

SEVEN HILLS CLASSICAL ACADEMY
NOMINATING AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

April 15, 2009

TO: SHCA Staff and Families
FROM: The Nominating and Elections Committee
SUBJECT: UPCOMING BOARD ELECTIONS

As you are aware, the SHCA Board of Directors election is coming up in May. Attached to this communication, you will find your copy of the *Voting Guide*. This guide is designed to let you know both who is running for the board as well as background on the candidates' views.

This *Voting Guide* is designed to give you an overview of each candidate. Please feel free to contact any nominee directly via e-mail with any questions you may have of them in order to cast an informed vote.

We have a very special school; by selecting thoughtful and committed board members, the school community can ensure that SHCA builds on its promising beginning.

SEVEN HILLS CLASSICAL ACADEMY

VOTING GUIDE

**TO THE CANDIDATES
FOR ELECTION
TO THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Election Day
MAY 5, 2009**

SEVEN HILLS CLASSICAL ACADEMY
NOMINATING AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

This *Voting Guide* will give everyone in the Seven Hills Classical Academy community information on all the candidates to assist in voting in the election. This election will be important for SHCA, as parents and staff consider the strategic needs of the school

The Overall Function of the Board

Board members have both a legal duty and an ethical obligation to ensure that SHCA carries out its mission, vision and goals. As stated in our charter approved by the State of Minnesota, our mission is to provide students with a classical education in an academically rigorous environment designed to promote strong citizenship and life-long learning. The board's job is to map out the strategies that will carry SHCA into its successful future.

Therefore, as part of the Board of Directors, individual board members should think of themselves as stewards of the school – responsible for the long-term viability of SHCA. Whether a parent, teacher, or community member, directors do not represent particular constituencies, but rather focus on the overriding interests and welfare of the school.

Needs of the Board

In order to make sure that the board has all the skills needed to chart SHCA's strategic future, we ask you to consider candidates that would fulfill several existing needs on the board.

- Experience in governance
- Experience in human relations
- Experience in facility management

SEVEN HILLS CLASSICAL ACADEMY

CANDIDATE PROFILE

CANDIDATE NAME: Heather Compton

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 952-426-6021

E-mail Address: hcompton@shcamn.org

MY CONNECTION TO SEVEN HILLS CLASSICAL ACADEMY:

Teacher - Enrichment Coordinator

WHY I WANT TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

I am interested in serving on the SHCA Board because I would like to be involved to a higher degree in the planning and implementation of Seven Hills' future.

EXPERIENCE THAT I WOULD BRING TO THE BOARD:

Masters in Education

Certificate in Gifted and Talented Instruction

AREAS OF EXPERTISE I COULD BRING TO THE BOARD:

I believe my experience in the Enrichment Program at Seven Hills will provide useful information in future planning and school needs.

THE CHALLENGES I SEE AHEAD AND HOW I PROPOSE HANDLING THOSE CHALLENGES:

One challenge I foresee the school facing is the growing number of staff. I think it would be beneficial to start a mentoring program for new staff.

SEVEN HILLS CLASSICAL ACADEMY

CANDIDATE PROFILE

CANDIDATE NAME: Claire Emery

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 952-426-6015

E-mail Address: cemery@shcamn.org

MY CONNECTION TO SEVEN HILLS CLASSICAL ACADEMY:

Teacher – third grade

WHY I WANT TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

I am interested in serving on the SHCA Board because I believe in and am supportive of the mission and vision of the school. I am committed to the success of Seven Hills and feel as though my experiences in education and board work would be an asset to the organization. I would appreciate the opportunity to be a part of team of people who are dedicated to the students and community of Seven Hills Classical Academy.

EXPERIENCE THAT I WOULD BRING TO THE BOARD:

8 years teaching experience

I will be receiving my Master's Degree in Reading in May 2009

I served on the Board of Directors for Academia Cesar Chavez, a charter school in St. Paul and currently serve as Secretary on the Board of Directors for the Michael Frome Academy, a charter school in Woodbury.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE I COULD BRING TO THE BOARD:

In addition to my eight years of teaching, I have specific educational training and experience in the area of literacy, with a focus on instruction and assessment. I also have previous board experience and currently participate in the Seven Hills Q-Comp team. The combination of these diverse experiences has provided me with a well-rounded vision of education, which I feel would be a great addition to the SHCA Board.

THE CHALLENGES I SEE AHEAD AND HOW I PROPOSE HANDLING THOSE CHALLENGES:

An upcoming challenge I see for Seven Hills is the potential building construction. This is a wonderful opportunity for our school but in order for it to be a successful experience it will require communication and a strong partnership with Cedar Valley church. I also think that as Seven Hills Classical Academy grows, it will be very important for the school community to continue to emphasize the mission and vision so that the students are provided with an education that will, in fact, prepare them to be life-long learners.

SEVEN HILLS CLASSICAL ACADEMY

CANDIDATE PROFILE

CANDIDATE NAME: Nicole Peterson

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 952-426-6007

E-mail Address: npeterson@shcamn.org

MY CONNECTION TO SEVEN HILLS CLASSICAL ACADEMY:

Teacher - Kindergarten

WHY I WANT TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

I would like to give back to the school community. I think it would be a great learning opportunity for me and I hope to share my ideas. I like working with people and am good at communicating with others. I will enjoy working to help Seven Hills improve and reach its mission.

EXPERIENCE THAT I WOULD BRING TO THE BOARD:

I have been a licensed teacher for 3 years and have a Bachelors degree in the science of teaching. I have been involved with committees such as Student Wisconsin Education Association.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE I COULD BRING TO THE BOARD:

I would bring my knowledge of teaching young children. I have kindergarten experience and will be able to represent the youngest Seven Hills students.

THE CHALLENGES I SEE AHEAD AND HOW I PROPOSE HANDLING THOSE CHALLENGES:

I think making tough decisions for the school would be a challenge. I look forward to challenging myself to make decisions in the best interest of the school.

SEVEN HILLS CLASSICAL ACADEMY

CANDIDATE PROFILE

CANDIDATE NAME: John Thomson

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 952-736-2461

E-mail Address: jsathomson@yahoo.com

MY CONNECTION TO SEVEN HILLS CLASSICAL ACADEMY:

Parent

WHY I WANT TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

To offer perspective, guidance and leadership while supporting the school's mission statement. I am interested in the process and would be honored by the opportunity to serve the school.

EXPERIENCE THAT I WOULD BRING TO THE BOARD:

For the past 11 years I've been working for Grant Thornton LLP of Minneapolis, Minnesota; first as the local Director of Technical Services, then as a Regional Technical Administrator. I am involved in leading staff meetings, participating in committee efforts and project management initiatives in my career. I am a former editor of the Minnesota Chess Journal and former Minnesota School Chess Association board member. Also, a former United States Chess Federation sanctioned tournament director and organizer.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE I COULD BRING TO THE BOARD:

I could bring a calm perspective and reasoning, and a strong interest in seeing the school continue to fulfill its mission in the same way it has so successfully over the past 3 years.

THE CHALLENGES I SEE AHEAD AND HOW I PROPOSE HANDLING THOSE CHALLENGES:

Growth and expansion of the school.

Leadership, communication, cooperation and team effort I believe will be the most important elements of ensuring the future success.