

Tell us about your background. Include children attending the school, employment, education, etc.

I've had the pleasure of serving on the Liberty Common School Board of Directors for the past three years. I'm eager to provide continuity and leadership to the Board, supporting and implementing the Board's strategic plan over the next few years.

In the years since joining Liberty's leadership team, my oldest has moved from the elementary to the high school and our youngest has progressed from preschool through the first few years of his Liberty journey. As our children's Liberty careers progress, my husband, Mark, and I become increasingly grateful for the education and moral character development they receive each day at Liberty. Our oldest son is enjoying seventh grade and the educational and leadership opportunities provided him at the high school. Our younger two children thrive at the elementary school, where our daughter relishes being a Big Kid Upstairs and serving as a school leader through the Student Council and our youngest inhales Liberty's rich reading culture, while trying to figure out how to write small enough to fit 'Notarfrancesco' on the name lines of his second-grade papers. The Core Knowledge curriculum has provided us many fascinating and rich dinner table conversations and we love discussing the interesting things our kids learn each day.

I attended the College of Engineering at Iowa State University, where I graduated with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. Upon graduation, I began working for Intel Corporation, where I served in several different engineering and leadership roles helping Intel develop next generation processors, training new teams, and as HR representative helping employees achieve their potential. Once my husband and I started our family, I quit working at Intel to focus on raising our children.

Please share your thoughts on the role of schools and how it can best provide for excellent education.

The purpose of schools is to provide the educational foundation for members of a society; thankfully, education of our citizens was a significant concern among our country's founders. Thomas Jefferson wrote in a letter to George Wythe in 1786 that,

"I think by far the most important bill in our whole code is that for the diffusion of knowledge among the people. No other sure foundation can be devised for the preservation of freedom, and happiness."

Jefferson's sentiment is wisely reflected in our school charter when it states,

"One's economic and social status, race, physical attributes and other conditions become less relevant in the pursuit of happiness when armed with superb intellectual aptitude oriented toward true freedom."

The best way to elevate an individual or a society is to provide them with a thorough, high-quality educational foundation.

Schools can provide high-quality education when they focus on delivering a content-rich curriculum, establish a high-level of expectation for individual academic performance and recognize the role of parents as the ultimate authority over their children. Schools best deliver excellence in education when they establish an academically rigorous curriculum which provides students with a significant knowledge base tailored to the society in which they live. The schools must provide an environment in which individual responsibility is cultivated and expected and where students are held accountable for their academic success and behavior. It is important the schools recognize parents as the ultimate authority over their children and involve them in the education of their children.

Tell us what books you have read on education and education reform.

Why Johnny Can't Tell Right From Wrong by William Kilpatrick
Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know by E.D. Hirsch
The Schools We Need and Why We Don't Have Them by E.D. Hirsch
The Diversity Delusion by Heather Mac Donald
The Disappearance of Childhood by Neil Postman
Economics in One Lesson by Henry Hazlitt
Proust and the Squid by Maryanne Wolf
Springtime for Snowflakes by Michael Rectenwald
A Patriot's History of the United States by Larry Schweikart
A Conflict of Visions by Thomas Sowell
Capitalism for Kids by Karl Hess
Mindset by Carol Dweck
Inside American Education by Thomas Sowell

How have you contributed to Liberty Common School to date?

I am passionate about my involvement at Liberty and have been an active member of the LCS community since my children began attending in 2011. For the past three years, I have served as an active member of Liberty's Board of Directors, where I most recently served as Vice Chair. I have been grateful for the opportunity to serve our school and community on the Board, where I have represented the board on the Academic Advisory Committee for three years, served for two years as chair of Liberty's Fundraising Team, chaired the Governance Committee as well as served on the new Development Committee over the past year. Additionally, I have participated in many interview teams, assisting in interviews for both teachers and administrators at both the elementary and high school campuses. I'm proud to have served alongside Liberty's indispensable administrators and dedicated fellow parent board members. Liberty's passionate leadership has produced high-value contributions to our school over the past few years, including pivotal decisions such as: reestablishing of the Headmaster position, hiring a Fundraising Coordinator, establishing of a Development Committee and creating a Governance Committee. The current board has been dedicated to its efforts in developing and leading through a highly considered Strategic Plan.

Prior to and throughout my service on the Board, I have continued volunteering in my children's classrooms including: assisting with Junior High English staff support, chaperoning junior high events, reading volunteer for Kindergarten and fourth grades, fourth grade heart dissection, Classroom Volunteer Coordinator, multiple special events days (Egyptian Day, Wild West Day, Roman Day, Medieval Festival) and Field Trip chaperone (Kinder Denver Zoo to Sixth Grade Denver Museum of Science). I also significantly contributed to Liberty through my active involvement with the Spring Gala Central Committee over several years. For three years, I managed the Gala marketing efforts establishing and streamlining the marketing schedule. I also lead the Procurement Team, where I managed a team of twelve people who gathered over \$30,000 worth of donations.

Tell us of any other skills, talents or access to resources that will help you be an effective BOD member.

My experiences at Intel analyzing data to make sound decisions and leading teams managing technicians and critical projects as well as my experience coordinating volunteers at Liberty have provided me with many skills beneficial to the role of LCS BOD member. I enjoy researching and learning about new things and like to take the time to make solid, rational decisions. I have a good rapport with fellow parents and LCS staff and effectively harness those relationships to effectively communicate BOD issues. I am experienced at speaking in front of groups and am happy to deliver presentations. I am also able to effectively manage teams to achieve goals by building alignment toward common goals and working with team members to utilize their strengths. As an engineer, I'm well versed in data analysis, statistics and how to appropriately determine conclusions from such data. I also have a keen interest in American history and enjoy reading and learning about America's founders.

I believe I have learned many useful skills through my experience in volunteering on Liberty's Board of Directors. I now have an understanding of key governance issues and have an appreciation for Sunshine laws and Robert's Rules of Order. Additionally, I have learned to analyze and evaluate school finance more capably.

Finally, why do you want to be a member of the Board of Directors?

I would be honored to remain a member of Liberty's Board of Directors, where I can assist in ensuring Liberty's charter and philosophy persists. I understand and appreciate the thoughtfulness and consideration with which our school founders established our school and agree with their mission to provide an excellent education for children via the Core Knowledge and classically focused curriculum.

Since serving on Liberty's Board of Directors, I have increased my knowledge regarding educational philosophy and Liberty's founding principles. I have also been grateful for the opportunity to get a closer look at Liberty's heart. We are a relatively small community of like-minded parents and educators, interested in developing morally and classically educated students. Our community connection is imperative to Liberty's continued success. Through board meetings and other functions, I have been able to experience emotionally impactful stories from across our community: I've been moved to tears with stories of perseverance and triumph

from Liberty's Academic Support Team; I've beamed with pride listening to the accomplishments and gratitude expressed by Liberty's high school students; I've been awed at the depth of care for Liberty's students manifested by administration and staff; I've been warmed by gratitude for Liberty's teachers and staff offered by gracious parents; I've experienced the clarity of mission and educational passion from Liberty's valuable founders.

I am glad to now count several of those founders as friends and am eager to continue what they so boldly and stridently fought for when establishing a parent-led school which would ultimately be the educational leader in the state of Colorado. My goal is provide my focus, skills and passion in support of the continuation of Liberty's charter and philosophy far into the future.