

NVCS BOD Application Questionnaire

Name Matt Braggins

Please provide a bio with relevant work, volunteer and/or life experience.

I have worked in the non-profit (local church) sector for 18 years. Prior to that I worked in an exercise and education facility for children. We have lived in Colorado since 2008 and have been connected and involved in the communities of Fort Collins and Loveland. I am currently the NextGen Pastor at a local church where I oversee programs for birth-high school students and their families. I currently serve on the Elder Board for the same church. I have been involved in many non-profit and education boards and planning committees through the years. I volunteer as a watch dog for New Vision and try to attend as many of my sons field trips as I am able. I currently have 3 kids enrolled at New Vision.

Please describe your strengths and why you would be an asset to the New Vision Board of Directors

For the last 10-15 years I have been very active in counseling and teaching kids and their families, helping them to overcome obstacles and grow. I have a lot of experience in program development, fundraising, leadership, teaching, public speaking, and childhood development. Each of those strengths can easily be applied and transferred to the local public school system. I can help provide vision and policies to maximize the effectiveness of NVCS in accomplishing their mission.

What do you believe are the most important responsibilities of a school board member?

The most important responsibility of the board is to make sure that NVCS continues in its original mission "to be a public school of choice that will produce high achieving model citizens through a content rich educational program and a partnership of students, parents, staff and the community." While there are many ways to continue to grow and strive for this mission, ultimately, everything the board does must be in the context of producing and developing high quality citizens with a rich education.

Please describe why you are interested in serving as a school board member.

I have always been involved in the education of my children and I am fully invested in and support NVCS. Because of that, I want to serve and offer whatever help and leadership I can to make NVCS the best option for education in Colorado.

How much time and effort can you contribute to the NVCS Board?

I can commit to whatever time is necessary. I have read through the general requirements and will not have a problem committing to that. One thing I am committed to is giving my all to whatever I do. So, if I am a member of the Board of Directors, they will get my best effort.

What skills, knowledge, and attributes should board members have in order to be qualified?

Board members should have a wide range of skills. I think integrity is one of the most important attributes they should have though. On top of integrity, experience in education, management, and fundraising are beneficial.

What skills, knowledge, and attributes should board members have in order to be ongoing, contributing members?

Again, integrity is huge. Commitment to the School and the board are also incredibly important. I think diversity in experience and opinions can only serve to benefit the board and school overall. Ongoing board members should continually seek to learn more about the school system, policies, and best practices as they continue to serve.

What do you believe are the most critical issues facing the NVCS Board, and how would you contribute as a board member?

The biggest issue right now, as well as the biggest celebration, is the new campus. This brings a number of budgeting and logistical issues to the table. As someone who works with a non profit and oversees a budget, I know what it looks like to grow a budget and organization while holding true to our mission and vision. I can bring a perspective of, in the midst of growth and incredible opportunities, sticking to our mission and goals as a school.

In general terms, please describe your experience in dealing with difficult and confidential issues.

In my line of work, confidentiality is huge. I regularly deal with incredibly difficult issues, circumstances, and conversations. Many of which are to be kept private.

Please describe how you think the board should interact with parents, principal, and staff.

The board should be a support and encouragement to all parents and staff at NVCS. However, they should never use their title or "position" as a means to push individual agenda.

Please describe your involvement with NVCS to date. (i.e. committee participation, volunteer activities, etc.)

I serve regularly as a watch dog on campus, I volunteer for field trips and activities, as well as help with lunch and recess duty during testing.

Please describe your vision of community outreach for the NVCS Board.

It is all about relationships. Relationships with local businesses as potential donors, relationships with families as potential students, and relationships with city officials. I see New Vision having a presence at local community wide events as well as continuing to partner with other outreach based organizations like "Feed My Starving Children" where our school has the opportunity to give back, not just to our community, but to our world. Helping our students and families gain a wider perspective of the needs in our world.