Stephen Milnes

Expression of interest in a community position on Dickson College Board and brief bio

Candidate #1
Stephen Milnes

In 2014, when his daughter started year 11 at Dickson College, Stephen Milnes joined the Dickson College P&C and was elected as secretary. His working life has been devoted to education, at the secondary and tertiary level, and making a difference to the quality of the student experience.

As Deputy Director Student Experience at the Australian National University, he is involved with celebrating student success, facilitating co-curricular engagement, and managing the student transition in, through, and out of the university. He has worked in various roles at ANU, including manager of Academic Skills and Learning Centre.

Prior to joining ANU Stephen worked as a secondary school teacher in regional South Australia (Quorn, Port Pirie, Whyalla, Kadina). He has degrees from Flinders University, University of British Columbia, and ANU.
Sue Rutter

Expression of interest in a community position on Dickson College Board and brief bio

Susan Jan Rutter
DOB: 22 April 1947
Braddon resident for over 20 years
GPO Box 339 CANBERRA ACT 2601
Mobile: 0418 627 502

Candidate #2
Sue Rutter

I attended Manly Girls High School (1960 – 1964) and University of New South Wales (1965-1968) attaining a Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Education. From 1969 to 1972 I taught at Nyngan Intermediate High School (English and History) before travelling to the United Kingdom, teaching for 15 months at an interesting comprehensive school in East London. Most of 1974 was spent travelling through Europe and overland to Kathmandu.

Upon returning to Australia in 1975 I found myself one of 3000 unemployed teachers in New South Wales. The Commonwealth Education Department offered me a position as Education Officer providing educational and social support to Aboriginal students and their families in various NSW country towns north and west of Dubbo. This involved interacting with aboriginal students, their families and schools. Subsequently, I provided a similar but more intensive service to tertiary Aboriginal students in Sydney Universities, Colleges and specific Aboriginal educational institutions.

After moving to Canberra in 1980 for personal reasons, I worked in Staff Development and Training areas of various Commonwealth Public Service Departments until 1990 when I commenced working in communication and policy areas. During this time I taught HSC English at TAFE for a year.

Early retirement in 2002 was followed by considerable travel within Australia and overseas. I also undertook some tutoring with adult migrants through the CIT during this time.

I was encouraged by a friend to complete a nine month discrete project in the public service in 2007. I enjoyed the work so much that I could not resist the possibility of a permanent part-time position in the private sector involving research and writing. I left this position in 2014 to provide primary care for my aged mother.

While I have undertaken a variety of tasks during my working life, education (particularly public education) has and will remain the area of primary interest and passion for me. The educational progress of various young people in my life, including a number in my local inner north area, is of great interest to me (poor darlings, I probably bore them to death with my questions and promptings). I believe that I have some useful background and qualities that may be of value to the Dickson College Board and I would certainly welcome the opportunity to contribute to my local school and community.
Expression of interest in a community position on Dickson College Board and brief bio

Candidate #3
Rosemary Kenna

I am a parent of 4 boys, 2 of whom have attended Dickson and 1 is a current student. I am a public servant, with a Social Work background and have lived in Canberra for the last 15 years. My work has been in case management and policy roles, with mental health policy being a particular interest. I hope I bring a creative approach to problem solving; I am keen to ensure genuine information sharing and consultation as a foundation for decision making. I am interested, too, in ensuring every stakeholder with an interest in an issue knows they have a voice and is genuinely heard.
Sandra Peacock

Expression of interest in a community position on Dickson College Board and brief bio

Candidate #4
Sandra Peacock

To the parents and carers of students at Dickson College.

My name is Sandra Peacock and I have son in year 12 at Dickson College. Although this will be our family’s final year at Dickson College I am standing for the Board because I believe I can bring both experience and new ideas to the governing of the school.

I have an economics degree (ANU) and I’ve worked in the Commonwealth Public Service for about 30 years, mainly in the policy, legislation and interpretation areas of the Australian Taxation Office. I’m also a certified accountant (CPA).

My two children benefited from 13 years of excellent public education. During those years I’ve learnt a lot about what works (and what doesn't) in schools and colleges and want to pass on some of that experience. I am absolutely committed to public education and believe all students should be encouraged and given the opportunity to develop their full potential, academically, physically and socially.

I'd like to represent your interests on the Board and invite you to give me that opportunity.

Thank you.