

**April 13, 2014**

**Dear TCGIS Community,**

**Your participation in the upcoming elections is very important to us. Meet the May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 election board candidates. Read their bios below and meet them in person at the May 13<sup>th</sup> PTO meeting.**

**At this meeting, a board member will outline the identified board skill needs as Matt Schnieder, Marcus Sheire, Gregor Adriany, and Renee Moelders depart our board. The candidates will present their skills, experiences, and interests in being on the board. The PTO meeting is also an opportunity to ask clarifying questions.**

**The PTO meeting is from at 6:30 – 8:00 pm in the TCGIS cafeteria on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you there.**

**Peter Haeg**

My interest in serving on the TCGIS Board can be summarized in three beliefs.

- 1) I believe that great institutions need to have a firm idea of what they do well, focus on it, measure how well they perform, engage internal/external stakeholders and continuously improve. This is another way of saying good institutions have a solid mission, vision, and strategic plan. It is actually a lot of work to put in action, but once you start the ball rolling and get stakeholders on board, the power of this approach is tremendous. People are more engaged, have a greater sense of purpose, their efforts contribute to a more coordinated approach, and success is much more attainable.
- 2) I also believe a good education revolves more around building “non-cognitive skills” than building of knowledge in young minds. Teamwork, resilience, organizational skills, communication, self-control, conscientiousness and self-confidence; I would argue; are far more important for students than traditional measures of student learning. These are the skills that will help our children succeed in life – be it leading a team, getting through challenging times, working with others or even just managing the difficult people we all encounter. Knowledge is important, but I’d argue it is worthless without the skills to effectively implement it.
- 3) I believe TCGIS has extremely committed teachers, administration and parents, and of course outstanding students. I would appreciate the opportunity to help create the institution’s future.

**John Holmlund:**

After having attended the board meetings this year I feel that as a parent, but also a teacher and administrator at American Indian OIC, I understand each side of the issues that have come before the board. I feel that one of my greatest strengths is my ability to develop questions that cut to the absolute core of issues, the answers to which would help establish clear choices for the board. I have been able to do that in only a very limited way this year. After the first board meeting of the school year, I investigated one such question and found that some of the most prestigious schools in MN (including Breck School, The Blake School, Shattuck-St. Mary's, etc) are accredited and thereby members of the National Association of Independent Schools. As Accreditation Coordinator at American Indian OIC I understand the immense work involved in obtaining accreditation, but many of the resources of the NAIS are available online for free. I have also asked about the 25% voter turnout for the elections last year, some of

which possibly due to the weather. I believe that both of these issues: parental engagement/involvement (measured in part by election participation, but also by the strength of volunteer efforts at the school) and, more long-term, possible accreditation of TCGIS are areas in which I can make large contributions to our school, but that I have knowledge and expertise to make contributions to all aspects of our school.

### **Ted Johnson**

I am Ted Johnson and would like to serve on the board of TCGIS. I would particularly like to be of service with respect to the financial management. I am a licensed Certified Public Accountant and Certified Management Accountant and although most of my experience is with for profit entities I have also served as a part-time CFO for a small college and earlier in my career did several audits for non-profit organizations. I also am currently on the Board of two other non-profits, including serving as Treasurer for one of those. My son, Carl is currently in first grade, and has attended TCGIS for the past two years. We have been pleased with the school and it has been wonderful for our son. I was born and raised in Minneapolis, and went to Hamilton College in New York for under Graduate and then completed my Masters in Accounting at the University of Hartford. I speak German and have lived in Germany during my career as well. From what I have observed the school seems to be running well and I would be happy to help with any expertise I have to help the school to continue to build its success.

### **Burkhard Tiessen**

My name is Burkhard Tiessen and I would like to serve on the TCGIS Board of Directors

I was born and raised in Karby, Germany. A small village close to the Danish border in Northern Germany. I was an exchange student at the University of St. Thomas and received my MBA in North Carolina. After graduation, I returned to MN and began working at Target Corporation.

My wife, Tanya Novak, and I have a kindergartener and first grader who attend TCGIS. Our family will be part of the TCGIS community for years to come. As a result, I have a vested interest in the school from both a short-term and long-term perspective. Recently, I was asked to join the Communications & Development committee. The committee's objective is to foster a strong relationship with the German Government and related institutions. In addition, I was a member of the transportation committee and researched potential busing options for the school.

This is a pivotal time for TCGIS and I want to make a positive impact. I am an action oriented person who can cut the clutter and drive results. I am a problem solver. I have the typical German trait for directness and transparency, but 15 years in corporate America has taught me how to take partners and build consensus. I will never be a great politician (too German), but I will work hard to make a positive contributions to our school and community.

### **Peter Tobias:**

I am a physicist and work as researcher for the Honeywell Global Labs in Plymouth, MN. I was born in Essen, Germany, and raised in a neighbor city. My Master in physics is from RWTH Aachen, Germany, and my PhD in sensor technology from the Technical University in Linköping, Sweden. I met my wife who is American during my postdoc years at Michigan

State University. Upon moving for my job to the Twin Cities, we were happy to find a German school in TCGIS for our two sons whom we have raised bilingual. We want to give back to the community and help make TCGIS a strong immersion school, where teachers and parents work together for the students' good education. As a native German, I want to help to keep the contact to German organizations, and as a scientist, I want to support a well represented STEM field at TCGIS (STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

**Natalie Yeager:**

I would like to be considered as a school board candidate for TCGIS. Over the past five years, I have taken the time to be engaged and understand our school, inside and out, elementary through middle-school. With three children currently attending and as a current substitute teacher at TCGIS, I have a vested interest to make this the best educational experience for ALL of our children, as well as, support our staff.

I believe that my background and credentials are an asset for this position. My education includes an MBA from the University of Minnesota, Mankato, and a double major in German/Economics. I also spent one year at the German Institute, a full German immersion college through Concordia, Moorhead. My five-year professional career focused on finance, where I first, worked my way up to internal reporting and then to a credit analyst for USBank, underwriting credit packages totaling billions of dollars for EU financial institutions. Most recently, I had been managing the office functions of a consulting company.

I have served on numerous boards and held leadership roles in organizations including: Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC), Northside Transportation Network (Lightrail issues) and treasurer for Minneapolis University Rotary Club.

My school community involvement includes serving on the Transportation Committee, the Communications Committee, the Green Team and PTO Fundraising Committee for Maskenball.

I really look forward to being able to make a difference and use my knowledge and skills to lead our school, by becoming a contributing member of the school board.

-Natalie Yeager

(Mother to Lian 4B, Annelise 2A, and Annika Y. KB)