

December 13, 2020

Appleton Area School District
Dr. Judith Baseman, Superintendent
131 E Washington Street, Suite 1A
Appleton, WI 54911

Dear Esteemed Members of the Appleton Area School District Board of Education,

I would like to introduce myself and express my interest in the opportunity to serve as a member of the Appleton Area School District Board of Education. My name is Katherine (Katie) Van Groll. I currently reside at 4052 N Trailway Lane, Appleton, Wisconsin, 54913. My personal phone number is 920-915-1885.

I have a long-term investment in the continued success and educational delivery within the Appleton Area School District, as I am a former student of the district, the mother of two elementary aged students enrolled in the district, and I work in a professional capacity in the community serving children and adolescents. In addition, I have a unique collection of experiences that have allowed me to see the broader spectrum of needs of children from nearly all walks of life. All of us, as members of a community, should have a vested interest in the district. Our children are the future, and their education is an important piece in anything and everything that affects all of us in some capacity.

As we have found ourselves on unprecedented times, I am confident that my skills and experience would be an asset to the Appleton Area School District. I have a long history of strongly advocating for the needs of children in my personal and professional life. I bring an avid passion to encouraging and promoting healthy support and development of "the whole child," in areas of mental, emotional, social, educational, and physical well-being.

I have an undergraduate degree in Psychology and Sociology from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota with an emphasis on child and adolescent development. I also have a graduate degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin- Oshkosh. I currently hold a Licensed Clinical Social Worker credential in the state of Wisconsin. My entire 16 years of professional experience has been concentrated in meeting the complex needs of children and adolescents and their families.

The tenure of my professional experience includes working in public child welfare, treatment foster care, child and adolescent therapy, school-based mental health therapy and consultation, and re-building and leading services for homeless and runaway youth and families. Working with such diverse and vulnerable subsections of children has afforded me an opportunity to be a part of several multi-disciplinary teams and processes, including within the realm of education and school districts, to create the best opportunity for success in the lives of children.

I am a current board member on the Wisconsin Association for Runaway and Homeless Services, and I am an active member on the Fox Cities Housing Coalition as a representative of my employer. I also

participate on a committee two times per year to organize and facilitate the national Point in Time Homeless count in our community.

I currently hold the role of Director of Home Base with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley. Home Base is a multi-level program that provides support and services to run away, homeless, and transient youth and families in Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties. My success in my current position further illustrates my skillset and qualifications and how I can coordinate and grow service delivery to better meet the needs of the children today for the world of tomorrow.

I believe the board's top priorities for improving student achievement should be to identify barriers that create challenges in the progression and ability to implement innovative methods of delivery that are representative of the entire spectrum of needs and abilities. It is important to be involved in the entire path of a child's education and to promote the best delivery to maximize their potential.

The Board is tasked with representing the complex needs of all its families and students. They are responsible for managing the challenging dynamics of varying perspectives, perceptions, and priorities to create a safe, stable, suitable environment for growth and development and educational success. They are looked to for leadership and guidance during the best of times and the most challenging of times. They are responsible for continuous improvement in a long-standing societal institution. The Board plays a role in ensuring that administration is facilitating delivery in a way that that is best for the community.

As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, I am held to a National code of ethics within my professional practice. However, it expands further into my own personal life and how I choose to develop as a person. If I am to be respected as an expert in my field of practice, I must genuinely believe in and practice the tenants that I represent. It is important to speak to these core values as I believe they highlight my qualifications. In the field of social work, there are six core values that I adhere to in my personal and professional life: Service, Social Justice, Dignity and Worth of the person, Importance of Human Relationships, Integrity, and Competence.

Service refers to social workers putting the needs of the most vulnerable populations above their own self-interest. Volunteering within the community to continue to support, empower, and advocate for those in need, falls within the area of Service as well.

Social Justice refers to advocacy and bringing a voice in the community to those that do not have one. It also refers to creating community awareness of challenges facing oppressed and vulnerable groups and ensuring that those in need have access to resources and support that they require to flourish. Children are, by definition, one of the most vulnerable populations without a voice.

Valuing the Dignity and Worth of the person requires social workers to always be mindful that each person has their own set of values, their own story and experiences, and their own social and cultural norms and diversity. Respecting the dignity and worth of others creates an opportunity to resolve social conflict in ways that values each person within a larger context of understanding.

Social Workers recognize the critical role that positive Human Relationships play across micro, mezzo, and macro-levels of change. Because the dynamics in human relationships can be challenging at times, it is vital that social workers maintain high levels of communication and practice patience in their interactions.

Integrity is integral to the success of a social worker in facilitating positive relationships with others and among others. Social workers must be trustworthy to uphold strong ethics and boundaries. Social workers must honestly represent themselves at all times, while also maintain strong boundaries between the personal and professional self.

An exorbitant amount of a social worker's experience comes from real world exposure and practice. Because social issues and needs are always evolving, it is the responsibility of the social worker to remain continually committed to further education, expanding his or her knowledge base, and being cognizant of best practice and trending social issues. Equally important is that social workers maintain humility within their scope of practice. This is notably applicable in relation to the current board opportunity as my scope has always been, and continues to be, supporting the complex needs of some of the most vulnerable populations of young people.

I do expect that board duties, specifically during these challenging times, can be demanding. It would be with my full intention to dedicate the necessary time to the board to fully represent the community, while also managing my expectations as a Social Worker in the community. I will do my best to approach any competing priorities with grace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine Van Groll". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Katherine Van Groll

Exhibit 2

APPLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

DECLARATION OF ELIGIBILITY TO HOLD OFFICE

I, Katherine Van Groll, being duly sworn, state that
(Print the name of the person wishing to be considered for appointment)

I am willing to be considered for selection to the office of school board member, as an appointee to fill a vacancy and that I meet the applicable age, citizenship, residency, and voting qualification requirements prescribed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Wisconsin, and that I will otherwise qualify for the office if I am appointed by the School Board of the Appleton Area School District.

I further state that I have not been convicted of a felony in any court within the United States for which I have not been pardoned and that I know of no reason that would otherwise make me ineligible to hold the above-identified office.

My present address, including my municipality of residence for voting purposes is:

Town of Grand Chute OR Village of _____ OR City of _____
4052 N Trailway Ln / Appleton WI / 54913
House or Fire Number/Street Name / Mailing Municipality and State / Zip code

Katherine Van Groll

(Signature of the person, named above, wishing to be considered for appointment)

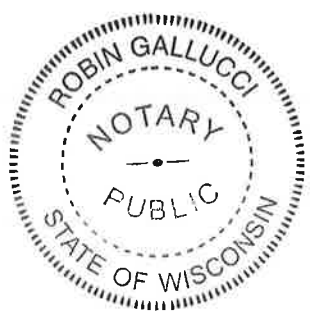
STATE OF WISCONSIN }
County of Outagamie } ss.
(County of notarization)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18 day of December, 2020.

Robin Gallucci
(Signature of Notary)

Robin Gallucci
(Printed name of notary)

Notary Public
My commission expires 1/22/2022 or is permanent.



NOTARY SEAL NOT REQUIRED