

Stephanie Rose DeNicola
1924 Asheville Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22911
January 22, 2011

Jennifer Johnston
Albemarle School Board
Attention: Clerk's Office
401 McIntire Road Room 345
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Dear Ms. Johnston:

This is a letter of intent to fill the current vacant Albemarle County School Board position in the Rivanna Magisterial District.

I have been a resident of Albemarle County since November 2005, originally in the Scottsville District. In July 2009, my husband and I bought a townhouse in the Pavilions at Pantops subdivision in the Rivanna District. We chose to buy a house in Albemarle because of the education system.

When I was in college, I was originally an English Education major. I intended to teach grades 7-12. In the fall 1999, the semester before I was scheduled to student teach, I lost the use of the left side of my body. It took 13 doctors 2.5 months to diagnose me with severe rheumatoid arthritis. I was put on immune-suppressant medications and told that teaching in a conventional classroom was no longer a viable option for me. I worked extremely hard in a variety of careers that involved education and children. My current position gives me the opportunity to teach while working around my health.

As an Environmental Educator, I work with teachers in Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock at all levels. I bring hands-on activities into the classroom so students can truly "get dirty" to understand SOL concepts related to soil and water. I also coordinate Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences, a graduation requirement described in the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement. I have also researched, written and received more than \$50,000 in federal and state grant money to achieve my educational activities with students, at little to no cost to the school systems I work with.

As a person committed to education, I believe that teaching is a calling. As a realist and a fiscal conservative, I am willing to take a stand on unpopular political positions in order to make the best decisions for my students.

I appreciate the opportunity to put my name forward for the vacant position.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rose DeNicola

Stephanie Rose DeNicola

Contact

Tel : 434-293-2838

e-mail : stephdenicola@yahoo.com

Address

1924 Asheville Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22911

Education

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1995 to 1999 | Bachelor's of Arts - <i>English</i>
Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, Mansfield, PA |
| 1991 to 1995 | Advanced New York State Diploma
The Mary Louis Academy, Jamaica Estates, NY |
| 1982 to 1991 | Diploma (Salutatorian)
St. Elizabeth School, Ozone Park, NY |

Work Experience

Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District Education/Information Coordinator

January 2005-present

- ✓ Coordinate all education and outreach for 5 counties
- ✓ Lead SOL-aligned activities for 3rd and 6th grade as well as high school science classes
- ✓ Write, edit and publish a quarterly newsletter that is mailed to over 3,000 households
- ✓ Publish annual report and manage website (www.culpeperswcd.org)

Activities and Interests

Volunteering The Arthritis Foundation and Volunteer Families

Fundraising Personally raised more than \$15,000 for the Arthritis Foundation over 3 years

Languages

English (native)

Spanish (2 year proficiency)

Italian (basic)