

2020 Board Nomination Form

Your Name: Stephanie Ortiz

- Number and grade of children in your family enrolled at BFA: Two children: Allysia Ortiz is in 2nd grade and Gabriel Ortiz is in 3rd grade.
- Number of years your family has been at BFA: Five years
- Brief biography, including any charter school experience:

Stephanie Ortiz has 18+ years of a very diverse background with many valuable skills, achievements, and leadership abilities at Lockheed Martin. She is also very creative and has an innovative mind. She is constantly seeking intriguing and exciting opportunities to leverage her technical, management, and creative background. She is organized, productive, efficient, interacts well with others, and communicates effectively. In addition, she is driven and has exceptional problem-solving and organizational, effective task coordination, and good time-management skills.

Stephanie's educational background consists of a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Colorado at Denver with a major in Biology and a minor in Math and Chemistry. She completed a second Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science at Regis University. In addition, she graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a Master of Engineering in Electrical and Computer Engineering and finally she completed a PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering with an emphasis in Computer Vision from the University of Denver. She does not have other charter school experience, but education in general is extremely important to her.

- Number of BFA Board meetings and events have you attended this school year (identify by type of event - Board meetings __; PTO meetings _2_; Committee meetings _2_; Community events _4-5_; Other ____)

In 100 words or less per question, please answer the following:

- Describe the ideal relationship between the BFA Board and the BFA community.
I think the ideal relationship between the BFA Board and community should involve the parents, teachers, and community whether it be requesting/listening to their needs/desires and also implementing them. It is so important to involve the community to ensure everyone feels this is their school. I personally love hearing parents say "I love BFA! It is such a great school!" I think a big part of that is because the community is actively involved. The volunteer requirement is beneficial for four reasons and actually probably more, because 1) it helps the school in general, 2) saves and earns money for the school, 3) parent visibility, and 4) method to meet other parents.

- What are the current challenges facing charter school boards?

I would think revolving board members could potentially be problematic especially if there are specific commitments and/or strategies in place. It may be difficult to maintain focus, direction, and momentum. In this case, I would think clearly defined roles, stable leadership, and additional board member training would be beneficial and actually essential for consistent operation more effectively

- What motivates you?

My motivation for wanting to serve on the Ben Franklin Academy Board is to have a very active role in supporting education and extracurricular activities for my children and others. I also feel as though I have a well-rounded skillset and background to support the vision of the Ben Franklin Academy Board. I believe this is the “right time” for me, because my children are just starting their educational journey, so this is the foundation of their future and I would like to take an active role in it. I am also very well established in my career at this point in time, so I have the time to devote to the school. I feel as though this would be a good time to lend my extensive STEM background from my occupation and educational journey, as well as, my creative and artistic abilities with regards to the Arts, which could offer some fantastic opportunities for the school.

- Share any personal aspirations you would like to achieve by serving on the BFA Board.

Education is always my number one priority, but I feel as though Ben Franklin Academy does an amazing job with education in general on a day-to-day basis. Therefore, I would like to actually focus on the extracurricular activities, such as the STEAM activities, events, etc. I feel these areas are all extremely important focus areas beyond the everyday education our children are obtaining, because they allow children to apply their knowledge and utilize it in a different manner. I am honestly willing to help wherever needed though. Education generally and BFA specifically are important to me, because Ben Franklin Academy has a strong vision and mission, as well as, an amazing support team from the parents. I feel that we, as parents all have a common mission and we put a lot of emphasis on obtaining a good, solid education for our children. I am very proud to have my children attend Ben Franklin Academy and want to ensure that the education continues to improve in the future. In addition, my children will be in Kindergarten and 1st Grade during the 2017-2018 school year, so they are literally just starting their education. I want to make sure they have a passion for school as I did and have the desire to continue on and make a difference in life.

- Describe a moment when you knew BFA was the right school for your family.

A few of my co-workers/friends whom I highly respected spoke very highly about BFA before my children were old enough to attend and based on their observations and experiences, I was definitely interested and intrigued about the school. As a result, I did my research and attended a prospective parent evening. At that point, I put my son's name in the hat and was hopeful we would get in. We actually got into the school a year

earlier than expected, but it has worked out very well for our family regardless.

