

New Discoveries Montessori Academy ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, May 17, 2010

6:30 – 7:00 pm in the NDMA multi-purpose room



We were not able to complete our annual business meeting in April because we did not have a quorum (20% of parents & staff). ***We are asking parents of our students and all NDMA staff to please make every effort to attend.*** We will be considering updates to our by-laws (advance copies available on our website and at the school front desk) and completing the annual school board election to fill 3 expiring positions on our board. Please take time to read the following biographies of the individuals running for those positions and plan to attend this important meeting. Our by-laws also allow for nominations from the floor.

Jaclyn Gehrke (incumbent)

I graduated from Augsburg College in 2007 with an elementary education degree. While pursuing my degree I volunteered countless hours at a Montessori school near campus. I did my student teaching at a Montessori school in St. Paul and enjoyed my experience. In fact, it was these experiences that encouraged me to pursue my Montessori credentials, which I have almost completed.

I was appointed to the NDMA board just over a year ago to fulfill a vacant term. As a second-year teacher, I am committed to making this school be as successful as possible and helping to make this an excellent option in our community. I think it is important to have teachers on our board because they help bring a unique perspective to the board decisions.

Recently the board worked on creating a set of long-term goals that I think will ultimately make our school even better. I would love to be a part of continuing that journey and follow through on some of the already established goals.

I want the students to have the best experience they are able, which ultimately comes from decisions at the board level. As a teacher, I take my role on the NDMA board very seriously and am looking out at the long term future for both the students themselves and our school as a whole.

Sandy Hruby

My husband and I are parents of 3 children through the miracle of adoption, 2 of our children have diagnosed special needs and have IEP's. We are actively involved with advocating for the needs and rights of our children. We live within the Hutchinson community and are active in our church, Boy and Girl Scouts. I serve on Project Harmony and the Thrive Initiative Committees as well as other community events.

My qualifications include an Early Childhood Teaching Licensure, a Masters in Educational Leadership, and a Graduate Certificate in Online Teaching. I continue to take courses, attend workshops and conferences to keep myself current in new research and teaching techniques. I have worked in the field of education for 24 years in many different capacities including 8 years as a paraprofessional in special education, 12 years with preschool and school-age children and 21 years of teaching at the college level. I am also a registered Master Trainer with the Minnesota Center for Professional Development and provide trainings to other educators at conferences and workshops throughout the state of Minnesota.

I am interested in serving on the board for several reasons; I am passionate about teaching and making a difference in the lives of children and their families. As educators we need to work as a team to be resourceful, good communicators and advocates and then meet the children and families where they are to best serve them. Because of my diverse teaching background I have many resources and experiences to draw from and share. As a parent I also sit on the other side of the table and see what my own children need and find a way to best serve them, this gives me an entirely different perspective to draw from that can also be shared. As a higher education teacher and trainer I bring another

perspective in my ability to educate others on a variety of topics in a short time or over a period of time. I have important tidbits of knowledge to draw from in all of these different perspectives, and also an ability to rephrase things in terms that professionals in the field as well as other parents can understand. My most important reason for wanting to serve as a board member is to be a voice, both as an educator and as a parent, in helping NDMA be the best educational setting it can be for both children and their families.

Rick Larson

My wife, Theresa, and I have lived in Hutchinson for over twenty five years. During that time we raised three children who are all products of traditional education. Our youngest son did experience some of the Montessori methodologies in a pre-school setting which helped him in several ways. We found the use of manipulative reinforcement for skill sets combined with a self paced format stimulates learning styles.

My desire to be part of the Board at New Discoveries Montessori Academy is based on learning ways to facilitate student objectives, enable changes needed and add value to the programs holistic needs. In the spirit of Maria Montessori's belief that learning is by doing things for oneself rather than inactively being programmed with a cookie cutter body of knowledge we need to continually challenge our students. My experience can help with organization, communications and program development as opportunities and/or needs arise. Our challenge is to prepare today's students as tomorrows leaders who critically need to be able to make changes in all facets of their environment quickly, effectively, and with limited information that is why they need to be priority one.

My education includes being a graduate of Crown College with a Bachelor of Science in Management and Ethics and a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership. Experience includes thirty years experience in Facility management, Operations and Security in publicly held companies and currently the Director of Facility Management Services at a private Christian college. Additionally there is twenty years of working with youth in the AWANA program at two different churches and currently other programs at Hunters Ridge Community Church. I currently serve on the National Education and Development Committee for the Association of Facilities Engineers, on the Accreditation Sub-Committee for a private college and a co-track leader for Process and Reliability at the Society of Maintenance Reliability Professionals National Conference.

Aaron Stolp (incumbent)

This is my fourth year as a teacher at New Discoveries. Previous to teaching at New Discoveries, I taught in Phoenix, Arizona for five years after graduating from college. My undergraduate degree in elementary education is from the University of Minnesota Duluth. I have both E1 and E2 Montessori credentials, and a Master's Degree with a specialization in Montessori education, both of which I obtained from St. Catherine's University's Center for Contemporary Montessori Programs.

After much thought and consideration, I have decided to run for another term on the board of New Discoveries Montessori Academy. I realize that serving on the board is another responsibility in addition to the numerous duties of the classroom. However, I feel it is vital for a charter school board to have some teacher representation.

There are a few primary reasons why I have decided to run for another term on the board. Our board has recently completed long-term strategic planning, and I would like to be involved in the implementation of these goals. During my tenure on the board, there has been turnover, and I am willing to serve again in order to give the board a higher level of consistency. The board needs members that will scrutinize and analyze financial statements and budgets, and not be hesitant to give recommendations and opinions. As the current treasurer of NDMA's board and as a member of the finance committee, I am committed to ensuring that our school remains fiscally responsible. As a staff member, I am intricately involved in helping make New Discoveries a successful Montessori school that is dedicated to the unique Montessori approach, and the board needs people with this perspective to serve.

We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting!

New Discoveries Montessori Academy
1000 5th Avenue S.E.
Hutchinson, MN 55350
www.newdiscoveries.org

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