

Shawsheen Valley Technical High School
School Council Parent/Legal Guardian Representative Candidates for the 2026-2027 School Year

Candidate's Name ▪ Candidate's Town	Candidate Summary
Kristen Baker ▪ <i>Burlington</i>	My name is Kristen Baker, I am a mother of 6 from Burlington. My son is currently a senior at Shawsheen in the Plumbing Program as well as an athlete. I was honored to serve on school council for the last 3 years and have been able to be involved in some of the inner workings of policy making in the school. I am the Early Childhood Director and part of the lead administrative team at a local private school. As a former teacher and current administrator I feel I am able to appreciate all of the different opinions in the room, as well as having the knowledge and experience in what it takes to create and implement policies in a school setting. I love Shawsheen and promote it as much as I can to anyone that will listen. My 5th grader is hoping to be a part of Shawsheen when the time comes. The genuine care the members of the school council have for the entire Shawsheen community is one that I find rare! I would love to culminate my son's high school career by continuing to work with this team this year.
Emily Contreras ▪ <i>Billerica</i>	
Colleen Dahlbeck ▪ <i>Billerica</i>	I have proudly served on school council committees at both the elementary and middle school levels for the past 10 years, supporting both of my children throughout their education. I would be honored to continue that commitment at the high school level and contribute to the journey here. I look forward to bringing my experience and collaborative background to the table to support students, families, and the school community.
Festo Lugolobi ▪ <i>Billerica</i>	I am seeking to serve on the Shawsheen Valley Technical High School Parent School Council for the 2026–2027 school year. I have a strong interest in education and many years of experience in higher education. More recently, I started an online high school to help make education more affordable and accessible, regardless of location. I believe my experience, perspective, and commitment to student success would allow me to make a meaningful contribution to the council.
Firojkhan Pathan ▪ <i>Burlington</i>	My name is Firoz Pathan, and I'm a proud Shawsheen parent. I'm running for the Parent-Teacher School Council because I want to give back to the school community that is helping prepare our children for their future. My journey to this point has been anything but traditional. I was born in India and came to the United States in 1998. Since then, I have built my career and family here through hard work, perseverance, and taking chances. I began my American career as an IT consultant, working with companies including ADP, Dragon Systems, and Progress

	Software. In 2002, I became an entrepreneur and started my own business. A few years later, I took an even bigger leap and became a hotel owner, purchasing and operating a 120-room Econo Lodge in Orlando. When the financial crisis changed the business landscape, we made the difficult decision to sell the hotel and return to the Boston area. Since then, I have continued to work in IT, real estate, business management, and finance. I have held my Massachusetts real estate license since 2008 and currently work as an Office Manager at EZ Tax and Account Inc. in Billerica. But the experience I value most is being a parent. As a parent, I understand that our children are preparing to enter a world that is changing faster than ever. Technical skills are important, but so are confidence, communication, financial literacy, problem-solving, entrepreneurship, responsibility, and the ability to adapt. That is why I believe in the mission of Shawsheen. My goal is simple: Help make sure every Shawsheen student has the opportunity, confidence, and support to build a successful future—whether that future is college, a skilled career, entrepreneurship, or another path they choose. I would be honored to serve our school community and contribute my time, experience, and perspective to Shawsheen.
Neisha Tavares ▪ <i>Wilmington</i>	I am a proud parent of a Shawsheen student and a financial consultant with a strong background in business, financial education, and community engagement. As a mother of three, I understand the importance of creating an educational environment where students feel supported, challenged, and prepared for their future. I would be honored to serve on the School Council, bringing a parent's perspective, an open mind, and a willingness to collaborate with families, educators, and school leadership. My goal is to help strengthen communication between families and the school while supporting opportunities that contribute to the academic, professional, and personal success of all Shawsheen students.
Jennifer Whalen-Hume ▪ <i>Burlington</i>	Jenn Whalen-Hume is the parent of a sophomore student at Shawsheen and also has two older children currently enrolled at Umass Amherst. Jenn has more than 20 years of experience in youth programming and education. As Director of Fessenden Summer Camps at The Fessenden School, she oversees a large and diverse program serving hundreds of children and families. Throughout her career, Jenn has worked closely with high school and college aged young people as they enter the workforce, often in their first jobs. She has extensive experience hiring, training, supervising, and mentoring young employees while helping them develop fundamental workplace skills such as communication, professionalism, accountability, teamwork, problem solving, and leadership. Jenn also brings experience in program development, staff management, family communication, strategic planning, and the oversight of a large scale institutional budget. She understands how thoughtful planning, responsible financial decision making, and collaboration contribute to the success of an educational organization. Jenn would bring a practical, informed, and collaborative perspective to the School Council. She is especially interested in supporting student success, career readiness, family engagement, and opportunities that prepare students for employment and life after graduation.