

It's time for SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATIONS!

This year's school board elections will take place on **Friday, May 16th**. We will be electing three new members to our nine-member board of directors. The board plays a crucial role in providing direction, vision and continuity for our growing school community. We hope that you will give serious consideration to volunteering for a board position, or will take the time to recommend someone who you think would be willing and able to support the school in this way.

Minnesota state law requires that a charter school's board of directors shall be composed of at least one licensed teacher at the school, one parent or legal guardian of a student enrolled at the school, and one interested community member who is not employed by the school and does not have a child enrolled in the school. The composition of the Board will meet these legal requirements for the 2014-2015 school year regardless of election results. Having a diverse board representing different points of view benefits the school in many ways. We would welcome nominations of people who have experience in **finance, legal matters, marketing, business, commercial real estate, human resources, or immersion education**. Of course, any person who has a passion for the school, and a willingness to work with, and for, the community to promote and improve the school would be a great asset to the Board.

One term on the board of directors consists of three years, and a director may serve for up to two consecutive terms. A key responsibility of a director is to participate in the development of policy and major decision-making at board meetings, which take place at least twelve times a year. Another key responsibility is to be active on an ongoing basis in at least one committee of board. Current board committees include Governance, Finance, Communications and Development and the Inclusivity Task Force. Typical issues that arise at board meetings include financial oversight, hiring of staff, approval of the school calendar and curriculum, long-term facilities planning, long-term financial planning, and relations between the school and its authorizer, the Germanic-American Institute. In addition, all new board members are legally required to attend training in board governance, employment practices and policies, and financial management in the first year of the board term and one training each year after that.

TCGIS is committed to creating a safe and effective school environment for children, as well as managing all school business in a responsible manner. Therefore, all board members will be asked to supply the information needed to conduct a criminal background check.

Board nominations and all application paperwork are due on Monday, April 7. The application forms can be downloaded from the TCGIS website (www.tcgis.org) or picked up from the school office. If you have any questions or have suggestions for potential candidates, please contact Michelle Wallace, Governance Committee Chair or any other member of the current board. Thank you for your consideration.