

Elise Gorseth

May 31, 2019

Natick School Committee
c/o Chair Julie McDonough
13 E. Central Ave.
Natick, MA 01760

Dear Ms. McDonough,

Thank you for taking the time to review my resume. I am writing to express my interest in the School Committee position being made vacant by the resignation of Lisa Tabenkin. As a Natick Town Meeting Member and the proud parent of three rising fourth graders, I am deeply committed to ensuring our schools are able provide an excellent education for all our students. I believe my skills and experience would be an asset to School Committee, and I ask that you consider me for appointment to the vacancy.

As a scientist, I bring expertise in data analysis and interpretation, strategic planning, and the ability to communicate complex ideas to a variety of audiences, all which I see as being at the heart of what School Committee does. My time as a parent representative to Lilja School Council has given me insights into how policies and initiatives are implemented at the building level and some of the challenges that can arise along the way. As a parent to children who receive learning supports via an IEP and a 504 plan, I am acutely aware of the struggles of navigating the special education world and how it compares to parenting a typically developing child. I feel that a special education voice would be a valuable addition to School Committee and would enrich discussions about curriculum, resources and the student/parent experience.

I would be honored to join you and the rest of the School Committee members in your efforts to make our schools the best they can be and look forward to an opportunity to further discuss my candidacy.

Again, thank you for taking the time to review my resume.

Sincerely,

Elise Gorseth

Elise Gorseth, MPH

Summary

Researcher, special needs parent, engaged citizen.

Professional Experience

AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals - Pharmacovigilance Scientist (2015-present)

Develop & manage strategic safety plans for investigational drugs to treat respiratory diseases.

AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals – Scientist, Infection Drug Discovery (2001-2015)

Developed bioassays used to discover new drugs for treatment of bacterial infections.

Key accomplishments:

- ✓ Headed a cross-functional team overseeing high throughput screening in the US, UK and India.
- ✓ Awarded for creating & launching an “Inspire to Innovate” film festival.

Non-profit Management and Science Education

The National Celiac Association (formerly *The Healthy Villi*) Editor, Chair (1998-2007)

Managed a volunteer-run educational support group for people with celiac disease.

Key accomplishments:

- ✓ Lead the board in a strategic review process, resulting in adoption of a new mission statement and a successful application for federal 501c3 non-profit status.
- ✓ Increased focus on science education: published newsletter with ~1000 subscribers and held patient conferences with ~400 attendees.

Elected Position

Natick Town Meeting Member, Precinct 4 (2018 to present)

Volunteer & Community Service

Lilja Elementary School Council (2017 to present)

Special Education Parents Advisory Council (2016 to present)

SEPAC liaison to Lilja, SEL book group parent champion.

Healthcare Businesswomen’s Association (2014)

Group facilitator for the annual mentoring program.

Education

Master of Public Health, Boston University (2013)

Bachelor of Science, University of Victoria (1995)