

# 2017 – MACS Board Candidate Biographies and Statements

*[Candidates are listed in alphabetical order]*



## **Darius Husain \* [incumbent]**

**Face to Face Academy—St. Paul—Executive Director**

**Board Position Experience:** For over a year, I have had the pleasure of serving on the MACS Board as a member of the Board Development Committee. Previously, I was a Board Member for the International Medical and Educational Trust: an organization dedicated to addressing the significant needs of children inflicted with traumatic response induced by natural disaster and/or human conflict.

**What do you see as the challenges and/or opportunities ahead for Minnesota’s charter school movement over the next 3-5 years?**

Remain on the front lines of the fight for equitable state and federal funding. Reaffirm charters as the standard barrier for innovation and school choice. Continue the conversation on the role of the Authorizer; a definition that promotes both accountability and autonomy in each charter school. Advocate for a climate that attracts additional Authorizers, increasing the diversity of approach while expanding the capacity for future growth.

**Why do you want to serve on the MACS Board of Directors?**

Having been a part of a member school for over a decade and serving on the MACS Board for nearly two years, I can attest to the organization’s unwavering commitment to the betterment of charter schools. Through its advocacy efforts, MACS has played a critical role in creating one of the most charter-friendly climates in the country. In addition, the services the organization provides help strengthen the infrastructure of participating schools. I want to build upon that legacy while maximizing member school benefits and reaching out to organizations who have yet to join.

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## **Amy Larsen**

**BlueSky Online Charter School—West St. Paul—Executive Director**

**Board Position Experience:** I have served as an ex-officio member of a charter school board as part of my role as Executive Director.

**What do you see as the challenges and/or opportunities ahead for Minnesota’s charter school movement over the next 3-5 years?**

I believe a major challenge that all charter schools face is getting our stories heard. Because we all wear so many caps and spin so many plates just to provide the best education for our students, we rarely have time to promote and advocate. I feel that MACS can help provide support to our schools in the area of communicating to legislators, community members, and media about the importance of charter schools in Minnesota.

**Why do you want to serve on the MACS Board of Directors?**

I believe in the charter school movement and am passionate about wanting to innovate education in order to best meet the needs of every student. Serving on the MACS board is just one way in which I feel I can support the efforts of all the Minnesota charter schools in providing the diverse learning experiences that our students need.

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## **Cara Quinn \* [incumbent]**

**Community of Peace Academy —St. Paul—Executive Director**

**Board Position Experience:** I have served as an ex officio member of the CPA Board of Directors since 2010, and have had extensive training and experience in board governance, nonprofit management and education policy since then.

**What do you see as the challenges and/or opportunities ahead for Minnesota’s charter school movement over the next 3-5 years?**

Sustaining and strategically growing the charter school market share. Continuing to build political support across parties so as to influence policy and funding decisions that are advantageous to charter schools. Ensuring a strong voice in school accountability measures, with particular attention to meaningful measures for alternative and non-traditional school models. Supporting strong charter school leadership and governance.

**Why do you want to serve on the MACS Board of Directors?**

MACS is critically important to the health and sustainability of Minnesota's charter school movement, and I would be honored to support its efforts through board service. Having worked in the charter school field since 2001 and as ED of CPA since 2012, I am committed to giving back to the charter school community by serving on the MACS board.



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### **Barbara Wornson**

**Arcadia Charter School—Northfield—Interim Executive Director**

**Board Position Experience:** My experience includes charter boards, executive director positions, and community boards such as Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra board chair, Prairie Creek community school, Northfield Parks Board, Healthy Communities Initiative (HCI) and many committees.

**What do you see as the challenges and/or opportunities ahead for Minnesota’s charter school movement over the next 3-5 years?**

Betsy DeVos and her support within the current administration is truly frightening. Minnesota needs to define its uniqueness in charter school legislation across the country. I would like the country to know how well our system works and put it forth as a model for other states. That is assuming we have the bugs worked out in our own system.

**Why do you want to serve on the MACS Board of Directors?**

I have been involved with alternative and charter education since the early 1990's. My teaching experience includes pre-school through college, but the largest chunk was between 1990-2005 at the Northfield Area Learning Center. In 2005, I embarked on administrative career which continues through my current position as Interim Executive Director at Arcadia Charter School.

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**Balloting Closes Friday, May 12th at 4:00 p.m.**