

Jill Anderson

7-12 PE Teacher



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.

I grew up in a small rural community in southern Minnesota. The connections and relationships that I had with staff and coaches helped me tremendously through school. I still have a strong connection to my home community and still am in contact with many of those staff and coaches. Being a part of the NLA community for the last 10 years feels like home. I enjoy being a part of students' lives and building those connections. I have always appreciated providing guidance, watching them grow, and helping them learn more about themselves. I have a double B.S. in PreK-12 Physical Education, School and Community Health and Prek-12 DAPE (Developmental Adapted Physical Education). I have been teaching for 20+ years with experience at both big districts and charter schools. I also have 30 years of coaching experience from Middle school to College levels. Finally, being an advocate for students when they struggle in school and deal with mental health issues is very important to me.

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

I think it is important for the school board to be a bridge between the community and the school's administrators and teachers to help the school be successful. The board's job is to deal with policy implementation, budgeting, and administrative oversight. I am committed to having a strong school board that helps North Lakes Academy grow and build on the culture and passion that has made NLA an amazing place for students and family to thrive.

Hope Christensen

5-6 Math Teacher



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.

After graduating from Bemidji State University, I began my teaching career in Northern Minnesota, where I taught for 6 years before transitioning to North Lakes Academy. I have been with North Lakes for the past 8 years. In that time I have taught middle school mathematics, K-8 math intervention, and summer school. I am currently teaching 5 and 6th grade teaching math and MN history. I have also had the privilege of being the head coach for both cross country and track and field, which is something I enjoy immensely. In the past I have also served on the Youth and Family Ministry Board at my church. This involvement has given me valuable experiences regarding the youth in my church. We had direct involvement regarding the function of these youth programs within the church, as well as the funding. Because of this experience I believe I am well equipped to serve on the NLA School Board.

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

I believe the job of the school board is to help the school function as efficiently as possible. The school board should govern and oversee the schools operations and finances, but also be focused on main points within the school, and always looking to improve the school for the students and the educators.

Abigail Konzett

K-6 Music Teacher



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.

I attended Luther College in Decorah, IA for my BA in music education, and received my MA in educational leadership from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. I have lived in small towns my entire life, and I understand how important NLA is for providing that small school feel to students and families. The content of my masters programs will provide me with guidance in regard to management and curriculum development. My position as the K-6 music teacher grants me perspective of numerous grade levels which will be helpful when considering the impact of building-wide initiatives.

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

The primary role of a school board for a charter school should be to effectively manage and disperse resources in order to ensure financial health and academic excellence. Decisions made should always be for the overall benefit of the school. The school board should also maintain clear and consistent communication with staff, families and other necessary stakeholders.

Sean Payer

NLA Parent



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.

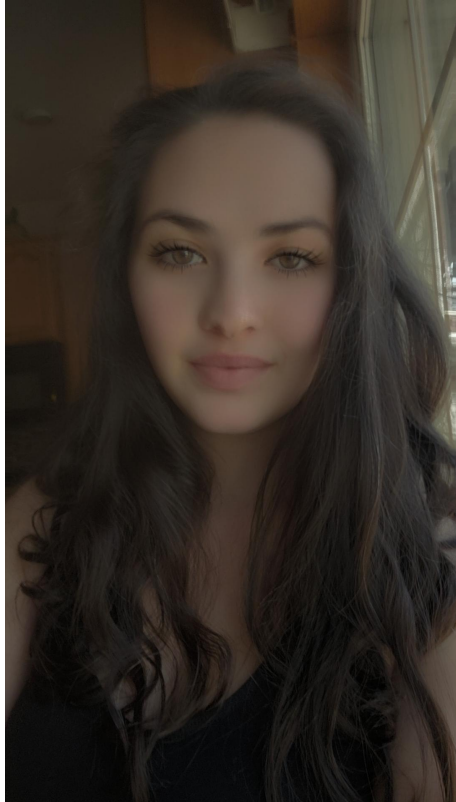
My formal education took place at the University of Minnesota, Morris where I studied business Management. I have worked in the banking sector for over 25 years which includes 14 years managing a local Forest Lake Bank. I am currently a Business Banker at Security Bank and Trust. I attended the Forest Lake school system and I have experience in working with the Forest Lake community. Being I grew up in the Forest Lake area I feel I have a good understanding of the areas values. My experience in the financial sector can assist NLA school board when it comes to financial oversight. I feel my skills can be an asset to NLA and it's students.

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

I feel the school board's primary responsibility is to ensure the school operates according to its mission, strategies, and goals. This could include student performance, financial oversight, and developing policies. The board needs to ensure the students needs are being met along with being accountable for the decisions that are made.

Kali Adams

NLA Parent



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.

I spent many years of my childhood in and around forest lake area. Recently moving back, I now have four children of my own which of whom for the first few years I got the pleasure of homeschooling them. Now that I'm back to work full time I've chosen NLA as their school to attend. Over the last 8 years I have attended three different colleges receiving certificates in medical administration and a certified nurses aide or working on generals towards nursing degree, and teaching. I've worked as a CNA, med tech, and caregiver through most of this time. As a mom of four with intent to have all four attend NLA, my drive for NLA success has a personal meaning as well of professional for all children to succeed.

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

The primary responsibility would be to make decisions throughout the school year on keeping the schools flowing smoothly, Financially and academically.

Sarah Smith

NLA Parent



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.

After careful consideration, I would like to include myself as a parent member candidate for the current NLA School Board. As a proud parent of an NLA student, as well as a knowledgeable professional with extensive experience in corporate and private business settings, it's an honor to submit my application for this valuable role. Growing up and throughout college, I was an active member of several committees and organizations that developed leadership skills and small-town values. These experiences demonstrated to me the importance of school involvement and active participation in education. While working for Target Corporation for the past 24+ years, I have had the responsibility to work on cross-functional teams that come with diverse perspectives and varying levels of experience, but all with the common goal of getting the job done efficiently, on time and within the budget given. I feel this experience can seamlessly relate to the role of a school board member and gives me the confidence to ensure my duties as a board member would continue to drive the advancement of the schools' objectives. Outside of my work routine, I am also an active volunteer for a local church in which I lead a children's ministry of 30+ volunteers as well as leading a small group of women each week in discussion and relationship building. My home life is centered around time with my husband and first grade son, as well as extracurricular activities in the Forest Lake area that give me consistent opportunities to strengthen connections within the community. I would love to partner with and represent the NLA parents as a part of the school board to ensure we continue to focus on giving our children the best opportunities to grow, learn and just be children in an ever changing world.

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

I believe the primary responsibility of a school board for a charter school is to ensure the programs and educational services provided are consistent with the mission and values of NLA. I think the board should provide monitoring of the financial health and educational acumen of the school while working in close partnership with the authorizer, parents, community and staff.

Jason Bauer

NLA Parent



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.

I moved to Minnesota in 2008, and have since become a father of 3. Forest Lake became home in 2019, and 3 children attending NLA has followed. We are involved in our community ranging from kids dance, martial arts, to volunteering. My education and profession are in the building trades, as a Production Manager in home remodeling for the last 12 years.

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

I see the primary responsibility of a school board member above all else, to ensure the achievements of our students. Followed closely by financial responsibility, NLA advocates to the community, and general direction of school progress.

William Tiedeman

Community Member- Alumni



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.

I am an NLA alum (2016), local real estate professional, and volunteer athletics coach. My time at NLA was pivotal in shaping my understanding of education, community, and leadership. I am proud to have been part of the NLA community, which continues to inspire my commitment to its mission. As a local real estate professional, I've developed strong negotiation, marketing, and community engagement skills. My experience in negotiating transactions has sharpened my ability to make thoughtful, balanced decisions, critical for governance and financial oversight. Additionally, my expertise in marketing helps me effectively promote initiatives and build relationships within the community. I regularly engage with community members, from clients to local businesses, which enhances my ability to communicate and collaborate, skills that will directly support NLA's mission of academic growth and community involvement. In addition to my professional background, I volunteer as an athletics coach, where I have honed my skills in leadership, team building, and mentoring. Coaching has taught me how to inspire students, foster collaboration, and create a positive learning environment—values that directly support NLA's goals of academic growth and student development. With my background in real estate, coaching, and as an NLA alum, I bring a unique combination of leadership, financial acumen, and community engagement. I am deeply invested in NLA's success and believe that my experience will support the school board's efforts in fostering responsible governance, promoting financial accountability, and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to excel in an environment where who they become is as important as what they achieve.

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

The primary responsibility of a charter school board is to uphold and support the mission, vision, and values outlined in the charter agreement. This involves ensuring that students, teachers, and staff have the necessary resources and support to succeed, overseeing financial health with sound budgeting and resource allocation, and holding the administration accountable for fostering an environment where all members of the school community can thrive and achieve their full potential.