

August 27, 2020

Jeff Cravy, Superintendent  
Conway School Board  
19710 State Route 534  
Mount Vernon, WA 98274

Dear Superintendent Jeff Cravy and Conway School Board,

This is my letter of interest in the vacant position on the Conway School District school board. My interest in this position stems from a core belief in the importance and value in a strong public education for all children, gratitude for the profound impact public school has made in my own and children's lives, being at a time in my life where I can give back to the school district, and a commit to civil service. I have a unique set of skills and experience that may be helpful to the school board in the current times.

My husband and I own Skagit Family Health Clinic and Mount Vernon Birth Center. We have been family primary care providers in Skagit County for nearly 20 years with a mission to serve our community inclusively, regardless of socioeconomic situation. Our clinic qualifies as a clinic for underserved loan repayment because of the high volume of Medicaid (low income) patients we see. This mission and commitment mirrors the values held dear in public education--commitment to serving all students and families. We serve a diverse population and understand the challenges that are representative of the families in Skagit County. We hear their stories, struggles, and successes and have an insight outside our own personal bubble; I believe this is so important in today's increasing polarized and myopic times.

I am the director of our clinic and birth center. I oversee the human resources, financial management, and daily operations and procedures. The pandemic has impacted every one of these areas acutely and continually for the past 5 months. My experience in frequent changes in guidelines and protocols, budgeting changes, personnel changes with the subsequent impacts for employees, patients, and staffing, understanding of the science of the outbreak, implementation of safety protocols, the close work with the Department of Health of Skagit County could be useful in these changing and uncertain times to the school board and Conway School District. I believe it is vitally important to listen to everyone, be kind and sensitive to the needs and thoughts of all parties and be flexible and gracious--especially in these unprecedented times.

Additionally, I have an adopted Ethiopian daughter and am profoundly dedicated to providing all people of color a safe, support environment with equal respect and opportunities. Clouded bias and systemic racism needs to be dealt with honestly, humbly, and with integrity. Our experience Conway school has been supportive for our daughter in this regard, and I believe as a primarily white community we need to actively seek out opportunities for honoring and respecting diversity. Anti-racist policies need to be continually evaluated, stated, and enforced.

I was raised by parents who instilled in me the importance of volunteer and civil service for the greater good. I am at a point in my life that I am able and ready to give back. I received an excellent public

education that launched me to higher education and a doctorate program. Because of the opportunities, encouragement, and confidence I was given as a youth through my schooling, I had the confidence and skills to achieve my goals and dreams. I believe all children deserve this experience.

Being self-employed, I have flexibility to adjust my schedule as needed for work on the school board. I have arranged to have the ability to stay home 4 weekdays per week due to distance learning for my middle school and high school children and can adjust this schedule for time commitments and demands of serving on the school board. I am a US Citizen and proud registered voter.

Thank you for your dedication to Conway school, and our community. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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