

Applications for LILA School Board – Community Member:

Donley H. Johnson
Forest Lake, MN

Community Member Application for School Board cannot be a parent or vendor of LILA.

Education completed: BA Gustavus Adolphus College
Ph.D Kansas State University
School Administrator License University of Minnesota

Experience or skills working with youth, youth issues and parenting:

I have been involved in education all my life in the roles of student; math and science teacher at Alexander Ramsey Highschool, Roseville MN (three years); Assistant Principal at Southwest and Central Junior High Schools, Forest Lake MN (four years); Director of Instruction and Administration (one of many titles over 27 years) in the Forest Lake Area Schools District 831. I retired from the school district in the summer of 2005.

I also directed a boy's camp called Adventurer's Camp for Boys in northeastern Wisconsin in the summer of 1973 and 1974. This camp served about 80 children from Wisconsin, Illinois and beyond who were eight to sixteen years old. The boys stayed with us for seven weeks participating in a variety of camping activities including camping, tennis, horseback riding, sailing, swimming, riflery, archery, field sports, crafts and many other activities.

My wife and I have two children who reside in Forest Lake with their spouses and children. We have four grandchildren.

Community involvement:

My wife and I are members of Hosanna Luthern Church in Forest Lake. I was also a charter member of the Local Youth Services Bureau Board of Directors and served on that Board for many years. Additionally, I was a member (20 years) and the Chairperson (10 years) of the LATV Channel 10 Local TV Access Commission. This is a Commission formed by a Joint Powers Agreement among the Cities of Forest Lake, Columbus and New Scandia.

I have been a Board Member of the Forest Hills Golf Club here in Forest Lake for the past four years and have served as its president for the past two years.

I am currently a board member and the board chairperson of a recently formed foundation called The Education Foundation of the Forest Lake Area (TEFFLA). The purpose of this nonprofit organization is to support education and community activities that benefit our youth, teachers, programs and communities. Future grants will be available to a variety of organizations, programs, and individuals in the Forest Lake Area which serve learners of all ages and without regard to their particular school affiliation.

These experiences would be valuable in serving as a member of the Lakes International Language Academy Board of Directors.

School Involvement, if any, please list:

As a School District Administrator, I chaired the School Board's Policy Committee and was a member of the Staff Welfare Committee. Over the past 39 years I have led and/or served on a multitude of School District related Committees and Task Forces formed for the purpose of advancing the causes of the youth of the Forest Lake Area School District.

What are the primary strengths, skills or expertise you would bring to your position on the Lakes International School Board?

My experiences as a parent, grandparent, student, teacher and school administrator, have offered me a great deal of experience in a variety of areas which include child development, parenting, group process, general school administration, instruction, curriculum coordination, testing and evaluation, technology (both administrative and instructional), staff development, gifted education, contract negotiation and administration, budgeting and school finance, school improvement, human resources, federal program administration, public relations, building planning and construction supervision, public school policy development and school law.

Please describe why you are interested in serving as a School Board Member:

My grandson is currently a first grade student at LILA and is having a wonderful experience there. He loves school and loves being a part of the LILA community. His sister plans to attend LILA too.

I have observed the initiation and growth of LILA and have been continually impressed with the grace and temerity that you have exhibited in initiating, developing and administering this fine school.

I am very interested in serving as a member of the LILA School Board and believe that my professional and community background would be an asset to the leadership of LILA.

Thank you for your consideration.