

TCCS Board of Trustees
Yvette Gonzalez
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Position Paper

My name is Yvette Gonzalez, Teaneck resident for 13 years this August and an active parent of the Teaneck Community Charter School for 10 years and counting, with a graduate who is now a THS freshman and two little ones starting their Charter journeys in Kindergarten and in 1st grade.

What is a Board of Trustee? It ensures that our Charter School fulfills its mission and serves its students and families well. In other words, a Board serves for accountability to the leaders and representation for all. It would be a great pleasure to have the opportunity to serve you as a Board member, representing a growing Latino community, encouraging parental involvement, and an advocate for continued growth of our students and our community. It takes a village to raise and educate a child, and I want to be a part of the village that continues to build a respectable, healthy, safe, resourceful and loving Charter.

As a musical theater volunteer, TCSCO parent and class parent, I have had the opportunity to get to know staff, faculty and students. Volunteering is incredibly rewarding, but volunteering at the school where your child spends 7 hours or more a day is extremely beneficial to your child's growth and development during these primal years and it forms your perspective as a parent with a clearer vision. There is something special for a child, no matter what they say, to know they have your unconditional support at home and at their place of learning. Children love to share their ideas and experiences with you and what better way than by having you present in the things that matter most to them. This instills fibers of confidence that are not easily broken. This is the heartbeat of Charter and this is another reason why I would like to be a part of the Board of Trustees.

In my career as an Administrative Assistant in an Architectural firm for almost 15 years, I've been given the opportunity to work with a diverse group of people in different facets. This has given me the experience to understand different perspectives, think outside the box, be a proactive doer and anticipate the needs of a team. I believe these are all skills that I can bring forth to the Board and be a successful piece to a wonderful collaborative effort.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to getting a chance in working with you all for the better future of TCCS and our children.



TEANECK COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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563 CHESTNUT AVE
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MAY 27, 2020

Dear Teaneck Community Charter School Board of Trustees, Mr. Ralph Gallo and Mrs. Sonia Torres,

I appreciate the opportunity to share my interest in maintaining a seat on the Board of Teaneck Community Charter School and partnership with the community to make a positive impact on the TCCS family.

Although I have only had the pleasure of serving on the Board for a short time, I feel I have been able to provide valuable contributions to the school culture, efficacy of curriculum, and bring to light the needs of our special education population at TCCS. Prior to my seat on the Board, I worked closely with TCSCO and was a class parent for two years.

I feel that the value placed on student achievement, social emotional learning, and positivity of the school has attracted me most to wanting this position.

With over 20 years of experience in education, I have worked closely in public and private sectors on program development, teacher training, and building positive practices to increase student and teacher achievement. I have trained school leaders and teams in the areas of crisis response and developed school protocols and best practice procedures. I have taught the principles of applied behavior analysis and how to increase desirable behavior through environmental modifications. I feel this experience is important when various objectives presented to the board for resolution and/or review.

TCCS is unique in its' dedication to the arts, using innovative teaching practices, and a community that invests in each of the students. To be affiliated with a school like this is an honor and I would like the opportunity to continue to make a positive impact on the TCCS community.

I am a mother of three and my oldest daughter, Celicia is now in second



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grade. Since becoming part of the TCCS family when she entered Kindergarten, I began to learn how special TCCS is. My two other children, ages 4 and 2, will hopefully one day be students at TCCS. All children, including mine, are different. Different learners, different socially, and different creatively. Understanding that these differences exist allows us to focus on what is needed to create an environment where all students can access knowledge and skills within areas of academic and emotional development. This has to be done in tandem with supporting and educating our teachers while sharing findings with families and providing any needed support. I want to continue to set the bar high for my children and all the children at Teaneck Charter School.

A part of my role being on the Board has been to be part of the curriculum committee. During this time, I have provided valuable feedback in regards to efficacy and fidelity of the programs being utilized in TCCS. I also advocated for a school wide positive behavior system as well as c feedback that has assisted with both general and special education within TCCS.

As the school continues to expand both physically and instructionally, I look forward to growing with the school as well. It has been amazing to be on the board during the expansion and ribbon cutting. I have enjoyed being part of many fundraising and social events that have taken place over the past three years. It has been an honor to work with the incredible Board Members and School leaders and I hope that can continue. My goal is to continue to ask the critical questions and provide feedback to promote comprehensive services and education to the “whole” child while supporting teachers and families. Each child needs to feel safe, empowered with knowledge, and instilled with a drive to be lifelong learners.

I have met many community members however; I look forward to meeting many more. I have developed great relationships with many of the stake holders at Teaneck Community Charter School and I look forward to the work that lies ahead in continuing to voice the needs and advocate for our students.

I am dedicated to TCCS and I feel my experience of being a mother, school leader, educator and behavior analyst allows me the skills to make a difference.



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Please consider me to be a continued member of the Teaneck Community Charter School Board. Through continued partnership with community members and dedication to children and the field of education, I feel I can really make an impact.

I thank you so much for your time and consideration. I am available to answer any questions.

Stay safe and healthy TCCS.

Sincerely,

Julie E. Mitchell, PHR

May 15, 2020

Teaneck Community Charter School Board of Trustees
563 Chestnut Avenue
Teaneck, NJ 07666

Dear Mr. Gallo, Ms. Torres, Esteemed Board of Trustees Members, and TCCS Community:

I appreciate the opportunity to formally express my sincere interest in maintaining my seat on the TCCS Board of Trustees, and continued partnership in working toward the greater good of the TCCS community. I have had the pleasure of serving on the Board for the past eighteen months, furthering my understanding of all that is required in maintaining a safe and nurturing learning environment, and collaborating with a team solely focused on providing a quality student experience. During this time, I have assumed the roles of Chair of the Communications Committee, and Assistant Secretary. As Chair of the Communications Committee, I worked with the Administration, Friends of TCCS, the TCSCO, fellow committee members, and parent volunteers, to put together the recent Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, commemorating the unveiling of the new gymnasium, Creative Arts Suite, and newly renovated Kindergarten Suite. The event was attended by local officials, alumni, faculty, students, and families, exceeding our expectations, and celebrating a long-awaited TCCS milestone. Given that we are now facing challenges unlike any we have met before, action orientation combined with innovation and creativity is exactly what we need to keep students engaged, empowered, and motivated so that we may continue to celebrate milestones such as senior graduation, and others.

My daughter Shannon was fortunate enough to join the TCCS student body as a first-grade student in the fall of 2013. Shannon and I spent most of her first year getting to know other members of the community, parents, and faculty alike and learning how best to maximize the opportunity she had been given as a student in Ms. Kwiatkowski's class. We had the pleasure of attending various community events, developing what we now know will be lasting friendships, and establishing what we have both come to view as a partnership with various faculty members.

In response to the genuine commitment to student success that was pretty clear from the start, I knew that I wanted to become a more service-oriented stakeholder. Efforts to do precisely that came in the form of taking on the role of Class Parent, supporting the TCSCO with varying fundraising events, Co-Chairing the 2016 Dinner Dance, coordinating the 2017 Trunk or Treat/Halloween Celebration, and working behind the scenes in rolling out Dine-To-Donate events, something I continue to do. I've lent ideas regarding initiatives that require minimal legwork with favorable output, a few of which have been brought to fruition, such as the Mr. Cupcake Fundraiser. *Special thanks to the TCSCO for working their cupcake counting magic along with everything else they do.* When a seat on the Board was vacated in the first half of the 2018 school year, I pursued the possibility of continuing to serve the community in a more formal capacity. To my delight, I was welcomed on to the Board in January 2019, and have not missed a meeting since.

My participation as a Board Member, and a TCSCO Member, in conjunction with twenty+ years of parenting experience, I am confident that I can continue to serve as a contributing member and hope to make an impact through partnership, commitment, and dedication.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. I am available to discuss the opportunity, evolving expectations of the role, and answer any questions you may have at your convenience. I look forward to your response and wish everyone a happy & healthy summer season.

With Gratitude,

Julie Mitchell

TCCS Board of Trustees Position
Statement:

Attention Board members, Faculty and Parents,

My name is Benjamin C. Ochoa recently i was challenged with the question of "why i want to be on the board" My answer to that is "why wouldn't i want to be on the board" well the answer is pretty simple it's because of the children here in Teaneck. The children here in Teaneck should be our main focus within our community. If we invest in them today ultimately we will create a better tomorrow for them and our community and mankind in general. In no way do i say I am qualified for the position as a board member. I'm hoping by me residing in Teaneck for the past 12 years as a resident and my experience as a former police officer for the NYPD and a former member of the United States Marines and currently a member of the Teaneck Road Business Community Alliance I can earn your trust and confidence in me. I also have a vested interest because i have a child in the 7th grade that attends Teaneck Charter school, so for me its personal as it is for you.

My goal as board member will be to challenge and set clear expectations from senior board executives. As well as support management in promoting experiences and resources that will benefit TCCS in the end. I will also ensure that all board members involved in the decision making process are heard and respected. In my opinion the benefits of a charter school versus a standard public school far exceeds our expectations. Simply put the pro's outweigh the cons. Charter schools have been known to provide quality education which in turn builds performance and confidence.

Ultimately the payoff in the end is to have our children feel confident enough to feel free to dream big. The medals, awards and the honors will be a lasting testimony to the history and legacy of Teaneck Community Charter School in the end. Thank you all for opportunity should i be nominated and may God bless America.

Sincerely,

Benjamin C. Ochoa