



Name: Ann Borgwardt

NLA Affiliation: NLA Licensed Instructor (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 124E.07, Subdivision 3)

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.

Personal

I am a Minnesota native and live currently in St Paul. My husband is from Finland, where I lived, worked, and studied for seven years. We speak Finnish as our home language with our two boys - a college freshman and senior. I spend a lot of time with my nose buried in a book or outside gardening, biking, walking, or cross country skiing. This past year, I have developed a new interest in birding too. I am also very fond of baked goods and baking and needlework.

Educational

I have an MAT from Hamline University and am licensed to teach elementary school and middle school social studies. The focus of my Capstone project was outdoor education and I have attended multiple courses related to environmental education and teaching outdoors as part of my ongoing professional development. I have also invested time into understanding data analysis and data-based educational programming. My undergraduate degree from Carleton College is in Sociology and Anthropology. I also have an MBA from the Helsinki School of Economics.

Expertise and Experience

I have a broad understanding of different approaches to public education in MN. This is my fifth year of teaching at NLA. I started in the middle school teaching science and social studies and currently teach Explorations K-5. Prior to NLA I taught in two larger school districts and two charter schools.

I have non-profit board experience. I served on the Board of the Finnish School of Minnesota for three years including a year as chairperson. I also have several years of experience on other non-profit boards.

I have a background in finance. In order to earn an MBA, I studied finance and accounting. In addition, I worked for about a decade as a performance improvement consultant to various businesses both here and in Finland.

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I am dedicated to collaborative work on behalf of a learning community. At NLA I have worked with others to write grants and develop processes to improve our recycling and outdoor education. In addition I have been part of planning I Love to Read month, whole school field trips, and other activities designed to build culture and develop engagement in our learning community.

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

The board must provide both financial and visionary oversight to ensure the district fulfills its mission to help students grow into confident scholars and citizens. In doing this the board has a responsibility to operate with transparency and integrity in making financial, policy, and community decisions bearing in mind the multiple stakeholders - staff, students, families, and the community at large.