

Personal Statement of Qualifications

Katherine Hauser

July 10, 2025

Mayor and Councillors,

Thank you for taking the time to read this personal statement. I thought I would start by providing a brief personal overview.

- I am a widow and single parent of four children — all now adults.
- My children were active in sports and the arts: soccer, baseball, football, theatre, dance, and more.
- I rent our home in Guelph.
- My husband and I owned two downtown businesses, Doogie's and Pablo's, until 2012.
- We were actively engaged in and advocated for downtown businesses.

Education:

- Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Guelph (CSAHS).
- Post-Graduate Certificate in Forensic Studies from Mount Royal University.

Employment:

- I have worked at the University of Guelph in the McLaughlin Library's Facilities Services Department since 2017.
- I commute via public transit to work everyday.

Governance Experience:

- Elected in the 2022 Municipal election as the Trustee for Ward 6 and Puslinch for the Upper Grand District School Board
- Currently in my 3rd year, acclaimed, as Vice Chair of the Board.
- Chair of the Committee of the Whole.
- I serve on the following committees:
 - Finance and Facilities
 - Audit
 - Special Education Advisory Committee
 - Parent Involvement Committee
 - Equity of Access and Outcomes (MYP)
 - Championing Health and Wellbeing (MYP)

As a Trustee I am responsible for the following schools:

- Westminster Woods Elementary School
 - Sir Isaac Brock Elementary School
 - Aberfoyle Elementary School
 - Kortright Hills Elementary School
 - Rickson Ridge Elementary School
 - Centennial Collegiate Vocational Institute
 - And the new South-end high school in Ward 6
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- Trustee Representative on the Art Gallery of Guelph Board of Trustees.
 - Elected to the Ontario Public School Board Association's Policy Development Work Group (Central West region).
 - Elected to the University of Guelph Board of Governors in 2024 (Alumni Staff Representative).
 - Initially appointed to the Board of Governors Physical and Digital Infrastructure committee, now a member of the Finance, and Executive committees.

I am a widow and single parent of four children—all now adults. Watching them grow into kind, independent and thoughtful people has been the greatest joy of my life. My youngest just turned 18, and now that they are all finding their own paths, I am taking a chance on mine. I want to show them that growth never stops and that you are never too old—or too established—to take a risk for something you believe in.

I have lived in Guelph since I was 16 years old. My ties to this city run deep. My husband and I once owned two beloved downtown businesses, Doogie's and Pablo's, and we were strong advocates for the downtown business community. Those years gave me a strong appreciation for the entrepreneurial spirit that shapes Guelph.

I graduated from the University of Guelph, with majors in Political Science and Criminal Justice and Public Policy from the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences. I later earned a Postgraduate Certificate in Forensic Studies from Mount Royal University. My academic journey has always been focused on Public Policy and Administration and Governance Systems.

Today, I work on campus at the McLaughlin Library in Facilities Services. I take the city bus to work and walk home every day. I understand the realities of working families, renters, and those balancing financial responsibilities.

In 2022, I was elected to the Upper Grand District School Board to represent Ward 6 and Puslinch. I am now serving my third year as Vice Chair. In that role, I chair the Committee of the Whole and sit on the Finance and Facilities Committee, Audit Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee, Parent Involvement Committee, Equity of Access and Outcomes Multi-Year Plan (MYP) Committee, and Championing Health and Wellbeing Multi-Year Plan Committee.

I am also the appointed Trustee to the Art Gallery of Guelph Board of Trustees, and was elected by peers from Central West Ontario to serve on the Ontario Public School Board (OPSBA) Association's Policy Development Work Group.

As a Trustee, I am responsible for the following schools: Westminster Woods, Sir Isaac Brock, Aberfoyle, Kortright Hills, Rickson Ridge, Centennial CVI and the new south end high school currently under construction in Ward 6.

In 2024, I was elected as the Alumni Staff Representative on the University of Guelph's Board of Governors. I was appointed to the Physical and Digital Infrastructure Committee and now serve on the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee. I am proud to contribute to decisions that shape our city's largest employer and educational institution.

I serve as a Steward with the United Steelworkers (USW) and am active on the USW Women's Committee. These roles have given me a practical lens into labour issues, staff advocacy, and creating more inclusive work environments. The leadership courses I have taken through this connection have given me the empowerment to speak not only for myself but for those who also need a voice.

In every space I occupy—whether it is the school board, the university boardroom, or a union meeting—I bring the same core values: collaboration, community connection, and a commitment to equity and responsible governance.

Many in Guelph might remember me from behind the bar at Pablo's, or from standing on the sidelines at basketball games, football games, ice skating and dance recitals. I've lived the realities of this community—as a student, a renter, a worker, a business owner, a parent, and a volunteer.

Why I want to be a Ward 6 Councillor

This is not a development I had anticipated. I love being a School Board Trustee — it has been a role of purpose, service, and deep connection. But sometimes, a door opens unexpectedly.

When the Ward 6 seat became vacant, I immediately noticed, but took a great pause. I questioned whether it was the right time or the right move. But then I realized: if this were just for me, maybe it would feel selfish. But it's not. I genuinely believe I can make a meaningful impact, beyond the school board, and serve our entire community.

This is a chance to expand my reach, to bring the same voice that has spoken for students and families into a broader conversation — one that affects housing, transit, community development, and the everyday lives of Ward 6 residents. At worst, it doesn't work out — and I return to doing a job I love. But if I am chosen, I grow, I serve, and I show my children — and my community — that taking risks is how we create change. As it has been said so many times - you miss every shot you don't take!

I believe I can be a strong voice at City Council. My experience across education, infrastructure, finance, and governance has prepared me to listen carefully, show up consistently, and make decisions that consider the long-term good. I want to advocate for Ward 6 with empathy, insight, and the same integrity I've brought to all my roles.

I would be honoured to continue serving the people of Ward 6 in this new capacity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Katherine Hauser