



Mayor of Providence

Brett P. Smiley

January 3, 2023

Honorable Members
Providence City Council
City Hall

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to Sections 302(b) and 701 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, as amended and Public Law, Chapter 45-50, Sections 1 through 3 passed 1987, I am this day appointing George Matouk of 108 Prospect Street, Providence, RI 02906, as a member of the Providence School Board for a term to expire on January 31, 2026, and respectfully submit the same for your approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BPS-17", is written over a horizontal line.

Brett P. Smiley
Mayor

IN CITY COUNCIL
JAN 19 2023

READ

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED AND APPROVED

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tina L. Mastropasqua", is written over a horizontal line. The word "CLERK" is printed to the right of the signature.

Contact

925 Airport Road
Fall River, MA 02720
508-997-3444 (Work)
gmatouk@matouk.com

www.linkedin.com/in/george-matouk-1984691 (LinkedIn)
www.matouk.com (Company)
tinyurl.com/9rags4n (Other)

Top Skills

Public Speaking
Strategic Planning
Social Media

George Matouk

CEO, John Matouk & Co.
Providence County, Rhode Island, United States

Experience

John Matouk & Co.
CEO
July 1997 - Present (25 years 5 months)

The Gordon School
Board Chair
2009 - June 2019 (10 years)
Trustee, Treasurer, Board Chair

Education

Columbia University - Columbia Business School
MBA · (1995 - 1997)

Vanderbilt University
Bachelor of Arts - BA, English · (1987 - 1991)

GEORGE Matouk

Address

108 Prospect Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02906
United States
[Map It](#)

How many years have you been a Providence resident?

24

Phone

(508) 369-9383

Work Address

925 Airport Road, Fall River MA 02720

Work Phone

(508) 369-9383

Email

gmatouk@matouk.com

Where and how would you prefer to be contacted?

Email

General Questions

What do you consider to be three of the most critical issues currently facing the Providence Public School district? Please be as specific as possible.

1. Learning loss and overall academic achievement
2. Recruiting of retention of excellent teachers, including teachers of color
3. Quality of facilities, management of facilities and deferred maintenance

What is the role of the School Board in addressing these critical issues?

The School Board should set policies, strategies and systems of accountability to insure that School Administrators have the resources required to deliver the best educational results possible to PPS students. Further the Board should set policies and strategies that insure PPS professionals are fairly compensated and given the resources required to achieve success in their areas of expertise and in and their careers, in general. A successful board will be comprised of a diverse set of stakeholders who bring unique governance and operational expertise that PPS requires while maintaining a commitment to students and professionals and institutions.

Are you able and willing to commit to a three year term beginning in 2023 which requires an average of four meetings per month? In a typical month there are business meetings which provide management oversight of the School Department, workshops which educate the Board, and disciplinary hearings which require full Board attendance.

Yes, I am self-employed and am able to make that commitment.

Questions for First-Time Applicants

How do you view the role of a School Board member? What are the strengths and experiences that you would bring to this position?

School Board members should be committed to improving the quality of outcomes for all PPS stakeholders while understanding the breadth and limitations of responsibilities that a governing group must maintain. Personally, I have a broad background of educational, operational and governance skills that I would like to bring to bear for the benefit of PPS. I am committed to excellent education and I taught English as a Second Language for several organizations in Ecuador from 1993-1994. I have tutored students extensively throughout my life, worked as a volunteer in an ESL Classroom at Hope High School in 2020 and mentored many entrepreneurs through the Social Enterprise Greenhouse in Providence. I have been the CEO of Matouk, the linen manufacturer in Fall River MA for 20 years and in that role I have been responsible for the growth and health of the organization and our employees. I can bring extensive operational and financial management experience gained through building and leading a complex organization. Hopefully, my wife Mindy and I demonstrated our commitment to PPS through the donation of over 50,000 cloth masks at the onset of the pandemic.

What non-profit board and community leadership positions have you held or do you hold now? How has this work informed your understanding of the role of a School Board member?

I served on the Board of Trustees of The Gordon School in East Providence, RI for ten years, 2009-2019. During that period I served as Treasurer from 2013-2016 and Board Chair from 2016-2019. Although an independent school, the Gordon School is known across the country as a leader in multicultural educational practice and programs promoting diversity, equity and inclusion. During my tenure on the Board, I was a member of many committees and task forces addressing a wide range of educational, financial and institutional issues. As a trustee and as a board chair, I worked hard to make sure that school leadership felt supported and

heard by the board, but also were given the freedom to implement curriculum without unnecessary board interference. I have also been a member of the board member of the Fall River Office of Economic Development and am currently a mentor/coach at the Social Enterprise Greenhouse. I choose my community positions carefully and do not have any commitments at this time that would interfere with a term on the PPS School Board.

How, at present, do you keep informed about education policy in general and issues facing the Providence Public Schools in particular? How, as a School Board member, would you educate yourself more fully? What resources would be helpful to you in gaining the background and information you would wish to acquire?

I keep informed about education through reading about what is happening in education in our community and across the country, but I would have a lot to learn regarding PPS for sure. I would immerse myself in whatever PPS made available to me, at the very least studying as many years of board meeting minutes as I could get my hands on and seeking the counsel of current and previous board members. I would seek out associations committed to excellence in trusteeship and would be open minded to formal board development educational opportunities so my learning curve would be as steep as possible.

Please submit names of and contact information for two references.

Ralph Wales, Head of School, the Gordon School 1994-2018. walesralph@gmail.com 401-556-1228

Meg Wirth, Program Director, Social Enterprise Greenhouse. mwirth@segreenhouse.org

Did you attend the Providence Public Schools? If so, please list the schools and the years you attended each school.

No.

Do you have or have you had children attending the Providence Public Schools? If so, please list the schools your children have attended and the years they attended each school.

No.

How did you learn about this application process?

Through a local email listserv.

Attach your current resume here, including your education, employment history, and any other info you deem relevant.

[George-Matouk-resume.pdf](#)

Would you object to the disclosure of any information on this application?

No

Certify

I hereby certify that the information that I have presented in this application is complete, accurate, and true to the best of my knowledge, and I hereby authorize the School Board Nominating Commission to verify this information as may be required.

By entering your name you are hereby certifying that the information that you have presented in this application is complete, accurate, and true to the best of your knowledge.

George Matouk

Date

11/28/2022