to be the best version of themselves and to flourish.

In my professional life, working in a highly regulated profession, I have experience in finance, structuring, reporting, decision making, leading teams from diverse backgrounds and communicating with people on all levels, often from non-English-speaking countries. I believe therefore, that I have the skills, ability and understanding to help shape the autonomy and framework of the school within the regulated environment in which it operates.

As I do not have a background in UK educational system, being non-UK born, I believe I can deliver fresh perspectives and new pair of eyes for the Governors and so help ensure Stamford Green leads the way educationally for our children and for their future.

Candidate 3 – Mellody Mondini

Since my daughter joined Stamford Green in September 2022, I have been considering how I could best bring my skills to the school and I believe being a governor is it. As a woman educated in mathematics in the US and working in insurance as a management consultant for the last 20 years, I bring a different and diverse set of skills, ideas and experiences. I also bring a lot of passion, strength, and independent thinking – a necessity when you work in insurance consulting.

I trained as an actuary and now work with insurance executives to define their financial and sustainability strategic objectives, set corresponding targets, and establish performance monitoring against targets set. As a management consultant, I am a trusted advisor to my clients; helping them navigate change which boils down to understanding people and what drives them, communication, and relationships. As a team leader, I am responsible for not only ensuring we deliver what was agreed, on time, within budget, but also ensure our team has the right mix of skills, work well together and safeguard their overall wellbeing.

I would love to bring my skills, passion and enthusiasm to strengthen our foundation of school governors. I will bring a different perspective to our school to set and achieve our strategic objectives for the benefit our children. And of course, I would love to drive initiatives that bring the excitement of STEM to our children.

Candidate 4 – John Nicolaou

I wish to submit my nomination for the position of parent governor. My daughter joined the school this year in reception and I have been impressed with the schools ethos, priorities and focus on values. Every interaction I have had with teachers & staff has been extremely positive. I have been looking for ways that I can contribute to the continued success of the school, and believe the role of parent governor will provide this. I have worked within the front line public sector industry for the last 17 years. I have extensive experience in safeguarding both adults and children, risk assessments, critical thinking, problem solving and working with internal and external stakeholders who can at times have competing and conflicting interests. My current role involves overseeing large scale operational planning and resource management. This includes the logistics of people, equipment, associated finances and wellbeing considerations. I regularly brief senior leaders on key issues and chair attendance management and resource planning meetings. These briefings can include raising issues to senior leaders that need attention, and challenging matters that have not progressed appropriately. This is evidence based and each challenge is raised with possible solutions. I am passionate about equal opportunities, raising standards and believe that in order for others to succeed, they need to have dedicated and passionate leadership above them who genuinely care about their best interests. I am committed to all training and requirements in order to perform this role to the best of my ability.

Candidate 5 – Vicky Sumner

My career in education has been for over 20 years and, therefore, I have a very wide skill base, with exceptional knowledge and understanding for the school setting. Since I became a Parent Governor at SGPS in April 2020, I have been able to assist the Leadership and Management Team with ensuring clarity of the school vision, ethos and strategic direction. It has been a pleasure to work with the Leadership and Management Team, holding them to account for the educational performance of SGPS and its pupils. I have also taken great joy in reviewing the effective and efficient performance of staff within the school, as well as how the Leadership and Management Team have managed this ever changing landscape. Sitting on the Children and Learning Committee has allowed me to analyse reports from Subject Leaders on the quality of teaching and learning, helping to identify areas for improvement, and ensure that necessary action is taken to maximise improved outcomes for pupils.

Having previously been a Director of Sport at two separate independent girls' schools and now fulfilling my role as Pastoral Lead and DSL at my current place of employment, I am able to apply my extensive knowledge in multiple areas of SGPS life, including health and safety and managing staff. My in depth knowledge of education, including safeguarding and child protection, allows me to fulfil this role as Parent Governor, working confidentially, and with confidence.

Candidate 6 – Matt Taylor

I am delighted to have the opportunity to apply for a Governor role with Stamford Green, a role I have been interested in ever since we decided to apply for my eldest, Isla, who is in RP. I have applied for my second child, Sienna, to join the nursery from September 2024 as I am thoroughly impressed with the school, and would welcome an opportunity to contribute at Governor level.

I have a strong background in finance, having created and currently run my own company that employs 50 full time team members in an office in Hampshire.

I have a strategic team around me and I have been looking for opportunities to give back to the community with my spare time as I am not needed in the business day to day, and being Governor would be a great opportunity for me to give back to the school that has really given so much to Isla in such a few short months.

Education is close to my heart. My mother was a teacher at Westminster City College, London, and I was always in and around school life growing up. That sense of civic duty, and the importance particularly of early years education has been instilled into myself.

I have developed my understanding, clear communication and problem solving skills over the years as, through my work, I have had to adapt and grow to allow those underneath me to perform as well as nurture the business and clients. I have strong relationship building skills as well as being driven to teach my daughters the value of learning and development. I would absolutely LOVE the opportunity to have this role!

I would thrive with the opportunity to provide support in the governance of such an incredible institution, and to play an active role in not only the education of my daughters, but also to help shape and develop the next generation.