



whatcom county library system

Mr. Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 108
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Executive Sidhu:

As you know, trustee Claudia Disend will be vacating WCLS Board of Trustees Position #5 as she will be living part of the year out of the area. To fill the remaining years of her term, which runs through 1/31/2025, the Board Personnel Committee met with several applicants. While all had many admirable qualities, one applicant stood out for a multitude of reasons. His name is Matthew Santos.

Mr. Santos is the Executive Director of Admissions and Advising at Bellingham Technical College and a resident of Blaine. He is a PhD candidate at Oregon State University who values lifelong learning. He is the father of two young children who devour library books and movies. Our Blaine Library staff refer to him as a "power user," a title he proudly claims.

Mr. Santos identifies as a Latino man and one of his interests is making sure that all people can see themselves at the library and benefit from the many services the library has to offer. He spoke eloquently of relying on internet access at the Blaine and Ferndale libraries during the pandemic, and pointed out that not having the internet at home means no streaming services. His children know how to place holds on new DVDs as soon as they come out and get really excited when their family rises to the top of a long library holds queue. It is refreshing to meet a trustee candidate with such a rich and varied current experience as a library user who understands first-hand the barriers to service some of our patrons may be facing.

Additionally, Mr. Santos brings professional connections and experience with higher education, both at Whatcom Community College and BTC. Furthermore, he served as a sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps and has an interest in providing services to veterans.

We were incredibly impressed by Mr. Santos and enthusiastically recommend him to you for appointment. We believe he would be a great addition to the WCLS Board of Trustees. We appreciate the opportunity to recommend his appointment to you. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Marvin Waschke, Chair


Lori Jump, Vice Chair


Claudia Disend, Secretary & Personnel Cmte.


Rodney Lofdah, Personnel Cmte.

Erika Lautenbach, Tr

The Power c

5205 Northwest Drive Bellingham, Washington

RECEIVED

JUN 27 2022

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

SS

June 21, 2022

I agree with the recommendation. Pls. appoint. SS.

Please see the enclosed scanned signature and email from Ms. Lautenbach. -Katie Nail

500 | wcls.org



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Erika Lautenbach, Trustee

The Power of Sharing

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