

**Westmount Charter School Society
2017/18 Board of Directors Elections
Candidate Statements**

Background

The Westmount Charter School Board of Directors (the “Charter Board”) is comprised of 8 to 10 elected volunteer members (3-4 parent members and 5-7 non-parent members).

Commencing in the 2017/2018 school year, there are 1 parent and 2 non-parent vacancies.

This year, we have 4 parent and 2 non-parent candidates.

An election is being called for the 1 parent vacancy. The 2 non-parent candidates will be elected by acclamation.

Candidate Packages

Enclosed in this package are statements from our 4 parent candidates, to the electorate.

The parent candidates are:

- Graeme Finlay
- Peter Khu
- Paula McGarrigle
- Ellie Zhang

Letter of Interest - Westmount Charter Board

February 1, 2017

RE: Letter of Interest - Westmount Charter Board

Dear Westmount Community,

I am writing this letter to express my interest in continuing to serve as a member of Westmount Charter Board.

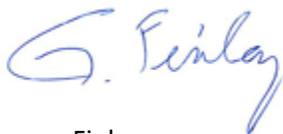
During my six years on the board, I have served on various committees, including having the privilege to serve as chair of the board for four years. I have enjoyed being a part of an organization that is dedicated to the best interests of our unique population. I have been very proud of the excellent work that the Westmount staff do every day and wish to continue to be part of the great things yet to come.

I am currently an administrator at a school in a large public board. I feel my experience in education would continue to be an asset to our board to help provide an important perspective to our discussion and decisions.

Besides serving on the board of Westmount, I have both personal and profession experience with Gifted Education. I attended a school for the gifted as a student. As a teacher, I have also taught in a congregated gifted setting and served as chair of the Alberta Teachers Association Specialist Council for Gifted Education.

I look forward for the opportunity to continue to serve the Westmount community for another three years and hope that you will continue to support me.

Thank you,



Graeme Finlay

February 17, 2016

Dear Westmount Community,

My name is Peter Khu and I would like to express my interest in serving on the Westmount Charter School Board as a parent member. I have two children at Westmount (grade 5 and grade 9).

I believe strongly in community collaboration and many in the Westmount community recognize me because I have been providing development and community updates at Parent Council meetings over the last five years. Since 2011, I have been the President of the University Heights Community Association and have served on the South Shaganappi Strategic Planning Group, a regional community advocacy group within the Northwest sector of Calgary.

As a member of the school community, I helped write community grants for Westmount's Sports Court which received a \$50,000 Alberta Blue Cross Grant and a matching \$80,000 grant from the province of Alberta.

As a member of the Arts Community in Calgary, I am the President of the Tritones Rhythm Society, which brings international faculty to teach workshops at an annual tap dance festival.

In my professional life, I hold a B. A. Honors in English Literature, a Bachelors of Applied Science in Engineering Chemistry and a Masters of Engineering in Process Engineering, all from Queen's University. I have worked as Metallurgical Engineer for Barrick Gold in Nevada, a trainer in Reliability Centred Maintenance for a technology subsidiary of Dofasco Steel, and as a management consultant serving clients in North America. Currently, I am a principal in a private investment and asset management company which has land and real estate holding in Western Canada.

I believe in the core values of communication, collaboration, and continuous improvement. As a board member, I would seek to build relationships that would strengthen an environment where administration, staff, parents, and students can be partners in helping each child at Westmount reach their highest personal potential.

I believe that Westmount is at a crossroads. Each choice either moves us further forward to an authentic Inside-Out philosophy, developing into a self-supporting culture, or reverts us back to an Outside-In philosophy. I strongly support the new charter which places students at the centre of the professional practice and Giftedness from the Inside Out as the guiding principle.

Thank you for your consideration,

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Khu". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "P" and a cursive "Khu".

Peter Khu, B.A. (Honors), B.ASc., M.Sc. (Engineering)

February 13, 2017

Paula McGarrigle
1906 – 31 AVE SW
Calgary, AB T2T 1S9

To: Westmount Charter School Society Nominating Committee
Re: Nomination Package – Parent Position

Dear Westmount Charter School Society,

As a parent of two children who currently attend Westmount Charter School and have since Kindergarten, and Grade 1, I am inspired to offer my name for your consideration in the upcoming election to the Board. While serving as a volunteer with several programs at the school, I have seen the beneficial impact of Westmount's approach to gifted education among this unique student body. I believe the Board plays a key role in securing and shaping the future of Westmount to the benefit of students, educators, and our community at large.

Academically, I have earned a Bachelor of Science in biology and chemistry (UofA), a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering (UofA) and a Master of Business Administration with a major in Finance (Queen's University). I'm also a musician and singer, an immigrant to Canada, and I have both lived and worked overseas (Australia, Belgium, Ireland). I co-founded an energy consulting company that has offices in Calgary and Colorado, US. I've also authored two local Calgary based books that were on the National Best Seller list.

I am passionate about the world around us, particularly in areas of sustainable development, energy, and the environment. I have built my career in the energy sector, and primarily focused the past 18 years in the renewable energy field and sustainable development. I have invested hundreds of personal volunteer hours providing sustainable development education to students and adults in the community at large, as well as within Westmount Charter Elementary and Mid-High Schools.

The environmental, economic, and social effects of sustainable development, energy production and consumption are among the most critical issues facing this generation. As our WCS students become some of the leaders and decision makers of their communities, authentic, complex and practical learning about the energy and environmental realities of our time is a very useful framework for gifted learners. It provides an anchor for their creative imagination while challenging their exceptional abilities and is applicable at all grade levels. In addition, energy and environmental education is beneficial to many student outcomes identified in the Westmount Charter School Education Plan and promotes student development of the 21 Century Competencies.

I believe that my experience developing gifted student programming and as a professional engineer within the energy industry provides me the insight required to assist the Board as we strive together to foster a community of learners able to consider the impact of their personal decisions, understand the political, social, and economic forces of our world, and build the technological skills they will need to lead in the future.

Thank you for your consideration as we work together to continually improve the educational experience for all Westmount students.

Best Regards,



Paula McGarrigle, P.Eng., MBA

Ellie (Lei) Zhang

Feb 6, 2017

Board
Westmount Charter School

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong interest on the position of Parent Board Member, since I have two kids attending the school.

I have 16 years work experience in the accounting field, including 7 years in the not-for-profit sector and 9 years in the government department. Currently, I work at Families Matter Society of Calgary. Families Matter is a NPO, who is dedicated to helping families and creating learning opportunities that build confidence, competence & connection through life's transition. As the finance controller, my responsibilities include:

- Maintain a system of controls over accounting transactions
- Maintain a documented system of accounting policies and procedures
- Monitor A/P, A/R, and payroll process, funding allocation
- Provide monthly financial statement, and financial analyses as needed
- Coordinate the provision of information to external auditors for the annual audit
- Prepare annual budget with other leadership team members

I obtained my CPA, CGA designation in 2015, as a professionals, I have gained a deep understanding of the many challenges and opportunities that non-profits face with on an ongoing basis. I believe I can contribute my effort for finance committee and bring some thoughts on how to expand the funding sources, donation, etc.

Moreover, I would like to bring the voices from the Chinese parents to the board. I have been volunteering over a few years as it's important to me to give back to my community. I want to do what I can to help our school grow.

Sincerely,

Ellie