

PART C PERSONAL STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE
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My name is Stacy Baird and my wife and I have been active parents in the CDNIS community since our son was enrolled in grade 1 in 2006. We now have two children in the school, our son is now in grade 9, and our daughter, attending for 3 years, is now in grade 2. I am a member of CISPA's new Digital Life Committee and serve as Grade 9 Advocate Leader for the Annual Fund and on CISPA's Governance Reform Parent Support Group representing the Annual Fund Leadership. For the past two years, I've donated my scenic photographs from the Grade 5 Guizhou trip to be sold at the LLAC to raise money for future student trips to the region. (Watch the LLAC lobby in May 2015!).

When I first came to tour Canadian International I was struck by the supportive environment I saw the children in - and the sophisticated and caring approach the teachers and staff took to bringing academic excellence to the classroom. Our tour was led by Alan Dick. His enthusiasm for learning, his affection for the children and his striving for academic excellence define the school for me. We have a rich, warm and diverse community with high academic standards. I watch my children benefit every day, even in little ways, from the commitment to excellence and professionalism found at CDNIS.

CISPA embodies and celebrates the character and diversity of our school through the activities and outreach it undertakes to enrich every CDNIS family's lives. I hope that I can have the opportunity to step up my involvement at the school through greater participation in CISPA as a Board Member.

Contribution to the CDNIS Community

I've been involved in our school's student life as long as we've been at CDNIS – over eight years. First as a frequent classroom volunteer when our son was younger, and now again, with my daughter's classes. I've accompanied classes on many field trips, including the Grade 5 community service trip to Guizhou, China, where I photographed the kids and scenery for the parents (I photograph as an avocation and often serve as class photographer, but this time I got to go on a great trip with the children!). I frequently volunteer at the school, including participating in the Family Fun Fair, and this year, the Chinese New Year Fair on behalf of the Annual Fund.

For two years, I made presentations to the entire Grade 5 about a start-up social media website I was involved with, and more broadly, the Internet, social media and online safety. When my son was in the fifth grade, the music teacher, Mr. Shaw, asked me to compose an elaborate video montage to provide the background for the Grade 5 performance of Michael Jackson's "Earth Song." From these experiences I realized I could do more to bring my professional experience into the CDNIS school community (see below for details of my professional experience).

For example, I've been involved in computing since the early years of the Internet. I believe our school should provide our children the opportunity to learn more about coding and computer sciences, both as a life skill and as a potential career path. For several years, I have been involved in advancing coding and computer science at our school, having helped facilitate bringing a coding ASA to the school. To encourage an understanding of the importance of coding and computer science to our children's futures, I, along with two other CDNIS parents, recently had the privilege of presenting to the CDNIS Learning Technology Committee.

It is also my view that parents should have available to them resources to better understand their children's digital life. I've been on the Digital Life Committee since (and effectively before) its formation at the beginning of this school year and share the belief with other DLC members that CISPA can contribute substantially to parent (and student) understanding of the Internet, social media and computer use and reduce the anxiety some parents may have about their children's digital life. The DLC launched this year with a successful Family Fun Fair activities center in the 9th Floor library which I helped design and took part in.

When advising a social media Internet startup, I focused on privacy rules and privacy features of the site. With that background, and a personal awareness of the privacy concerns for my children, I have long worked to elevate awareness of student privacy for the Administration and in LTT. In my view,

kids should be allowed to make mistakes in life, including their online life, without those mistakes following them throughout their lives. With CISPA DLC, we were instrumental in LTT's decision to add 'privacy' as a new component of their Digital Learning Infusion program.

The Annual Fund provides direct and immediate benefits to our children's lives. When the Annual Fund was announced, I immediately volunteered. In the first year of the Annual Fund I was a parent advocate for Grade 8. This year I am pleased to serve as Grade 9 Leader. Although it has been a complicated fund-raising year, I was in favor of restarting the Annual Fund and our grade is among the highest participation among upper school grades(!).

This year, the situation developed with regard to the school's governance. It was important to me that parents, should they be interested, are able to inform themselves to understand the issues and be represented through the Governance Reform Task Force. To that end, I currently serve on the CISPA Governance Reform Parent Support Group as an Annual Fund Leadership representative and encourage all parents who are interested to learn more about the ongoing governance reform.

Professional Background

My professional experience is wide-ranging, an unusual mix of a creative career in music and film, a successful legal and public policy career working in Washington DC for a US Congressman and US Senator, and now serving as the Executive Director of a highly respected intellectual property program working closely with the Chinese and US governments in the field of clean energy.

Prior to entering the field of law, I worked as a music-recording Engineer and Producer working with clients including Madonna and Michael Jackson, and on such noteworthy projects such as Francis Coppola's "Apocalypse Now." I continue to occasionally work on creative projects drawing on my experience as a music engineer and producer, photographer, videographer and editor.

After practicing law for several years, I was able to bring together my two careers, entertainment and law, serving as Congressional Aide to the Congressman who represented the Hollywood industry. My portfolio was information technology and the Internet - just as the Internet was becoming popular. This social phenomenon brought with it many public policy questions still relevant to our children. At that time, I was among few staff in Congress well versed in the potential technological, business and social implications of the Internet. I continue to advise and write on these subjects.

I subsequently served as Senior Policy Advisor to a US Senator. Working with leading education experts, to improve how information technology was used in education I was involved in the drafting of the education technology provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act ("No Child Left Behind"). I was also responsible for a law to assist victims of identity theft where I had to balance the interest of consumers and the banking industry. With the events of 9/11, my responsibilities shifted to law enforcement, intelligence and immigration technology issues, including the USA PATRIOT Act.

After leaving public service, I began to advise leading information technology companies on public policy matters. I continue to advise Fortune 500 companies and serve as Executive Director of an Intellectual Property Program serving as the interface between private and public sector partners and in bilateral government relations.

I have held appointments as Visiting Fellow at the Hong Kong University Faculty of Law and Visiting Scholar at the University of Southern California College of Letters, Arts and Sciences and continue to write and advise on issues arising as technology affects our society.