



## 2014 – MACS Board Candidate Biographies and Statements

*[Candidates are listed in alphabetical order]*

### A] PATTY BROSTROM

#### Minnesota Transitions Charter School – Minneapolis

Director/Superintendent - Years at School: 17

**Educational Background:** Doctoral Candidate at the University of St. Thomas; MA - School Administration; BA – Elementary Education

**Leadership Positions and Achievements:** Newly appointed Chair – MACS Government Affairs Committee; Previous board member and board president of MACS; Member of Minneapolis Public Schools Perkins Consortium Board; Member – Dakota County Arts Board



#### **What do you see as the challenges and/or opportunities ahead for Minnesota's charter school movement over the next five years?**

I believe that equity in funding is one of the biggest issues that charter schools face each school year. Charter schools need the funding to provide education to our students without the limits imposed due to an inequity in funding. I also believe that charter school facilities need to be addressed. Charter schools should be allowed to own their facilities and this still needs to be addressed.

#### **What is your understanding of the mission and goals of the MN Association of Charter Schools?**

MACS is an advocate for charter schools at the national, state and local levels. MACS works tirelessly to support innovation as well as quality and accountability. The staff at MACS works hard to represent member schools at the Minnesota legislature and with the MN Department of Education.

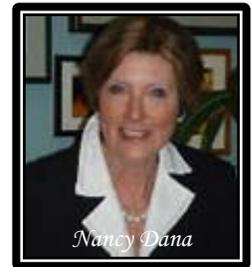
### B] NANCY DANA \* *[incumbent]*

#### St. Paul City School – St. Paul

Executive Director – Years at School: 7

**Education Background:** MA – Educational Leadership, University of MN; Principal and Superintendent Licenses

**Leadership Positions and Achievements:** Served charter schools in start-up capacity since 1997 – Opened 11 schools, closed 4; Served as an Administrator and Superintendent; Received HOBY Leadership Award 2013; Woman of Distinction 2012; Harvard University Urban School Leader selected recipient - 2011



#### **What do you see as the challenges and/or opportunities ahead for Minnesota's charter school movement over the next five years?**

School finance is always a challenge, and how to best use limited funds in innovative ways remains a big issue. Facilities and ownership are important ongoing discussions, and more recently the roles and responsibilities of authorizers as oversight and support for charters rather than providing more bureaucratic limitations. AND, always recognizing that charters were created to be unique, not traditional to a home district.

#### **What is your understanding of the mission and goals of the MN Association of Charter Schools?**

To promote innovation, quality, choice and accountability in public education by promoting options within charter schools. It is also to continue to educate the public on the rewards and opportunities of charter as well as traditional district schools.

## C] KIRA DONNELLY

### Great River School – St. Paul

Math Teacher/ Level Coordinator - Years at School: 8 years

**Education:** MA – Education Claremont Graduate University; BA – Philosophy, Scripps College; and American Montessori Elementary Diploma

**Leadership Positions and Achievements:** Math Department Chair; Level Coordinator; Building Chair; Great River Board of Directors, Board Secretary; Presenter and Speaker – various education conferences including 2014 NCTM



### What do you see as the challenges and/or opportunities ahead for Minnesota's charter school movement over the next five years?

Ensuring appropriate oversight of schools – enough to provide standards, but not so much to stifle. In addition, diversity with the charter school movement. Finally, funding at appropriate levels continues to be a challenge.

### What is your understanding of the mission and goals of the MN Association of Charter Schools?

To support charter school development, networking, and effective practices and to lobby for charter schools as well as provide education about them.

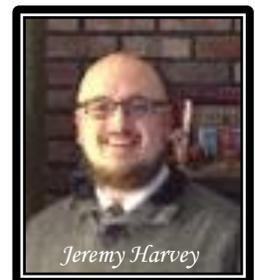
## D] JEREMY HARVEY

### Community of Peace Academy

Board Chair – Years at School: 9 years - [AT&T Training Manager – 17 years]

**Education:** B.S – Business, Capella University,

**Leadership Positions and Achievements:** Board Chair – Community of Peace Academy; Youth Leader – Woodland Hills Church; 2013 President's Volunteer Service Award



### What do you see as the challenges and/or opportunities ahead for Minnesota's charter school movement over the next five years?

Financial stability, partnering with other successful charter schools and improving struggling charter schools.

### What is your understanding of the mission and goals of the MN Association of Charter Schools?

To promote advocacy for charter schools to succeed for the betterment of students through quality education. This is achieved through innovation, quality and accountability. By working together for each other, MACS schools are able to be a united voice for the charter school movement in Minnesota.

## E] Danielle Perich

### Duluth Edison Charter Schools - Duluth

Principal – Years at School: 13 Years

**Education:** MA – Educational Leadership, Concordia University; BS – Science in Education, Valley City State University; K-12 Principal Certification

**Leadership Positions and Achievements:** I have served Duluth Edison as an Academy Director/Principal for the past 8 years. During that time an achievement for us has been our continuously growing enrollment as well as our students' academic achievement growth.



**What do you see as the challenges and/or opportunities ahead for Minnesota's charter school movement over the next five years?**

I see the challenges we face as opportunities. I feel that continued efforts to broaden and strength the voice of the association will remain a priority as legislation and rules are changing. During this time it will be critical for us to create, build, and expand our charter community. It is essential that we do this through collaboration, education, and sharing among our communities. I would also like to see expansion of the charter law to include academic programs for Pre-K –grade 14 to allow for an early start for us in making a difference.

**What is your understanding of the mission and goals of the MN Association of Charter Schools?**

I understand the mission of MACS is to work to provide opportunities for all involved in charters. This is accomplished by advocating and supporting our teachers, administration, school boards and having a voice at the Legislative Level.