

Marcos Bertamini



Hello fellow parents, my name is Marcos Bertamini and I hope to have the privilege of being elected as one of your parent representatives on the ESF Board of Governors.

I have been happily married to my lovely wife Lisa, for over 17 years and we continue to raise and educate our two beautiful (if a bit precocious!) children - our 14-year-old daughter, Sienna and our 12-year-old son, Savian. We have made Hong Kong our home for over 10 years, having arrived back in 2006. My background in education includes both flight and academic based instruction in aviation. I have served as an airborne flight instructor in the cockpit and a ground instructor in the classroom to include the teaching of psychological human factors to professional aviator students. Beyond aviation, I have also been employed as an associate professor instructing government courses to university undergraduates. Most recently, I have served as an active member of the DBIS School Advisory Committee for the past 2 years. I hold a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science with a minor in Business Marketing as well as a Master of Aeronautical Science degree. I completed my master's degree while married with two young children in addition to working full time throughout my studies. We currently have one of our children attending an ESF secondary school. As new ESF parents, we have a vested interest in the continued success of ESF and the knowledge that is imparted to all of the students both inside and outside of the classroom.

My philosophy behind the power of education is simple; it is the key that unlocks all doors. Education is empowerment, opportunity and freedom. Education is empowerment because it provides the necessary tools in order to pursue one's dreams. Education is opportunity because without it, too many doors are closed to those with a desire to reach their potential and lastly, education is freedom. Freedom - because with an education, a child has the power to go beyond the cage of their circumstances and environment.

I have a great deal to offer by way of experience and a passion for education. I am the product of an international upbringing with parents from 2 different nationalities who provided me with a global education and many travels. I consider myself a true "third culture kid" who was raised and educated in local and international schools throughout the world. I have lived on 5 continents and in 7 different countries. I am all too familiar with what our young students experience in an international educational system coupled with the challenges of international moves and the changes that come from switching to different schools and different school systems. Given my background, I believe I can contribute with a multidisciplinary approach to team problem solving on the ESF Board – an approach that contributes towards finding optimum solutions within the group dynamic. I'll do so with the empathy that is necessary when dealing with young people's hopes and aspirations.

Thank you.



Moore Chen

I am Moore Chen, design director and founder of Moore Chen Interior Design. I am 44 years old, father of two sons, to which my eldest son is currently studying in Sha Tin College year 7.

Although I have no previous experience as a governor nor have I worked within the education system, my working experiences lead me to become an expertise on discovering hidden problems and using various arrays to disseminate problems in a positive attitude. To make it simple, architecture and interior design means precise observation, accuracy and adaptability, to name but a few.

As a leader of the company, I entrust my team members with freedom and authorities to run projects. It is important to understand their strengths and weaknesses. I hope my working style can gather trusts among members; to provide an open and transparent platform for ideas and discussion. One of my strengths is to assimilate ideas from difference opinions and perspectives. Just as in school, parents constantly seeking the best options and choices for their children, this could lead to many different ideas and I will be the person to suggest the most appropriate strategies with the most benefits between school and parents.

If I am fortunate enough to be elected as a member of the Board of Governors, I believe that I could cast an independent eye over the workings of the school and bring a fresh perspective to the work of the existing governors.

Just like every other parents at Sha Tin College, I want them to be happy, confident and become the very best they could be in a healthy environment. As parents we need to support the school but when necessary we should also put the school under tough scrutiny. I am not afraid to ask difficult questions and I am used to speaking out and up for what is most important. At the end of the day, there is nothing more important than our children.

English School Foundation is already an excellent organization that runs educational institutions and just like everyone else, I would like to continue to succeed and improve further. The role as a Board of Governor is a vastly responsible one and I would like an inside look at how things work and a chance to make a difference as well.

JOEY CHUNG

Dear friends from ESF families,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to introduce myself and be a candidate for parent member of the ESF Board of Governors (BOG). This is a great opportunity and also a great commitment to our communities, our children and our future. I have some ideas for enriching our curricula that can make students' life more meaningful and interesting.

Enrich our curriculum with more elements. Students are now enjoying a wide range of learning activities, and there have been improvements in students' generic skills, values and attitudes. Chinese culture, positive education and a range of learning initiatives that nurture students' extracurricular interests in ***technology, media, entrepreneurship*** and other areas are good ideas for future curriculum planning. There are many different ways of learning, and traditional teaching is only one of them. We learn a great deal by doing, through trial and error. I believe that we can work with a few of the schools, companies and organizations regularly for students' delivering their task based projects or work in real-world results.

Strengthening Chinese networks. Strengthening Chinese networks and believing in them can benefit ESF communities and provide more opportunities for ESF students to explore China. One of my visions is to strive to unite the best elements of Eastern and Western traditions and promote Chinese culture and language learning in ESF families that help to open doors for ESF students: connecting to China, networking with China and understanding Chinese citizenship.

Becoming interesting teens. Working on our stories is something we can only do by getting out there. Personal development is nothing more than the stack of experiences with a flavor of your personality. Build the stack, work on the flavor. In time you will have a jaw-dropping personality.

Last but not least, if I am appointed as a member of BOG, I will provide advice and guidelines on board policies to ensure the school meets the highest standards of service to its constituents. Thank you for your support and looking forward to seeing you all!

I graduated with a Bachelor of Social Science degree from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, a Master of Art in Professional Accounting and Information Systems degree from City University of Hong Kong and a Global Executive MBA from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

I am now the Vice President of Board of Directors/ CEO Office in a Chinese Investment Bank, with over 15 years' experience of providing consultation on corporate governance, corporate planning and human resources strategies. I am also a mentor of CUMBA Mentorship Program and a qualified Chartered Secretary. I have two children, one of whom attends Sha Tin College.



Connie Liu Kar Wai, PhD

I was educated in the UK and have been teaching both undergraduate and master degree courses in universities and tertiary institutions for the past 10 years. My strong commitment to education as a teacher has won the hearts of my students and colleagues. I have also been awarded the Best Teaching Award three times, in recognition of my contributions to education.

Due to the unprecedented increase in children suicidal rate, I am also working to form a NGO to help implement creative art therapy in the local school curriculum. It is a form of therapy which could empower children, giving them a sense of freedom. Due to my involvement in this NGO, I am given the opportunities to speak in the Legislative Council's Education Panel and meet up with officials of the Education Bureau. One of the videos can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NmdivSKOA> (starting from 1:28:59)

My son has been in both the local and international education systems and I have, unfortunately, witnessed how the local system turned a happy, gifted child into a suicidal, socially withdrawn kid. Therefore I understand and appreciate the unique position of ESF in Hong Kong. Moreover, I have been on the ESF Board for three years. It had been a challenging three years but we have finally settled the subvention issue with the government, minimised the increase of school fee and established a five-year strategic plan.

However, we are not without future challenges. The Island School redevelopment and subvention for special needs education are still under debate with the current administration. I hope with my involvement with the Legislative Council and the Education Bureau, I could:

- ensure that our government understands the importance of ESF in the Hong Kong education ecosystem, thus gaining more support from the government.
- provide the much needed continuity to help ESF evolve into a self-sustaining entity and face the increasing competitions from other international schools.
- safeguard the quality of teaching and prevent political interference. Teachers should be free of the burden of bureaucracy and should use their time fully to educate our children. They should be allowed to innovate without pressures.
- increase the transparency of ESF's governance and the accountability of its senior management. It is particularly important in this turbulent time.

As a parent, I shall be relentlessly monitoring the quality of education provided by ESF and ensure that every penny spent would be to the benefit of our children. I would therefore hope to be given a chance to serve you and the ESF community again.

Please vote for me.



ELIZABETH (LIZ) MACDONALD

(South Island School & Bradbury School)

I am writing to express my keen interest in being a Parent Representation on the ESF Board of Governors. I am a passionate supporter of ESF and believe I would be well suited to this role for the following reasons:

Unique understanding of ESF

Having attended ESF schools myself (Beacon Hill, Shatin Junior & Shatin College) and now as current parent, I have a unique perspective to bring to the table. Families with children attending ESF schools are part of a wider ESF family, this is a key differentiator for ESF that should be strengthened. With 22 schools under the Foundation's remit, the need to share best practices, realise efficiencies and identify collective areas for improvement across the different schools is increasingly important.

Commitment to providing meaningful contribution

As the Board is tasked with different functions relating to the overall direction, effectiveness and accountability of the ESF as set out under the ESF Ordinance, I am committed to providing factual feedback on issues of the day.

**One area I am particularly interested in is the growing use of mobile phones and computers during school hours in secondary schools. I would like to explore a uniform policy across ESF, taking into account benchmarking from peer international schools in Hong Kong and globally.

The ability to be proactive and effectively interact with parents, board members and other stakeholders on topical issues is therefore an essential characteristic that I would bring to this role.

Relevant Professional Experience

I have been working in Hong Kong for 12 years focusing on financial services regulatory compliance. In my current role as a Consultant, I advise different companies on Compliance, and Risk issues, as well as strategies for improving organizational culture. I would be happy to share this knowledge for the benefit of the ESF.

MR. CRAIG SANDERSON

Election of parent members to the ESF Board of Governors 2017

Candidate's Personal Statement

Five years ago, the word 'affordable' was quietly and permanently dropped by ESF, with the result that at the current rate of annual increases, an ESF education will cost HK\$2-3 million per child.

With the subvention also dropped (despite its apparent enshrinement in the Basic Law), this conveniently removed the Government from providing a control mechanism over ESF.

I am concerned about this. Like many of you, I work for an employer where I receive no help with school fees and on a local terms package.

If elected, this is what I would focus on:

- Reintroduce the concept of 'affordability', (which was eliminated as it was deemed 'relative and subjective', but appears to have opened the flood gates for fee increases).
- Review whether ESF could join the Hong Kong Government's Direct Subsidy Scheme and obtain a unit rate per child per year at the same rate as other DSS schools, without compromising the curriculum.
- Require the ESF to publish the names of its top 50 non-teaching staff, their remuneration, their job titles, place of work, and a brief description of what they actually do on a day-to-day basis.
- Require a root and branch review of the management role both centrally and within schools, establish where roles overlap and savings may be made.
- Put an end to vanity building projects which pander more to architectural aesthetics rather than being practical school buildings that are environmentally sustainable and inexpensive to maintain.
- By sending our children to ESF schools, we have removed the burden of education from the Government. However, the Government currently does not extend any tax concessions in relation to our children's school fees. Another potential approach would be to explore whether the foundation can obtain charitable status permitting a legitimate income-tax deduction by means of charitable donation for taxpayers. I will ask the ESF to explore whether this can be accomplished.

If not kept in check, the compound effect of 6% increases to fees will place some families and single income families at risk of needing to remove children mid-way through their journeys and/or leave Hong Kong. It is already happening. People who lose their jobs cannot afford an ESF education.

Please vote for me and I will fight to ensure transparency.

About Craig Sanderson

I have lived in Hong Kong since 1991 having moved here from the United Kingdom. Currently, I am working as an Information Technology Infrastructure Architect in the finance sector. When not working or spending time with the family, I enjoy the great outdoors and can be found hiking in the hills most weekends.

Dear Parents,

I am honoured to have the opportunity to stand for election to the Board of Governors of ESF. I hope to apply my wide range of experiences and passions to serve ESF.

My name is Eric Wong, I have two kids studying at Renaissance College (RCHK), Veronica at Year 13 & Xavier at Year 10. We are those few lucky families could start with the school from day one 10 years ago.

As a businessman, almost for 30 years, I have a trading company and exporting products to 15 different countries. This allow me to have a flexible working hours so that I could serve the communities in school.

Currently I am College Council Member of RCHK. Also this is my first year as Co-Chair and the sixth year as Committee Member of Renaissance Association of Parents & Teachers (RAPT). Through College Council & RAPT, I have many chance to communicate with the teachers & staffs of RCHK. Besides, RAPT is proud to organize the annual fundraising event - College Fair. We are helping to build a better bonding of all RCHK Communities.

Besides, I like to interact with the youth and walking through with them on their teenage life. I am the Main Scout Leader of Scout Group Unit 1694. Unit 1694 is a closed scout group at RCHK. Every Saturday morning, we have 150 RCHK students get together to learn the skills of scouting. In my troop, we have 54 Scouts who are aged from 11 - 15.

Finally, as one of the candidates which is my real honour to stand for election.

Thank you very much for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Kam Choi Wong', written in a cursive style.

Eric Kam Choi WONG