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**Board of Directors Election
Voting Guide**

May 2019

The purpose of this Voting Guide is to introduce you to the St. Croix Preparatory Academy Board of Director candidates. This guide will list the candidates with their qualifications and views.

Who can vote in this election?

SCPA defines a “Voter” as:

- All Employees. All employees (e.g. administration, faculty members, educational assistants, food service, etc.) excluding employees contracted via external organizations;
- Parents/Legal Guardians. All parents/legal guardians, with a limit of two votes per family.

Election Day/Absentee Ballot

The election will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the SCPA Atrium.

If you are unable to vote on this date, contact Susan Peterson, 651-395-5994 or susanpeterson@stcroixprep.org for absentee voting information.

This election is legal and binding. By choosing qualified candidates, you will help St. Croix Preparatory Academy meet the challenges that face the school in the coming years.

SCPA Community Board Candidates

Voters will choose:

1 faculty candidate

1 parent candidate

1 community member candidate

Deb Keyes – Faculty

Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors?

I am passionate about the mission and vision of our school. As a teacher and parent of two alumni, I am fully vested in the success of the students and the faculty. I wish to be part of the leadership team that steers St. Croix Prep successfully into a sustainable future. I am very enthusiastic about serving another term on the board.

What areas of expertise would you bring to St. Croix Preparatory Academy?

As a tenth year teacher at SCPA, one who has teamed cross-curricular and with faculty across all grade levels, and as a former parent, I would be able to share not only the perspective of the lower school team, but an application of the broader vision of the mission from K through 12.

Having served on the board for two terms, I have gained a broad understanding of things like budgeting, fiscal responsibility, and strategic planning. Working on the Compensation Committee has opened my eyes to the challenges of creating an equitable and sustainable compensation plan. I would love to continue our efforts in that regard. Having been part the ground level discussions of both the board governance and succession planning has provided me with a vision of where the Board is and where the Board needs to be in the future. This background knowledge will help inform how we get there.

What aspects of St. Croix Prep do you believe are the most important to maintain?

I am interested in maintaining the cornerstones of our mission: academics, character, and leadership. I wish to continue to value and retain our high-quality educators.

What issues do you believe need to be addressed by the Board of Directors in the next few years?

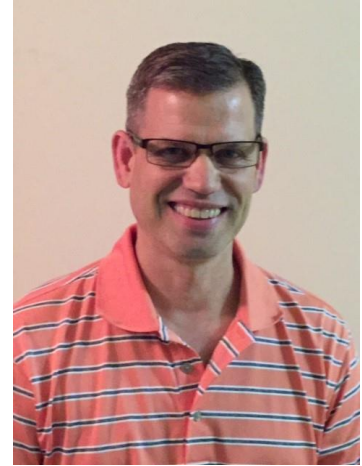
St. Croix Prep is an exceptional school; however, there is still work to be done. First, we must ensure it stays an outstanding school by remaining true to its mission. Next we must attract, compensate, and retain high-quality teachers, and investigate innovative ways to increase our revenue. Finally, we must work on setting the direction for the future. How will St. Croix Prep serve students in five years, ten years, or even 25 years? I am excited to be part of this exceptional school and its mission and I am eager to work toward its promising future.



Robert Hajlo – Parent

Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors?

I have found the past 3 years on the board to have been both challenging and gratifying. I would consider it a privilege to continue to serve the SCPA community. To me, serving on the board is about representing the larger school community by ensuring the decisions we make today will benefit our current and future students. I think that serving on the board is a way to give back to the school that has given so many opportunities to our children.



What areas of expertise would you bring to St. Croix Preparatory Academy?

I believe my current board experience and previously serving on the Friends of SCPA board has given me many valuable insights into the challenges faced by the school. I am a firm believer in listening to all side of the discussion and making well thought out, common sense decisions. I have a great deal of business experience and facilities knowledge which I use to work through the strategic issues facing the school.

What aspects of St. Croix Prep do you believe are the most important to maintain?

To me the culture and environment are the most important part of the SCPA experience. The feel of the school is so amazing and unique and it is really something that the community can be proud of. Being a part of the board has really shown me the depth of the dedication of both the teachers and administration, and how hard they work to provide such an excellent student experience.

What issues do you believe need to be addressed by the Board of Directors in the next few years?

As the school matures, it is important for the board to continue to provide both strategic planning in the area of facilities and charting a course for continued educational excellence. I think that retention and development of our dedicated staff is essential to maintaining SCPA's superior educational model. Overall it is clearly evident that SCPA has become one of the most successful schools in the state all while embracing and encouraging our children's unique qualities and gifts, that is why I believe that we need to stay the course and continue to provide this opportunity far into the future.

Jim Markoe – Community Member

Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors?

As a SCPA parent and board member for the past fifteen years, I have learned and grown with our school. I continue to be passionate about St Croix Prep and charter schools in general. It would be an honor to continue serving SCPA.

I am also passionate about our Prep for Life philosophy. We are a modern school community building on a tradition of educational purpose that has been a seminal principle in preparatory education for 2,000 years: “non scholae sed vitae” (Seneca). Simply translated, learning not for school, but for life.... While working to provide students with an educational foundation for life, we are also building a lasting community asset for the St Croix Valley and beyond.



We have made great strides in our first fifteen years of growth. As an increasingly mature school SCPA has the challenge of passing forward our unique combination of educational and management principles that have created one of the highest performing K - 12 schools in Minnesota. We need to memorialize and further instill our founding principles for current and future school boards to build upon.

What areas of expertise would you bring to St. Croix Preparatory Academy?

As an attorney I bring not only legal training, but also a myriad of business and non-profit board leadership experience to SCPA. Together with the founding directors, and administration team, I have spent thousands of volunteer hours navigating the educational and legal landscape of Minnesota charter schools. SCPA is becoming a fully enrolled school that needs experienced leadership and new energetic board members to continue to thrive. I look forward to the opportunity to bring continuity of leadership along with continuing academic and cultural growth to SCPA.

What aspects of St. Croix Preparatory Academy do you think are most important to maintain?

SCPA is unique in its focus on the trivium of grammar, logic, and rhetoric with a business based management style that values a "growth mind set". We need to focus on integrating our founding principles and values into the cultural fabric of the school. Fostering each student's academic, character, and leadership skills needs to be central in every decision we make.

What issues do you think need to be addressed by the Board of Directors in the next few years?

I have often said that my greatest concern for SCPA is that it might become just an average K - 12 school. We need to fight the tendency of many maturing organizations to become complacent and static. Additionally, the SCPA board must continue building internal competence and expertise to ensure a sustainable thriving school for decades to come.



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**St. Croix Preparatory Academy
Mission Statement**

St. Croix Preparatory Academy will develop each student's academic potential, personal character, and leadership qualities through an academically rigorous and content rich educational program grounded in a classical tradition.

Write-In Candidate Request for St. Croix Preparatory Academy Board of Directors

This request must be signed by the candidate.

I, _____, request that all write-in votes cast for me for the St. Croix Preparatory Academy Board of Directors during the election on May 21, 2019, be counted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 204B.09, subd. 3.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**This form must be received by noon on Friday, May 17, 2019,
for write-in votes to be counted separately.**

Submit this form to: Susan Peterson at SCPA or fax to 651-395-5901.