

WCA Board Applicant Questionnaire

SHERRY BARTMANN

1. Experience & Education: Please list previous Board or professional/association/industry/community volunteer service including positions held, if any:

- I currently chair our WCA Student & Building Safety Committee, and over this last year, I've served on our WCA Organic Garden Committee, the WCA Expansion Committee, the WCA Middle School/High School Accountability Committee, and the WCA Elementary School Accountability Committee.
- WCA Science fair judge this year for 5th grade, last year for Middle School/High School.
- I have previously served on our WCA Development & Fundraising Committee as the chairman, and was the Secretary of the WCA Accountability Committee and participated on the WCA middle school career panel as a community member at large (before my children were old enough to attend WCA!).
- I am currently serving on the Executive Board as treasurer of a local HOA.
- Friends of RE4 Schools Committee last fall (committee to support & promote mill levy override/bond, from which WCA was scheduled to receive approx. \$468,000/year)
- I previously served on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Hazardous Waste Roundtable, the CDPHE Pollution Prevention Partnership (later the Colorado Environmental Partnership) & a related multi-industry Environmental Information Consortium. As part of the Partnership, I was a volunteer state-wide instructor for the Hazmat Transportation portion of the CDPHE RCRA Hazwaste training.
- Regional Institute for Health & Environment Leadership, Fellow/Alumni
- Colorado Woolgrower's Association, producer/member & served on committees
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Northern Colorado Chapter, Dinner of Champions Committee (current/intermittent), Women Against MS Luncheon (past), MS Walk Committee (past)
- Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps, Denver Colorado, Alumni
- Alpha Gamma Rho CSU Auxiliary, past President
- Past Rec league coach & ref over the years, including soccer, baseball, basketball
- Girl Scout co-leader

Please list Educational Degrees and/or Professional Designations:

- I have a Bachelor of Science Degree from Colorado State University, majoring in Environmental Health from the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.
- I received certification as an Emergency Medical Technician from Front Range Community College and an EMT Bridge certificate from Aims Community College.
- I have trained with FEMA for Hospital Incident Command Systems and trained with fire departments for Confined Space Rescue and HAZWaste Operations Emergency Response.

2. Candidate Profile – Self Assessment

Board members play a strategic role in service to the board and to WCA. In order to determine how you might best be of service to WCA, please complete a self assessment, rating your skills/expertise in the following areas. Write the number that corresponds to the score option that best defines your level of expertise for each competency:

- 1 = none: not knowledgeable; no personal (first-hand) experience
- 2 = fair: knowledgeable; no/little personal (first-hand) experience
- 3 = good: personal (first-hand) experience, competent
- 4 = excellent: personal (first-hand) experience, expert

Competency:

- 1. Administration/Management: 3
- 2. Business/Corporate: 3
- 3. Change Agent/Advocate: 3
- 4. Communication Skills – Verbal: 4
- 5. Communication Skills – Written: 4
- 6. Conflict Resolution: 3
- 7. Consensus Building: 3
- 8. Finance and Budgeting: 3
- 9. Financial Planning and Investment: 3
- 10. Fund Raising: 3
- 11. Governance: 3
- 12. Legislative/Advocacy: 3
- 13. Marketing: 3
- 14. Mentoring: 3
- 15. Negotiation: 3
- 16. Public Relations: 3

17. Public Speaking (conferences, media, etc.): 4
18. Preparing/Presenting Testimony 2
19. Problem-Solving: 3
20. Professional Development/Training: 4
21. Project Management: 3
22. Strategic Planning: 2
23. Working in teams: 4
24. Team Building: 3
25. Volunteer/Staff Relations: 3
26. Ability to recruit people to fill leadership positions: 3

3. State your strengths and why you would be an asset to this board?

My strengths include a longstanding family commitment to our Windsor Charter Academy schools as well as many peripheral skills and strengths such as communication, ability to actively listen, analytical skills for data and financial review, and years of participation in WCA committees, field trips, fundraisers, class activities, building improvements, and in general, a personal interest in ensuring that my kids, and yours, continue to have a school system where they can successfully achieve their educational needs and goals.

4. What sets you apart from other possible candidates for the volunteer position of Board Member?

I believe among all the candidates, I have the longest association with WCA, 15 years! These were not passive years, I was active on WCA committees before I had children and continuously served as my kids have been in this school since 2007. I typically stay involved in several committees & activities each year, though while my husband John was on the WCA Executive Board, I was able to pare down my committee participation to just a single committee at a time for those years, but our family always served in excess of the 35 hours/year.

5. Are there any conflicts of interest, current or anticipated, on issues that the Board should know about in considering your application?

Not that I'm aware of at this time.

6. How do you deal with challenging and confidential issues involving other people?

I work in the medical industry so HIPAA (privacy) and employee confidentiality is part of my daily responsibility. I tend to meet challenges head on, very candidly, as I am expressive and passionate in my actions – that said though, over the years, I've followed many of the Covey principals, the strongest of those being “seek first to

understand, then to be understood". Resolution of challenging issues usually starts with being an active, intentional listener.

7. Have you read the WCA Charter Application and current Bylaws? Do you agree with the founding philosophies and governing principles? Why or why not?

I have absolutely read the Charter Application(s) many times over the years, and I am very familiar with the Bylaws of Windsor Charter Academy (and somewhat surprised in hearing at the last board meeting that they are planning to revise them). Among other things, the Bylaws are what make you parents and guardians "Members of the Academy" and the bylaws protect your rights as such. I regularly attend monthly Board meetings and special sessions/working sessions and I read the minutes that are posted to stay on top of Board activities and school status. I make sure I have the Bylaws and Charter Contract with the District with me as I attend Board meetings as a parent Member of the Academy" to ensure I understand the actions of the Board.

8. Please share your vision for WCA's future

There is a sweet spot of financial stability and school culture that we have to identify and maintain. Parents, staff, and Board can work together to figure out how to make WCA sustainable but at the same time not lose sight of the culture that was created over the first 15 years of the school's existence. I also have a personal interest and background in creating safe working environments and that includes safe environments for our children to learn as well. I believe we have opportunities for improvement in different aspects of safety and culture and I want to be an integral part of that by being on the WCA Board.

9. What do you believe are the most critical issues facing the WCA Board and how would you contribute as a Board Member?

I can tell you, from my participation on the WCA School Accountability Committees, that we identified that from a parent perspective, communication from the Board needs to be improved and that was presented at the Parent Membership Meeting in April. It has been identified in the written report as an improvement opportunity and will need to be quickly and consistently addressed. I am a successful communicator, both written and verbal, and I enjoy developing relationships and I find that candid discussions with parents, staff, students, all stakeholders in general, can strengthen our WCA community.

Other “traditional” critical issues are addressed by the board as well, including funding, staffing, school safety, etc. and I would be fully committed to staying informed and qualified to help lead the school successfully through identified and anticipated issues.

10. What do you feel is the single most important aspect of this school and what would you do to bring it to its highest level?

Windsor Charter Academy has always stood out for its solid academic foundations but as a parent and as a Board member, I don't want to lose sight of other positive aspects that have created our wonderful school, such as the Core Knowledge curriculum, the 8 Keys of Excellence, Character building, and a culture of caring – I feel we have to focus on multiple aspects, not just one, in order to keep our schools to be the most desirable for families to enroll as well as most desirable for our kids to learn here.

11. Describe your ideal working relationship and interaction between the Board and a.) WCA staff/administration and b.) WCA parent/membership:

While the duties of the Board are defined in the first pages of the WCA Bylaws, it's important to keep in mind that the Board would carry out the responsibilities in a collegial and professional manner and work collaboratively to set policy and ensure our schools are operated properly. Basically, it's the Board's duty to govern through the various responsibilities identified in the bylaws. While doing that, the Board shouldn't lose sight of all the branches that make up the WCA family tree so to speak (the Board, the administration, the staff/educators, parents, students, community partners, and the food & water such as financial stability, etc.) – the goal is to maintain our tree from roots to canopy (sorry for the analogy!) and ensure its survival – if we neglect any part of it, the grand-ness of the overall tree begins to suffer. In that effort, we can't forget the important role that the parent Academy Membership has maintained in the past – the Board should strive to not alienate but to nurture all relationships.

I feel it's our duty as parents to be involved in our children's education and there are many ways to achieve that. My philosophy regarding the parent membership and the interaction with the school overall, is that it's a complementary relationship, especially at WCA where parents are expected to be involved and welcomed into our facilities to be a part of their child's education. Parents can reinforce what's being taught at school and

the role of the school is to provide a state mandated educational path as well as provide adequate extracurricular and cultural opportunities where students can explore their interests, refine their talents, and grow into responsible contributing young adults.

Most of all, the role of the school is to provide a safe, successful environment for children who attend here. I want to be a part of maintaining that educational experience for our kids.