

Chicago Public Schools-2018 Local School Council Election
Form 4-18: LSC Candidate Statement (Optional)

School: Ravenswood Elementary School
Candidate's Name: Stephanie Bohr

Network: 2
Date: 2-26-18



For the past 15 years, I have dedicated my career to the field of education, not in schools and classrooms as that word often implies, but by working as a scientist, educator, and researcher in informal science education settings such as museums, zoos, and aquariums. I have led departments that innovate, research, and implement environmental education programs for students of all ages and backgrounds. I have a BS in Zoology and M.Ed. in Science Education,

with a focus on special education. I have worked with groups and individuals that are often isolated from museums and nature, including special education classes, community organizations, incarcerated teens, migrant communities, and terminally and chronically ill children. My professional passion is connecting people with nature and wildlife in their community, in ways that are meaningful to them.

Currently, I work at Lincoln Park Zoo as Director of Community Innovation and Collaboration, where I am responsible for a growing initiative on Chicago's West side, in which the zoo co-creates environmental programs with community organizations and residents. I am passionate about connecting seemingly opposite disciplines, like art and science, technology and nature, and business and conservation. I also oversee all learning evaluation and research that the zoo conducts to understand our impact and how we can improve our practice.

While my career is incredibly fulfilling and I cherish my time in Little Village and North Lawndale, I have more to give by volunteering in my own community of Ravenswood. After moving across the street from the school last spring, I was inspired to get involved after seeing students and parents coming and going as I left for my morning commute. This is clearly a school that is diverse, engaged, enthusiastic, and successful. I hope I can contribute to that success and explore ways to further expand on the school's existing strengths, while looking for innovative ways to meet challenges head-on.

At the February Local School Council meeting, I was so impressed by the school's dedication to provide an authentic 8th grade learning experience through their trip, by research-driven efforts to understand diversity and inclusion in school, and by parents' tireless support of students, teachers, and administrators. I would be honored to serve and appreciate your consideration.