

Date: October 9, 2023
To: VTAEYC Members
From: Christina Goodwin, President and Chair of the Nominating Committee
Re: Director Elections

As a membership association, we are excited to see our members at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday November 7th from 7:30-8:30 am at the Stoweflake in Stowe, VT. This is a time for us to gather, connect, hear updates about the organization and make decisions about members who will serve as directors for the Association.

Last fall, our Association revised our bylaws to ensure we were compliant with all rules and regulations. As such, we shifted our director roles and term limits to ensure the Board of Directors have a rotational onboarding and offboarding process. For 2023, the Board has nominated a slate of directors to serve a two-year term.

In order to approve the election of the directors under our current bylaws, at least 10% of our membership will vote at the Annual meeting on November 7th.

If you have any questions about the board election, please do not hesitate to contact me at president@vtaeyc.org

Candidates for the VTAEYC Board of Directors running for a two-year term ending October 2026:

- Rebecca Bishop
- Amber Bollman*
- Christina Goodwin
- Ella McCarthy*
- Danny Sawtelle*
- Kelley Todriff*
- Johanna Vaczy

*New Board Members

Rebecca Bishop, Head Start

Rebecca Bishop Ware has worked in Early Childhood Education for over 27 years. Rebecca is currently the Associate Director of Bennington County Head Start- Early Head Start. She is also

a Board member of the Bennington County Child Care Association, is co-leader of the Vermont Early Childhood Network, Bennington County Starting Points Leadership Network, and serves on various other state and regional committees related to the Early Childhood field. Rebecca earned a Master of Education in Program Administration from Champlain College, BA in Sociology from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, is a 2023 graduate from the University of California Los Angeles Head Start Management Fellows Program, a 2017 graduate of the Snelling Center for Government's Early Childhood Leadership Institute, and a Vermont Director Credential Step 3 with Specialization in Early Childhood Programs. Rebecca lives in Shaftsbury, Vermont with her family. She enjoys reading, spending time with family and friends, and traveling to warm places.

Amber Bollman, Family Child Care Provider

Amber Bollman, a Family Child Care Provider located in West Burke, has served a variety of roles throughout her 17 years in the Early Childhood Education field. Amber loves being on the floor working directly with children and families, but as a member of Let's Grow Kid's ECE Leadership Circle, she has come to love the advocacy work for the field as well. Currently, pursuing her Pre-K teaching licensure, Amber is joining our board excited to offer her perspectives and work with others to help strengthen the Early Childhood Education system.

Christina Goodwin, Center Based Director

Christina has been a licensed early childhood educator for over 20 years. She graduated from the University Vermont with a degree in early childhood education and has a Masters of Education from Antioch University. She is the Executive Director of a non profit early childhood education program in Burlington where she has also been a toddler teacher, preschool teacher, assistant director and at times, food program manager. Since 2019 she has served on the Task Force for Advancing as a Profession and has been sharing the work with the field through professional development opportunities. Recently Chistina has mentored students at VSU and UVM as she is committed to supporting our current and future workforce. Through advocacy opportunities Christina has used her voice to advocate for equitable and affordable access to high quality early childhood education for children and their families. She has been on the VTAEYC board since 2019 and has served on the Executive Committee since 2020. She lives in Essex Junction with her family.

Ella McCarthy, Kindergarten Teacher

Ella McCarthy is a new early childhood educator and graduated last year from the University of Vermont, studying early childhood education. She now works as a kindergarten teacher serving students in Williston, Vermont. As a Vermont native, she is passionate about working to enhance the teaching and learning experiences for both students and educators. Specifically, she is

interested in developing strong policy surrounding access to equitable and accessible early childhood experiences. By working alongside VTAEYC, Ella hopes to advocate for new educators in the field as well as understand the policies in place that impact the field on a day to day basis. She is excited to serve on the board, and looks forward to the personal growth she experiences while working with other professionals.

Danny Sawtelle, Financial Services

Danny brings over 20 years of experience in the financial services industry to VTAEYC as the new board Treasurer. In addition to that role, he has served on the Northshire Day School board of trustees in Manchester for the past three years. There, he is on the finance committee while also serving as chair of the fundraising and development committee. He and his wife Meghan are passionate advocates for quality, affordable child care in Vermont, and have been active supporters of Let's Grow Kids over the last couple of years.

Kelley Todriff, Children's Integrated Services Coordinator Rutland Region

A native of Vermont, Kelley currently resides in Clarendon with her husband. She has two children and two grandchildren who are the light of her life. She began her career operating her own registered home daycare, and from there, she applied to work for her local Head Start program as a teacher, where she discovered her passion for education and the impact she could make in the lives of young children and their families. In total, she enjoyed 30 years with Head Start, moving her way up from teacher to Family Services Manager overseeing Mental Health and Children's Enrollment and then as Assistant Director where she was involved with managing a NAEYC Accredited/5-STAR program with Universal Pre-K and Childcare funding and was able to further her skills in program operations and grant management. Throughout her career, she has continued to use her passion, knowledge, and experience in advocacy to advance the lives of young children and families within her community and at both the State and Federal levels through involvement with Building Bright Futures and Let's Grow Kids. She brings her skills and leadership experience to her current position as the Coordinator for Children's Integrated Services for the Rutland Region. She looks forward to extending her extensive background in children's services, education, and parent engagement by serving on the VTAEYC Board.

Johanna Vaczy

After 41 years in the field of Early Childhood, Johanna has recently retired. During those years, she served as a teacher of young children, a center director, coach/mentor to other ECE's, instructor, coordinator of STARS, and a board member of VTAEYC. She obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Programs and Services from the University of Vermont in 1977. It took her a while, but in 2007, she earned a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education and



Human Services Leadership, which allowed her to engage with Early Childhood Educators and Early Care and Education Programs more broadly. She now lives in Middlebury with her husband and their cat, Betty. She is an avid gardener, knitter, and cook. She has 3 grown children and a new granddaughter who is so scrumptious. She looks forward to serving the members of VTAEYC, and the field of Early Childhood Education.