



CRCS Board of Directors Information Guide for Potential Board Candidates

Purpose of Charter School Boards

Serving on the Board of Directors for a charter school is a great privilege and a great responsibility. Charter school Boards are responsible for providing leadership, supporting the success of all students, and governing the school and its affairs. Board members work with each other, the Executive Director, and the authorizer to ensure all laws and policies are followed, the school is viable and healthy, and students and staff are successful. Board members have a number of responsibilities for the overall wellbeing of the school: they have a duty of care for the students and families of the school as well as the school as a whole; a duty of loyalty to making decisions in the best interest of the school and its mission; and a duty of obedience to the law.

Why Join the Board?

- *Make a difference in children's lives*
- *Contribute to the community's long-term prosperity and sustainability*
- *Support the school in providing an excellent education that empowers students to succeed and make a difference in the world*
- *Gain leadership experience*
- *Engage in school governance and decision making*
- *Learn about educational programs, services, and opportunities*
- *Share your innovative ideas*

Board Member Eligibility

Who is eligible to join the CRCS Board of Directors? Any parent of a student enrolled in the school, any licensed teacher who is employed by CRCS and providing instruction, and community members living or working in Minneapolis are eligible to serve on the CRCS Board.

Board members must either be elected by the school's eligible voters to a seat up for election or appointed by sitting Board members to a seat that has been vacated prior to the end of the seat's term.



CRCS Board Structure

All Minnesota charter school Boards must have at least one parent, one community member, and one teacher on them. The CRCS Board has a total of 7 Board members. Two members are parents, two are community members, two are teachers, and one can be filled by any of those and is called the Flex seat. This is a no clear majority governance structure, which means that none of the membership groups (parents, teachers, or community members) make up 50% or more of the members on the Board.

Board Member Terms

All Board member terms are three years, except the Flex seat which is a one-year term. Seats are elected on a rotating cycle so that approximately one-third of the member seats are up for election in any year. This staggered election cycle supports the Board in building the capacity and experience of its members in order to provide continuity and strength in leadership. The table below shows the Board election cycle.

		BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS					
		Oct. 2020	May 2021	May 2022	May 2023	May 2024	May 2025
COHORT 1	Parent 2	X			X		
	Community 2						
	Flex						
COHORT 2	Teacher 2		X			X	
	Parent 1						
	Flex						
COHORT 3	Teacher 1			X			X
	Community 1						
	Flex						



****If you are elected in October 2020, you will begin serving on the Board at the November 19th meeting****

Board Member Responsibilities

Serving on a charter school Board is volunteer work. No compensation, monetary or otherwise, is given to any Board member. Serving on the Board requires time, work, and energy. It is important that Board members take the work seriously and are prepared, because they represent the students, families, staff, and community when making consequential decisions.

Board members are required to:

- *Attend monthly Board meetings (approximately 2 hours per month; some months there may be additional Board meetings)*
- *Serve on Board committees, which meet in addition to the regular Board meetings (usually once per month)*
- *Prepare for Board meetings by reading the materials provided to you ahead of time (approximately 2 hours per month)*
- *Prepare for committees by completing the work you commit to doing (varies)*
- *Participate in annual Board training (approximately 6-8 hours per year)*

****Monthly time commitment for serving on the Board is approximately 5-10 hours****

Supports Provided to Board Members

- *Interpreters for meetings will gladly be provided if requested (as well as document review time prior to meetings with an interpreter if needed)*
- *Access to Board materials, packets, policies, and documents*
- *CRCS email address*
- *Orientation to the Board before starting your service*
- *Annual training opportunities at no cost to you*



Board Meeting Dates

Due to COVID-19, all future Board meetings will be held on Zoom until further notice
Meetings are at 4:30 PM and last approximately 2 hours

November 19, 2020

March 18, 2021

December 17, 2020

April 15, 2021

January 21, 2021

May 20, 2021

February 18, 2021

June 17, 2021

If you have any other questions, please email Sonja Berven, Board Chair at sberven@crs-school.org or contact Aminah Hussein, the school's Community & Cultural Liaison at (612) 339-5767 or mhussein@crs-school.org.