Hello,

I’m writing to express my interest in filling Dung Ngyuen’s vacant school board seat until the November election. I’m a parent to two children in the district; a rising 3rd grader and a rising 5th grader. I’ve been a proud Freeport resident since 2010 and am grateful for the education and care my kids have received thus far.

I am interested in serving on the school board because I want to be a part of the ongoing growth of our local educational system. I’m experienced in process, program, and system improvement and am excited to be a part of guiding our school system during a pivotal time in the development of our community and broader society. I am a lifelong learner who loves to connect with our community, advocate and elevate voices, and participate in team work.

As a daughter of a teacher, I grew up witnessing the hard work and dedication teachers give to their students and communities every day. A deep value of quality education was instilled in me from a very young age.  I have volunteered in several elementary school classrooms (and the MLS Library) in the past 5 years where I gained insight into the daily challenges and realities of our schools. I look forward to learning more about everyday life in our school district and discovering new ways to support our children and the incredible people who keep the schools running and our children growing.

I have an undergraduate degree in Psychology and a Master’s in Human Development and am passionate about mental health and social-emotional development. In my current professional life, I am a maternal child health professional and advocate, a perinatal educator, and a nonprofit leader. I have experience in healthcare leadership, nonprofit leadership, and community collaboration.

I’m committed to our community, having volunteered with the Arts & Cultural Alliance of Freeport (Meetinghouse Arts Freeport) for the past 2.5 years, and serving on their board of directors for the past year. I’ve participated in program development, fundraising, and DEI activities. I have produced a regular children’s story hour at Meetinghouse Arts focused on celebrating diversity and cultivating community through an interactive read-aloud and related art activity. I’ve recently started a Community DEI Collaborative through Meetinghouse Arts to collaborate with other local organizations to create and cross-promote diversity-themed educational opportunities to the youth and community at large.

I am dedicated to ensuring our community’s children, and the teachers and staff who are entrusted to care for them, are supported in all areas of their education and overall development through related policy and systems. I would be honored to join the school board and be a part of a team to help achieve the mission of the district “to inspire and support every learner by challenging minds, building character, sparking creativity, and nurturing passions.”

Thank you for your consideration,

~Kara Kaikini

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