



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PARENT COUNCIL NETWORK
SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE COMMITTEE
APPLICATION FORM

Please see the entire application packet for additional information. It is acceptable for this form to be completed by hand, but please type additional pages as outlined in the application.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name:	John P. Fencil	
Home Address:		
Best Phone:		
E-mail Address:		
Have you been a resident of MSDWT since at least November 3, 2019?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Are you currently registered to vote at the home address listed above?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

II. EDUCATION

	School Attended	City, State	From-To	Major/Field of Study	Degree
High School	North Central	Indpls, IN	1975-1978	College Prep	Diploma May, 1978
Undergraduate	Indiana University	Bloomington, IN	1978-1982	Accounting/ Business	B.S. Accounting
Graduate	Indiana University	Indpls, IN	1993-1996	Business	M.B.A.
Other Degree/Study	Accounting continuing ed courses	Various	1983 + Various	Accounting Auditing Legal	C.P.A.

III. EMPLOYMENT See attached

On a separate sheet, please provide a complete statement of your employment or the past ten years. Include the dates of employment, employer's name., address, phone number, and a brief summary of the nature of the work you performed. You may also attach a resume.

IV. VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES *See attached*

On a separate sheet, please describe your volunteer and civic involvement including leadership positions held. Any and all volunteer activities related to schools and/or education **must** be disclosed.

V. CHILDREN *See attached*

Please note that you are not required to have children in the MSDWT system to serve on the School Board. This information is requested to assist in understanding your personal experience with K-12 education.

	Age	Current Grade OR High School Graduation Year	List all K-12 schools attended (if not MSDWT schools, please include school district or indicate if private/charter).
Child 1			
Child 2			
Child 3			
Child 4			

VI. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

If you answer "Yes" to any of the questions below, please attach a separate sheet with further explanation. Please note that potential conflicts of interest do not necessarily disqualify you from endorsement.

Do you or does your employer do business with MSDWT, OR is there a reasonable possibility that you or your employer would do business with MSDWT in the future? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Does anyone in your immediate family or their employer(s) do business with MSDWT, OR is there a reasonable possibility that they or their employer(s) would do business with MSDWT in the future? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Do you or anyone in your family have an interest (business, employment, professional, investment, etc) which may impair your ability to act objectively on behalf of MSDWT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

VII. BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS *See attached*

Please provide answers to the following questions in a separate sheet.

- A. Why are interested in running to be a member of the MSDWT School Board this year?
- B. Describe your beliefs about the current state of public education in Indiana?
- C. What characteristics do you possess that make you a strong *candidate* for School Board?
- D. What characteristics do you possess that make you a strong *member* of the School Board?
- E. Describe your beliefs about the current success of MSDWT as a district, including strengths and weaknesses.
- F. Will you still run for School Board if you do not receive the endorsement of Parent Council? Why or why not?
- G. If elected, how would you work on the School Board to support Parent Council's Mission?

The Washington Township Parent Council Network is an independent group of parent advocates of MSDWT students who represent a diverse community in Indianapolis and believe that quality public education is an investment in the future. Members of the Parent Council Network give their time to actively influence the direction of the District and support positive learning experiences that result in students who are productive contributors throughout their lives.

VIII. AGREEMENT/AUTHORIZATION

	Initials
I agree to submit to a personal interview before the SBCC which will be open to all Parent Council Network members for the purpose of determining my qualifications for endorsement. I understand that all interviews will be conducted on Sunday, August 16th and that I will be contacted as soon as possible with my time slot.	<i>JS</i>
I agree that this application (with address and phone redacted) may be made public and posted on the MSDWT website after the application deadline has passed, for review by the Parent Council Network members prior to the endorsement vote. I understand that any information received from third parties will be treated confidentially.	<i>JS</i>

I HEREBY REPRESENT THAT ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS TRUE, CORRECT, AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND I HEREBY CONSENT TO HAVING THIS INFORMATION VERIFIED.

Signature *John P. Ferrel*

Date *8/11/2020*

Printed Name *John P. Ferrel*

Application for MSDWT Parent Council Endorsement of School Board Candidacy

John Fencil

III. EMPLOYMENT

Fencil Group, LLC (1995-present) 6262 Bramshaw Road, Indianapolis, IN 46220 317-514-6200
Advise clients who need a CFO, Controller, or business advice but do not have this need on a full-time basis.

Gibraltar Design, Inc. (2003-2012) 9102 N. Meridian Street, Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46260
317-580-5777

Chief Financial Officer leading all finance, accounting, human resource, and risk management functions for this 60-70 person professional services firm

IV. VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Eastwood Middle School – Failure Is Not an Option (FINO) program, After School Tutor; Cross Country Team, Team Parent; Track Team, Team Parent

Washington Township Young Life—WyldLife Program for middle school students, Small Group Leader the last two years for the same group of boys; WyldLife Camp 2016, Detroit Lakes, MN, Cabin Leader

Allisonville Elementary School – 4th & 5th Grade, Math Tutor for two years for students that needed extra support; Dad's Club

Indiana CPA Society – Indianapolis Chapter, Past President; Leadership Cabinet; Course Instructor and Facilitator

Construction Financial Management Association – Indianapolis Chapter, Past President

Stanley K. Lacy Leadership Program – Graduate Class XXI

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Indianapolis, Inc. – Board of Managers, Past Treasurer & Big Brother

Crossroads Great Banquet Community, E. 91st Christian Church – Past Community Lay Director

Toastmasters International – Distinguished TM, Past Club President, Past Area Governor

Application for MSDWT Parent Council Endorsement of School Board Candidacy

John Fencil

Indiana University Kelley School of Business – Indianapolis Alumni Club, Past President, Board of Directors

Upward Youth Basketball and Allisonville Youth Baseball & Softball Leagues – Head Coach, Assistant Coach and Mentor

V. CHILDREN

Fencil, age 17, 12th grade, North Central High School

Fencil, age 16, 11th grade, North Central High School

VII. BELIEF AND CHARACTERISTICS

Why are you interested in running to be a member of the MSDWT School Board this year?

My public education, particularly in high school, has had a life-long impact on me. The growth I experienced during this time created values, beliefs and personal understanding that I carry to this day. The experiences with self-directed learning and education beyond the classroom walls for example, created skills and experiences that have made me a better person.

My passion for education, combined with the positive experience I had with MSDWT schools and my value to give back, lead me to want to serve. Being a parent amplifies my awareness as to the need for quality education. My service to the District over the last three and a half years has further helped me understand the issues facing our public schools and emphasizes the importance of keeping our schools strong. These are the reasons I want to serve.

Describe your beliefs about the current state of public education in Indiana.

I believe in public education. I am impressed with the teachers, administrators, students, and parents that I have interacted with over the course of my term. I appreciate the passion that exists to support our students' education within our local community.

Application for MSDWT Parent Council Endorsement of School Board Candidacy

John Fencil

However, the broader public education environment in Indiana is troubling. During my tenure on the Board, I have become more aware and seen firsthand how policy making at the state level has impacted our District. Examples include pressure on funding through changes to the complexity index, grades for school accountability, and legislation that is friendly towards charter schools. Based on the current political environment this pressure on public education will continue.

Together though we can impact change. We have a voice and as a MSD Washington Township community have done a good job at the statehouse making our voice known. I want to see this continue.

What characteristics do you possess that would make you a strong candidate for School Board?

Characteristics that will help me be a strong candidate for School Board include that I am comfortable speaking in front of people, being able to articulate my background and ideas, and my interest in hearing what concerns stakeholders have regarding the district. The experience of campaigning four years ago has given me additional insight as to the dynamics of campaigning and what it takes to run a successful campaign. I am committed and willing to serve with integrity.

What characteristics do you possess that would make you a strong member of the School Board?

I believe that I have three key attributes that would facilitate me being a strong Board Member. They are a strong financial background, understanding the role of the Board, and a passion for education.

I have a MBA and have worked my entire career in the accounting and financial arena. I am not intimidated by financial information and know that I can offer insights into the District's financial position and business dealings that would be helpful to both the Board and the administration.

Application for MSDWT Parent Council Endorsement of School Board Candidacy

John Fencil

I have served as a member of the School Board the last three and a half years. The District is much more complex and difficult to govern than one typically views from the outside. It takes time to gain this perspective and institutional knowledge. I believe that my service on the Board makes me a much better future Board member as I can leverage my existing knowledge base and insights to the District for the benefit of our stakeholders. I understand the need to be thoughtful and deliberate when making decisions; taking into consideration all stakeholders and questioning information as appropriate. I am responsible; level headed and a consensus builder. I understand the role of the School Board versus that of the administration.

I want the best education possible for the students of MSDWT. I want our students to develop the skills needed to excel in life. This quality education can be different for different students, but with the goal of allowing them to thrive upon graduation. I believe each student should have the opportunity to an outstanding educational experience. I value education and understand its' importance for the future of both our students and our community.

Describe your beliefs about the current success of MSDWT as a district, including strengths and weaknesses.

I am excited about the current successes of MSDWT as a district. The District has strong support from stakeholder groups. Several recent accomplishments would not have been possible without support from teachers, parents, the administration and the community. These accomplishments include a 90+% graduation rate, the development of a new strategic plan for the next five years and the passage with widespread community support of both the operating and construction referenda.

While the District is strong, it also has room for improvement. While I am pleased for the development of the strategic plan, it highlights key areas needing improvement. These include priority #1 Equitable Achievement and Priority #2 Hiring and Retention of a High Quality & Diverse Staff. Priority #1 includes specific benchmarks for graduation rates, reading performance and math performance for subgroups including Asian, Black, Hispanic, and Multi populations as well as White students. Priority #2 focuses on the need for increased teacher retention and expanding the diversity of our staff.

Application for MSDWT Parent Council Endorsement of School Board Candidacy

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As I wrote in the School Board Message in the strategic plan:

"We face significant challenges as public education leaders and stakeholders. Yet we have the honor of having been given the responsibility by the public to educate the next generation. We are inspired by this responsibility and hope to make an extraordinary impact in the lives of our students. This plan represents our commitment to our students, staff, and community to reach further."

I will continue to leverage our strengths and focus on overcoming our weaknesses in an effort to better education all our students.

Will you still run for School Board if you do not receive the endorsement of the Parent Council? Why or why not?

Yes. I am committed to MSDWT schools. I live in the district; my children attend MSDWT schools and I am a product of the district. I believe that I have a set of skills that would benefit the Board and thus the students in the district. Certainly I hope to be endorsed by the Parent Council and would appreciate the support associated with such an endorsement. I do not believe, however, that the lack of an endorsement would be cause not to follow my conviction and seek a position on the School Board.

If elected how would you work on the School Board to support Parent Council's Mission Statement?

I would be thoughtful, responsible and committed with a caring heart and open mind in my decision making and voting to support quality education for the students of the district. I am a community voice that will support positive learning experiences.