



Name: Tom Lutes

NLA Affiliation: Community Member (Cannot be a parent, staff member's spouse, or NLA contractor)

1. Describe your personal and educational background, as well as in what areas you have an expertise that will aid the NLA School Board in its missions of proper governance, financial oversight, and academic growth.

My wife Amanda and I live in Coon Rapids with our son (Eli) and our dog (Daisy). Amanda and I met at the University of St. Thomas, where we both received our Bachelors in Art degrees. My degree was a double major in English and Education, with a minor study in Communication. I held various tutoring and substitute teaching jobs before I was hired to teach 9th grade English at North Lakes Academy in 2012. While teaching at NLA, I decided to enlist in the Minnesota Army National Guard as a medic, and I continue to serve as an Emergency Care Sergeant. I ultimately left the teaching staff at NLA to use my medical training to pursue a position in the civilian Emergency Medical Services. I was hired by Allina Health EMS in 2018, initially as an Emergency Medical Technician. My work with Allina also now includes functions as a Field Training Officer and a Clinical Services (External Education) Instructor. These functions are largely due to my experience and training in education.

All these areas of work inform my sense of vision for the NLA School Board, and my prior employment with the school also means that I have invested in the organization. But ultimately, my work at NLA and working in education at large mean that, should I be elected to the school board, I am most interested in helping to form a vision of forward movement, conscious of the roots of the NLA organization. I am also interested in ensuring organizational structures that support diverse styles of learning and teaching, so that students are prepared to graduate and accomplish a diversity of goals, while teachers are empowered to equip students for those goals.

2. What do you see as the primary responsibility of a school board for a charter school? *

The school board for a charter school is ultimately responsible for oversight and safekeeping the vision of the organization. Specifically in a charter school, there are many ways that the school board cannot help but be involved in the life of the school, not least of which because the environment is so much smaller and tight-knit than larger, traditionally structured public schools. This involvement of the school board creates greater investment, and thus should engender greater care in the tasks of oversight and vision for which the school board is responsible.

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