

2022 Board Candidate Questionnaire

My name is Keri Street and I have two boys at BFA. Brayden is in 5th grade and Cameron is in 2nd grade. We have been at BFA since Brayden was in preschool, so this is our 8th year. I was born and raised here in the Denver area and graduated from Chatfield High School in 1997. I attended Mesa State College in Grand Junction for a couple of years, then I transferred to CU Denver where I received my Bachelor of Science in Biology. A few years after graduation, I married my husband, Jason (my high school crush). I worked in a couple of different laboratories after college but spent the most time working at Metropolitan Pathologists in the Molecular Pathology lab as a laboratory technician. I worked there until 2014, when I had my second son, Cameron, and I have been a stay-at-home mom ever since. I have spent many hours over the years volunteering at BFA and have been on the PTO for the past three years. I have attended three board meetings this year, two in person and one via zoom, along with several Douglas County school board meetings. I have attended five or six PTO meetings, and since I am on the welcoming committee for PTO, I have planned and attended the fall conference welcome table to welcome new families as well as the BFA Mom's Night Out. I also have eaten at or ordered from several restaurants for BFA Spirit Nights. If you haven't tried Modern Plate, I highly recommend it!

What I believe the ideal relationship includes between the BFA Board and the BFA community is respect, understanding, and perspective. With a large community full of differing viewpoints and opinions, it is important to keep an open mind and show everyone the respect and understanding that they deserve, while still using facts and logic, whether it be a fellow board member or a member of the BFA staff and community. Listening to each other and valuing everyone's perspective is invaluable.

I think one of the current challenges facing charter school boards is maintaining the ability to protect our rights as a charter school. With a charter school board, comes a big responsibility. That responsibility is having the autonomy over decisions regarding finance, staff and school management, curriculum, assuring compliance with state and federal laws, policy, and the implementation of those policies, along with several other duties. Fulfilling these obligations helps us protect ourselves and our rights as a charter.

I am motivated to run for the BFA school board because I enjoy being a part of my children's education. I think this is the very best way to go about doing just that. I have loved serving on the PTO and decided that I wanted to take it a few steps further and run for the board. One of the things I appreciate most about Ben Franklin Academy is our autonomy and ability to self-govern and I would really enjoy being a part of that. If I am being completely honest, I am doing this for my kids, and yours. I want my kids to look back someday and remember and appreciate that their mom was a big part of their school community and their education.

If there is one personal aspiration I would like to achieve by serving on the board it would be to show my children that if they feel driven to be a part of something, even if they are feeling nervous, or unsure, that they should go for it anyways. I want them to know to trust their gut, take chances, and do what they are being called to do. Another aspiration that I think we can accomplish as a board, is to bridge the communication gap between parents and staff. I want there to always be an open line of communication between the parent community and the teacher/staff community. I feel that if parents and teachers are working together in terms of academics, behavior and social/emotional development,

that a kid is more apt to succeed in all of these aspects. Whether we are talking about a kindergartener or an 8th grader, establishing and implementing that line of communication is crucial.

I think the moment I knew that BFA was the right choice for my family and I was after my mom passed away from cancer. Brayden was in preschool with Shannon Olson after my mom died, and I had had a very impactful dream about my mom the early morning hours before school that day. I showed up to drop off Brayden that morning visibly upset, and Shannon asked me if I was ok, to which I responded to her with tears and a description of my dream. She cried with me and hugged me, and it was just what I needed that morning. She found special ways to support Brayden during that tough year, because she knew that even though he was only three, he experienced an immense loss. I just remember thinking that if the rest of the teachers here at BFA were anything like Shannon Olson, we were in great hands. I was right. BFA teachers and staff have been nothing short of amazing and it is truly one of my most favorite, if not, my most favorite thing about this school. I feel blessed to be a part of this community.