

2022 Board Candidate Questionnaire

- **Your Name:** Sarah Nisbet
- **Number and grade of children in your family enrolled at BFA:** Three children in grades 7, 4, and 2.
- **Number of years your family has been at BFA:** This is our 9th year at BFA!
- **Brief biography, including any charter school experience:**

Sarah Nisbet holds a degree in education from Texas State University. She has five years experience teaching in a full day Kindergarten classroom. During that time she furthered her education becoming GT trained, ESL certified, and served on the literacy collaborative committee. Since having children, she stayed home for a few years but stayed involved leading a play group, running the finance side of her MOPS group, and volunteering at BFA. Currently she is a Team Lead at the Nespresso Boutique. In addition to her volunteer work at BFA, Ms. Nisbet leads a single mom's group at Mission Hills Church. Prior to joining the Board, Ms. Nisbet served on the School Accountability Committee (SAC) for four years as Vice Chair, Chair, and DAC Liaison. In 2019, Ms. Nisbet was elected to the Board and served as an at large director, PTO liaison, and Board Succession Chair. During her second year, she served as Board Secretary, SAC liaison and led the Uniform Committee to bring two additional uniform vendors to our school. Currently, Ms. Nisbet serves as Vice President, is the Board liaison for the Community Events Committee (CEC), and is BFA's representative on the DCSD Alliance.

- **Number of BFA Board meetings and events have you attended this school year (identify by type of event):**
 - Board meetings 7;
 - PTO meetings 0;
 - Committee meetings 5;
 - Community events 2;
 - Other 2.
- **Describe the ideal relationship between the BFA Board and the BFA community.**

The ideal relationship is one with mutual respect. In the three years serving on the Board, it has been my goal to be as transparent as possible and to create an environment where the BFA community feels comfortable sharing open comments and being engaged in monthly Board meetings. As parents and leaders, we need to set the tone for our children that we can work together in a respectable way even when we don't agree. I hope to continue seeing Board meetings well attended and our community engaged to promote the success of our students and our school.

- **What are the current challenges facing charter school boards?**

The past three years have been very challenging for charter school boards. COVID and state mandates had everyone rethinking the best way to keep students engaged and in

school. This continues to be an issue within our district surrounding masking and quarantines. It's important to be informed and to control your controllable. If changes can be made within our school at the Board level, it is up to us gather feedback from parents, staff, and administration. BFA has worked hard to leave politics at the door and make decisions based on what is best for our students and our school.

- **What motivated you to accept a nomination for a seat on the BFA Board?**

Continuing to work with fellow Board members and administration motivated me to accept a nomination to continue serving on the BFA Board. My goal when I set out to serve as a Board member was to serve two terms. Each year I have taken on new responsibilities and roles as a Board member. I have learned so much through each position and am humbled to work with many different parents and teachers. The hours may be long but the experiences and growth as a leader within my community continue to shape me.

- **Share any personal aspirations you would like to achieve by serving on the BFA Board, as well as aspirations for the BFA Board itself during your term.**

I would like to continue improving my role as a leader at this school. It is important to me to volunteer my time and have gained many experiences serving as a room parent, as a member of the SAC Committee and my three years on the Board. My aspirations for the Board are to continue to provide transparent communication with our school community and grow parent volunteerism by sharing opportunities and leading by example. I want to be part of a Board that is supportive of teachers, students, and parents while preparing for our Charter Contract Renewal in 2024.

- **Describe a moment when you knew BFA was the right school for your family and what you love most about BFA.**

Walking through the halls of this school, seeing all the artwork and projects on display, messages of positivity to build up those walking by, smiling faces of students and staff. This drew me in as a parent and a former educator, feeling that sense of community. I absolutely love the support provided for my children in developing a love of learning and promoting parent volunteerism. There are ways for everyone to be involved and every little bit helps. I love that I can continue to learn and grow myself while supporting my children and their school.