

## 2020 Board Nomination Form

Karen Ramon

- 1 child, 1st grade at BFA
  - 1st year at BFA
  - Biography: I bring 20 years of experience in education and the nonprofit sectors including 6 years of experience working at the STEM school. I also have 5 years of experience serving on a board as a founding board member and board treasurer for Girls in STEM (now [STEMblazers](#)) from 2014-2019. I joined [HERS](#) on the DU campus as an Accountant in September 2019. During my career in education I created new programming such as developing a business department at the STEM school. During my time at Girls in STEM as the Director of Finance and Operations, I developed accounting procedures and worked to develop and execute clear strategic goals for a newly formed nonprofit. I also worked as a secondary and post-secondary instructor in mathematics and spent a few years in human resources doing training and benefits administration. I received my MBA in Business Administration from the University of Houston and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education from Colorado State University. I enjoy spending time with my husband and 3 boys. My favorite hobbies are playing tennis, volleyball, and travelling.
  - BFA Board Meetings : attended town hall
  - Community Events: attended Harvest Festival and the Mulan musical
  - Volunteering: Art room, Lunch duty, setup for Grandparents breakfast, and driveline
- 1) My vision of the ideal relationship between the board and community is that the board supports the BFA community by listening and acting on ideas and concerns brought forth by the community. It is a team effort to run a successful school and all parties involved including families, community members and partners, BFA staff and students need to have a voice in order to bring ideas to continuously improve BFA.
  - 2) The current challenges facing charter school boards is the autonomy to oversee a competitive and successful school with limited resources. This is true both from a funding standpoint and also through human capital as well. Charter schools face a lot of competition in Douglas County and charter school boards always need to be thinking of ways to improve or become more efficient with funding in order to continue to attract new families to BFA.
  - 3) I am motivated by new challenges and opportunities. I am also motivated by the belief that each and every child that attends BFA should have a positive and impactful education experience. I want to help bring ideas to implement as a board member by listening to the BFA community and making sure we are diligently meeting the needs of the families with students at BFA.
  - 4) I am looking for a way to give back to a charter school in a different role using my past experience as an educator in the classroom, strategic planning teacher liaison on the STEM school board, and SAC teacher representative. The opportunity to serve as the Board Treasurer and founding board member for Girls in STEM (now STEMblazers) was

a fulfilling and rewarding experience and after one year of being off a board I am ready to step back into this role.

- 5) The moment that I had the opportunity to tour BFA last May was when I knew the school was right for my family. This brought to light for me the interactive learning environment by walking the halls and seeing the classrooms in action. In addition, the support staff and administration were both professional and helpful through the open enrollment process and also during the new family orientation at the beginning of the school year.

Part 1:

- 1) Why your nominee should serve on BOD?

I am interested in serving on the board because of my background experience and my passion for giving every child the best education experience possible. I truly believe my role would be to help make sure each and every child that attends BFA has a positive and impactful experience both through curriculum, mentors, coaches, extra curricular activities, peer relationships, etc.. My background includes roles in education and business with experience in the skills needed for this position such as strategic planning and organizational and financial management.

- 2) Biography, include other charter school experience

I bring 20 years of experience in education and the nonprofit sectors including 6 years of experience working at the STEM school. I also have 5 years of experience serving on a board as a founding board member and board treasurer for Girls in STEM (now [STEMblazers](#)) from 2014-2019. I joined [HERS](#) on the DU campus as an Accountant in September 2019. During my career in education I created new programming such as developing a business department at the STEM school. During my time at Girls in STEM as the Director of Finance and Operations, I developed accounting procedures and worked to develop and execute clear strategic goals for a newly formed nonprofit. I also worked as a secondary and post-secondary instructor in mathematics and spent a few years in human resources doing training and benefits administration. I received my MBA in Business Administration from the University of Houston and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education from Colorado State University. I enjoy spending time with my husband and 3 boys. My favorite hobbies are playing tennis, volleyball, and travelling.

- 3) What role do you see the nominee playing on the BOD?

Given my background in education and business I see my role on the board through a financial and education lens. I see myself being able to contribute on the finance committee and also with some of the strategic plan's long term objectives such as improving the educational experience on a continual basis and with the goal to promote meaningful and productive staff and professional development.

- 4) What strengths/experience do they bring to the BOD?

As mentioned in question 2 I have worked at a charter school for 6 years. My experiences both inside the classroom and throughout the school setting with various projects would hopefully bring new ideas to strengthen BFA. I served as

a TOSA (teacher on special assignment) working on a variety of projects from strengthening business partnerships, to showcasing the school through company tours, to setting up industry field trips for staff, etc. I also served as the teacher liaison on the SAC committee and for the strategic planning committee with the Board of Directors. In addition, I have experience in education from the middle school level through post secondary education. I also have taught in district schools plus online and at a charter. Lastly, I bring with me knowledge from other schools in the district that 2 of my kids attend in order to bring ideas and thoughts for best practices at BFA.

- 5) Is the nominee willing to commit to attend board meetings in addition to spending time on committee work?

Yes I am willing to commit to attending the regularly scheduled board meetings plus spending time on committees, in classrooms, on projects, etc.

- 6) Anything else you want us to know about the nominee

I have a first grader at BFA and we are a first year family and love the school and community.

A fun and unique fact is that I grew up as a military brat and graduated from high school in Ramstein, Germany.

Also here is my [Linkedin Profile](#).