

Prince Boateng
18 Merrill Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

October 12, 2022

Newburyport School Committee
70 Low Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Newburyport School Committee and City Council Members:

I am writing to express my interest in the School Committee position being vacated by Sheila Spalding, and I have attached my resume for reference. I would like to briefly explain my interest in serving on the Newburyport School Committee, and provide some information on my background. I am an international development professional and a Commander in the US Navy (Active Reserves), who also serves as CEO and Co-Founder of AgroFides, an AgTech company based here in Newburyport. My family and I moved to Newburyport 7 years ago after living in Washington, DC, for nearly a decade. We planned to live in Newburyport for only a few years and then move on to a career in the military or foreign service. Instead, we fell in love with this city and decided to make it our home. My wife and I have two daughters who attend Newburyport Public Schools, including one daughter who is currently on an IEP. I fully understand as a parent how important our schools are to the health, happiness, and preparedness of our young people.

Moreover, I have served Newburyport in several volunteer roles. For the past two years, I have served as a member of the City's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Alliance. I have also had the privilege of working with students at the Bresnahan, helping to run the Build our Kids Success (BOKS) before-school program for two years. BOKS is a physical activity program that runs before school that helps children of all abilities improve their physical and mental health through movement. This program not only provided me with an opportunity to work with K-3rd graders but also to work with teachers and administrators at the Bresnahan. In addition, coaching U6 to U12 soccer through NYSA has given me more time to work with young people and families in our community.

Although I was familiar with the work of the School Committee in my role as a parent, like any good researcher, I set to work to investigate what the School Committee's mission, scope, and priorities are, particularly looking at the functions of the committee: legislative and policymaking; appraisal; provision of financial resources; public relations; and educational planning and evaluation. I believe that my skills and interests align strongly with this position. My professional background provides me with a unique skill set to contribute to the committee, which would allow me to help carry out the functions of the school committee as follows:

Legislative, Policymaking and Appraisal: I have had experience at the federal government level in policymaking regarding reforming the US government's international food aid and disaster response. Working with federal elected officials and presidential administrations, I have developed policies that help our government reach its mission and goals related to international humanitarian efforts. These experiences have strengthened many vital skills, including drafting and updating existing policies, working collaboratively, problem solving, and consensus building. As it relates to a role on the Newburyport School Committee, I am particularly interested in the upcoming policy review and updates to be conducted with the MASC.

Provision of Financial Resources: My work as a Commander in the Navy, particularly during my tour at the Pentagon while building the Program Objective Memorandum (POM), has provided me with transferable skills for the school committee's budgeting work. The POM is part of the programming phase of the Program, Planning, Budget, and Execution (PPBE) process that informs the Office of the Secretary of Defense. My work consisted of developing detailed allocations of resources and funding to show how the US navy could allocate resources to meet future warfighting requirements. These skills would be beneficial and are transferable to budgeting as part of the school committee, enabling the school system to carry out the committee's policies.

Public Relations, Educational Planning, and Evaluation: My nearly two decades of experience in the U.S. Navy and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), have afforded me opportunities to lead large teams, manage complex, multi-million dollar programs, and provided me with many transferable skills. Whether addressing potential military threats or responding to global disasters/emergencies, these roles require systematic planning, program evaluation, adapting to changes, as well as considering taxpayer relations and information sharing.

I am fully invested in doing whatever I can to help support NPS, and by extension, the young people and families of Newburyport. It would be an honor to be selected to use my knowledge, experience, and passion for education in Newburyport as a new member of the School Committee. I can be reached at prince.o.boateng@gmail.com or via phone at 917-574-1686 should you have any questions. I look forward to the meeting on October 20th and being able to further elaborate on my background and answer any questions about my qualifications and interest in serving on the Newburyport School Committee. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Prince Boateng

PRINCE O. BOATENG

18 Merrill St * Newburyport, MA 01950 * (571) 481-1398 * Prince.Boateng@agrofides.com

OBJECTIVE International Development/ Humanitarian Assistance professional and Military Officer specializing in national security issues including global food security, foreign disaster assistance, and strategic sealift of U.S. Military forces

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Global Governance and Human Security, May 2023
University of Massachusetts Boston, Boston, MA

Master of Arts in Global Governance and Human Security, December 2019
University of Massachusetts Boston, Boston, MA

Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies
Concentration in African Studies, May 2014
U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI

Master of Arts in Transportation and Logistics Management, May 2010
American Military University, Charles Town, WV

Bachelor of Science in Marine Business and Commerce, May 2006
State University of New York Maritime College, Bronx, NY

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Contracting Officer
Agreement Officer
FAC- C Level III Certification
United States Coast Guard Third Mate's License, renewed February 2012
STCW-95 Compliant, renewed February 2012
Joint Professional Military Education Level I

SECURITY CLEARANCE

Top Secret SCI

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder/CEO 04/2019 – Present
AgroFides, Newburyport, MA

- AgroFides is a business development and capital resourcing partner for farmers, as well as a marketplace for lenders to make impact loans to farmers in developing countries.

Senior Contracting Officer 12/2012 – Present

Supply Chain Management Lead

United States Agency for International Development, Washington DC

- Serve as a contracting officer and supply chain management lead, responsible for planning, negotiating, directing and managing the procurement of commodities, and transportation/logistics services for USAID food aid and disaster assistance programs
- Lead contracting officer for Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, managing the transportation and logistics aspects of the U.S. Government's humanitarian response to geopolitical events and natural disasters worldwide
- Develop and implement innovative policies enabling the effective transport of millions of tons of food aid and disaster relief commodities globally
- Serve as contracting officer managing the operations of six global food aid and disaster relief prepositioning warehouses
- Set policy and provide guidance to contractors, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Intergovernmental Agencies (IGO) in oversight of their transportation of USAID impelled humanitarian relief commodities
- Guide the work of U.S. Government Agencies, NGOs, and IGOs, including UN agencies such as the World Food Programme, United Nations Children's Fund, and UN

Humanitarian Response Depot in their effort to deliver critical food aid and disaster relief commodities to support USAID relief missions around the world

- Assist the USAID Administrator in pressing forward with the President's Food Aid Reform agenda through meetings with USAID senior leadership, interagency partners, and looking for ways to make U.S. food aid operations more efficient and effective
- Represent USAID in numerous meetings, including interagency meetings with OMB, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, U.S. Maritime Administration, congressional staffers, CBO, the UN World Food Program, UN Humanitarian Response Depot, and many other civilian and federal entities
- Collaborate with OMB and the U.S. Maritime Administration on budgeting and regulatory matters representing USAID's interest
- Lead on all maritime transportation issues, including supporting regulatory and legislative initiatives

Senior Agreement Officer, Ocean Freight Reimbursement (OFR) Grant Program

12/2012 - Present

United States Agency for International Development, Washington DC

- Serve as Agreement Officer on the OFR program, managing the life cycle of 45 federal grants
- Collaborate with NGOs in leveraging resources many times the value of federal funding, mobilizing more than \$180 million in private resources annually
- Assist NGO in shipping a wide variety of goods overseas for use in privately funded development and humanitarian assistance programs
- Consult with OFR grantees in their effort to work with USAID and other humanitarian aid organizations
- Ensure commodities sent with OFR funds support grantees projects that are in line with USAID mission statement and goals

Commander, U.S. Navy (Reserve and Active Duty) 05/2006 - Present

United States Navy

Operations, Plans, and Strategy Dept Head/ NCAGS Officer 03/2022 – Present

Commander, US Second Fleet Norfolk, VA

- Manage reserve resources required by Commander, US Second Fleet, to meet its mission
- Provide Ship Owners, Operators, Masters, and Officers with information regarding the interaction between naval forces and merchant shipping

Strategic Planner/ Interagency Dept Head 11/2018 – 02/2022

Commander, US Naval Forces Europe/Africa; Commander, US Six Fleet

- Coordinated and collaborated with U.S. Government and African Navy colleagues who work on fishery management, combatting illicit activities, and improving maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea
- Lead Planner for Exercise Obangame Express, the largest multinational maritime exercise in Western Africa

Commanding Officer 11/2016 – 11/2018

Operational Support Unit (OSU 0630), NOSC Manchester, Manchester, HH

- Led a team of 60 military personnel, responsible for unit readiness, operations, and training
- Supporting Navy Operational Support Center Manchester with administrative and training requirements for 12 navy reserve units and 250 navy reservist

Staff Officer 01/2016 – 11/2016

U.S. European Command (EUCOM) Interagency Partnering (J9), Reserve Unit, Quincy, MA

- Supported EUCOM's "whole of society" approach in the European area of responsibility, by integrating agencies outside of DOD, including academia, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, private businesses, and international organizations to better execute EUCOM's missions

Operations Analyst/Action Officer 4/2012 - 01/2016

Chief of Naval Operation (CNO) Capabilities Assessment- OPNAV N81, Pentagon

- Applied military and civilian experience in providing quality, independent, capability analysis and assessment to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations Capabilities

- Assessment (N81) on seabasing programs including Mobil Landing Platforms, Joint High Speed Vessels (JHSV) and High Speed Transports (HST)
- Supported CNO's Staff with the development of warfare requirements, allocation of resources, program planning, and study efforts to ensure integration of Planning Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) and Assessments
- Conducted studies on the future of seabasing and made recommendation to Deputy Chief of Naval Operations Capabilities Assessment (N81) on which future Navy platform to fund based on Chief of Naval Operation guidance, Secretary of Defense guidance, and the US National Security Strategy
- Performed analysis on using civilian crew to operate Amphibious Assault Ship by identifying civilian crew functions, operation and maintenance costs, and legal issues and opinions on civilian operation of combatant ships
- Assist CNO's Staff in reviewing U.S. Marine Corps Strategic Laydown in the Pacific and providing details on JHSV and HST availabilities and capabilities
- Work closely with CNO's Staff (OPNAV N51) to draft Concept of Employment (CONEMP) for the JHSVs, which is a new class of ship. The CONEMP which covers vessel characteristics, capabilities and mission sets will be used by operational units to help plan future missions onboard the JHSVs
- Assisted CNO's Staff (OPNAV N81M) in reviewing the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Board studies on Navy support of Special Operations Forces Wholeness Concept of Operation
- Assisted Navy Personnel on the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) by providing briefings on JHSV, HST and other sealift platform's capabilities and mission sets

Assistant Officer in Charge 11/2011 - 03/2012

Strategic Sealift Detachment Norfolk, Washington DC

- Ensured the readiness of 300 Individual Ready Reserves Officers by keeping them informed of Strategic Sealift Officer program developments, requirements, and opportunities to best manage their naval careers

Recall to Active Duty: Sustainment Section Chief 10/2010 - 11/2011

Central Command Deployment Distribution Operations Center, Kuwait

- Led a team of joint military personnel in sustainment of forces and redeployment of forces operations at a joint military command center
- Conducted operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) including coordinating the synchronization of inter and intra theater ammunition air shipments for the entire Central Command Joint Operating Area
- Monitored the deployment of forces and material by strategic sealift, tracking, and facilitating sealift operations for the entire Central Command Joint Operating Area
- Conduct operations in support of Operation New Dawn including the redeployment of military force from Iraq.
- Provided analysis of booking and throughput trends for all theater stakeholders, resulting in measurable improvements in surface velocity in support of OEF

Staff Duty Officer 10/2009 - 10/2010

Military Sealift Command HQ Reserve Unit, Washington DC

- Supported all requirements within MSCHQ Global Command Information Center including gathering, processing, disseminating and displaying operational information and reports throughout the MSC Enterprise and the chain of command.
- Disseminated operational orders from COMSC to subordinate operational commands and ships OPCON to COMSC

Training Officer 10/2007 - 10/2009

Sea Logistics Command Reserve Unit, Baltimore MD

- Provided sea logistics support to MSC area offices in Europe and the Far East
- Trained MSC reserve personnel on MSC and commercial maritime operations
- Supported MSC's efforts in various joint and combined exercises including a Korean theater exercise, Ulchi Freedom Guardian.
- Performed duties of Crisis Action Team watch stander in various MSC offices in the Far East and as an LNO at the U.S. and Republic of Korea Combined Seaport Coordination Center in Busan, Korea

Program Specialist/Marine Transportation Specialist 11/2007 - 12/2012

Military Sealift Command, Washington DC

- Gained extensive program management and acquisition experience as a Program Specialist/ Marine Transportation Specialist managing all aspect of assigned MSC ships
- Actively participated in the development of proposals for long range program plans
- Worked on ship building requirements for MSC by drafting technical SOW for new MSC ships and technical upgrades to existing MSC ships to meet customers' specifications
- Lead Program Specialist on the acquisition of the new Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV) class authoring documents including Performance Work Statement, Technical Manual, Acquisition Plan, Source Selection Plan, and Acquisition Plan
- Drafted technical statements of work and technical evaluation criteria, review technical proposals, and make recommendations to the contracting officer on which vessels or operating company will best help the government to achieve the mission at hand
- Performed on-hire and off-hire surveys to sign and release MSC chartered vessels on and off contract
- Built and executed budgetary requirements for MSC projects
- Developed planning, programming, budgeting and execution for MSC ships
- Developed policies, concepts of operation, concepts of employment, and procedures for the management of assigned ships
- Prepared detailed reports, briefings, and analyses with recommendations for action for higher authority and other staff

Financial Advisor 9/2006 - 8/2007

Ameriprise Financial, Portsmouth, NH

- Worked as a licensed stockbroker, investment advisor, and insurance agent
- Collaborated with diverse clientele including individuals and small business owners to achieve their financial goals through comprehensive financial planning strategies

US Merchant Marine Officer/Third Mate

United States Coast Guard Third Mate's License, renewed February 2012

Employers: J. Ray & McDermott, Houston, TX. Seabulk, Fort Lauderdale, FL

TS Empire State, Bronx, NY Keystone Shipping Company, Cynwyd, PA

- Trained U.S. Merchant Marine Officer with active professional License to work on Merchant ships as Third Officer
- Performed the duties of the Navigational watchstander on numerous Merchant ships such as maneuvering vessel safely and in accordance with navigational rules of the road.
- Provided keen oversight in supervising the overall vessel safety operations, quality assessment, and documentation
- Seamlessly managed the loading and discharges of various liquid bulk cargos
- Collaborated with ship's officers and crew to evaluate functionality and manage maintenance on ship's equipment