

Mill Bond Oversight Committee
Membership Recommendation

The Mill Bond Oversight Committee recommends membership for the following people:

Tariro Garanga

Slot: Business Community

Completing term due to a resignation

Tell us a little about yourself and your connection to Douglas County School District.

- Originally from Southern Africa, I moved to the US in 2015 for my graduate school. I am a trained electrical engineer and currently work in investing. My firm acquires and operates SMB businesses. I am currently leading Baron Education, a company we acquired in 2021 through a statewide and national expansion drive. My family and I moved to Lone Tree from Toronto Canada at the beginning of this year. After surveying different Denver suburbs, we bought our home in Douglas county, Lone Tree. We were attracted by the communities family values and the great school system. I have 3 boys, 10, years 2 years and 4 months old.

What school(s) do(es) your child(ren) attend?

- My oldest is in 5th grade at Wildcat Mountain Elementary

Why are you interested in serving on the Mill Bond Oversight Committee?

- I believe in contributing to our community. I believe being new in the state allows me to have a unique point of view. Serving is also a great way to learn from more senior and experienced members of our community.

What expertise do you feel you could bring to the MBOC?

- My engineering background will allow me to understand and comprehend the technical details around construction projects. My finance and investing background all would also be useful to the team. Lastly, my current role as a business leader at one of Colorado's most successful home grown education companies will allow me to share unique perspective with the team.

The position on the MBOC you would be filling is Business Community. How would you take knowledge or information you have learned back to the Highlands Ranch community?

- I look forward to learning from the team what they have found to be efficient ways to share information. I will also make myself available to the community to answer questions and listen.

Elizabeth Barry

Slot: Parent/Community Member: Highlands Ranch

Completing term due to a resignation

Tell us a little about yourself and your connection to Douglas County School District.

- I have lived in Douglas County since 1990, when my parents moved us here. I still remember looking out of my window and there was dirt as far as the eye could see. I attended Sand Creek Elementary and was in the first class of students to go through Cresthill Middle School. Since then, I moved away after college, but came back and settled my own family here. My children have attended Douglas County schools since pre-school.

What school(s) do(es) your child(ren) attend?

- My daughter is a 9th grader at Mountain Vista High School and my son is a 5th grader at Bear Canyon Elementary School.

Why are you interested in serving on the Mill Bond Oversight Committee?

- Education is a cause about which I'm very passionate. I grew up in Highlands Ranch (among other places) and had fantastic teachers. One of the reasons we moved our family to Highlands Ranch was the outstanding schools. I feel it's important to support both our teachers and the school system--and that includes infrastructure. Highly performing schools also keep our property values high and add to the community in many other ways. Because our school district is underfunded, I think it's all the more necessary to have oversight regarding how we spend these precious dollars. At a time where things are very contentious in our district, the MBOC has the opportunity to help assuage the fears and concerns of taxpayers.

What expertise do you feel you could bring to the MBOC?

- After spending most of my career in education marketing and education technology, I have a wide variety of experiences to lend. In working as a higher ed consultant, my firm assisted colleges and universities with capital campaigns and public relations assistance. Further, having worked at a K-12 school as the head of marketing and communications, I have experience crafting and deploying messages to a similar audience.

The position on the MBOC you would be filling is neighborhood school parent – Highlands Ranch. How would you take knowledge or information you have learned back to the Highlands Ranch community?

- There are a lot of misconceptions about education funding in Colorado as a whole and in Douglas County. I would seek to find opportunities via the PTA and other parent organizations to answer questions and clear up these misconceptions. Additionally, I think it's important to point out the benefits of the mill bond levy for each particular school (i.e., Bear Canyon will receive a new HVAC unit, etc.). Should the bond pass, it will be important to continue to show the benefits of the bond for the next several years until a new bond is passed.

Holly Nicholson-Kluth

Slot: Safety and Security Representative

Completing term due to a resignation

Tell us a little about yourself and your connection to Douglas County School District.

- I have lived and worked in Douglas County since 1989, my husband and I have two children we have raised here.

What school(s) do(es) your child(ren) attend?

- Our children went to Roxborough Primary, Roxborough Intermediate, Ranch View Middle and my son, a few months at Thunderridge High School before sending them to a private Christian school.

Why are you interested in serving on the Mill Bond Oversight Committee?

- I am interested in being involved and volunteering to use my expertise and knowledge to better our community and school district. I came with many questions and was impressed with the presentation Erin Kane made last month, but also impressed that there was an MBOC citizen committee formed to oversee the previous MLO and Bonds; I thought that was a wonderful idea. When I heard there was a position open regarding safety and security, I felt uniquely qualified to serve. I am passionate about youth, public safety and community issues and involvement. I am at a point in my life being a RE agent and semi-retired that I can devote the time to these types of volunteer involvement.

What expertise do you feel you could bring to the MBOC?

- I have 32 years of experience as a Law Enforcement Officer in Douglas County, many years working on joint programs with the School District, coordinating reporting efforts and new laws, facilitating the transition to YESS from DARE, I was in charge of initiating the first Text to Tip program in all the High Schools, and I served on the Commissioner's Public School Safety Funding Committee after the STEM shooting: we research best practices and toured Public, Private, and Charter Schools for physical school safety issues, and recommended funding to the DC Commissioners. I oversaw technology at the Sheriff's Office for many years and was the secretary and the County Sheriffs of Colorado appointee to the Homeland Security, Public Safety Communications Sub-committee, so I understand the technological issues with providing emergency communications within schools.
- I've had many years of involvement in government, public funding streams, ballot initiatives and language interpretation, construction projects, School Safety, and community involvement. I've received a couple of awards through the years for my involvement in school safety efforts and youth prevention efforts. I have a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, a masters degree in psychology, and am a graduate of the FBI National Academy. My education and experience help me understand the challenges faced by School Districts during these unprecedented times surrounding youth, violence in schools, mental health issues, suicide, and drugs abuse, in which our schools must have competent and sufficient staff to address.

The position on the MBOC you would be filling is Safety and Security Representative. How would you take knowledge or information you have learned back to the law enforcement and emergency services communities?

- I have good relationships with Law Enforcement in Douglas County and I'm glad to be a spokesperson. I feel strongly about providing adequate funding to our schools, but as a conservative I'm also interested in making sure those funds are spent appropriately and based on what the citizens voted for, hence another reason for me to be interested in the MBOC committee.

Courtney Jewett

Slot: DCSD Licensed Educator - Elementary

Completing term due to a resignation

Tell us a little about yourself and your connection to Douglas County School District.

- I am a School Social Worker at Rock Ridge Elementary in Castle Rock, CO. I am a new homeowner in Douglas County. I live in a neighborhood full of young children who would benefit from the Mill Levy Override and I am active on several Castle Rock social media sites in which questions are always posed regarding the Mill Levy Override.

What school(s) do(es) your child(ren) attend?

- My son attends private preschool at Merryhill in Castle Rock. He will attend DCSD public schools when he is of age, and I am hoping to open-enroll him to attend my school.

Why are you interested in serving on the Mill Bond Oversight Committee?

- I am interested in being involved with the MBOC to give back to my community. I originally reached out for volunteer opportunities for promoting the 2022 Mill Levy Override and I received a response that there was an open position on the MBOC for a licensed elementary educator position. I want to be a more informed citizen as I respond to neighbors and colleagues, and I feel compelled to give back to a community and a school district in which I live and in which I am employed.

What expertise do you feel you could bring to the MBOC?

- I am a current DCSD employee and a young parent and homeowner of Douglas County. I have a bachelor's degree in English, a MSW, and I am earning an MBA. I believe that my educational background will help me to understand the language written in the Mill Levy and Bond and that my position in the school district and as a Douglas County parent could help me to communicate with the community.

The position on the MBOC you would be filling is DCSD Licensed Educator: Elementary. How would you take knowledge or information you have learned back to the educator or school community?

- I could utilize my position and contacts throughout the district from my position to communicate information that I learned. I most want to use the knowledge that I learned to engage in meaningful conversation with community members and neighbors because I have heard a lot of rumors and misinformation regarding the MLO and Bond.