

Craig Allender 2021 Board Candidate Statement

1. What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the NCS Board of Directors?

My continued focus from my first term on the NCS Board will be on the NCS campus and facilities. We made great progress over the last three years, although much of it was derailed by the Covid pandemic. We have made progress on our buildings and grounds, having completed roofing repairs and starting a routine maintenance program for our classroom HVAC units. We are also in the process of coordinating the design and erection of a new portable to support before and after-care, as well as community events. Following that effort, I hope to continue to improve campus conditions and the facilities in which our children learn and grow to ensure they can last the next 20 years without distraction. The grounds are beautiful and perfect for the Waldorf-inspired atmosphere and I want to ensure that we can assist the effort to continue and build upon that atmosphere.

As a part of maintaining the NCS environment, I look forward to working with NUSD, NCS administration, NCS faculty and NCS families to identify areas of the curriculum, campus, and general school environment that need updating or improvement.

There are many other areas of school management for which I hope to provide continued support, including a balanced budget with state-mandated surplus for good financial standing, competitive pay rates for our teachers and staff, strong relationships with our authorizer, increasing diversity of our student body and community outreach/involvement.

2. Please list the qualifications you would bring to the job (such as management skills, financial skills, fundraising experience, other Board memberships, and/or relevant volunteer activities).

Having just completed three years serving on the NCS Board, I have learned about school operations, function, budgets, and planning. I served as the secretary and treasurer, and also participated on the facilities committee and Covid re-entry task force. I made it past the Board learning curve, and can continue to be an active participant for the next Board term. I have also been regularly involved in various facility improvements, including roofing repairs, HVAC repairs, and coordination for a new portable on campus. Beyond my recent NCS Board experience, I am a manager at a large national engineering firm in San Francisco, where I directly oversee numerous staff, layout career paths for future leaders, and have a leadership position in our office related to recruiting and office management. I manage clients, projects, budgets, and staff on a daily basis for over 60

large scale design and construction projects. I recently served on the Board of Directors for a national industry group that strives to advance the construction industry and the quality of work that is performed. While on that Board I lead the Institute to advance into new technologies, and to revise its vision and mission statement for a new era, all while working with a variety of generations and levels of sophistication. Throughout my family's involvement with NCS, I offered my time and energy on a variety of building and facility needs related to my engineering background, and quickly took on a leadership role with the parent facility volunteer group known as the Tiger Team. My passion for a healthy and exciting learning atmosphere for our children has lead me to oversee and coordinate this group of dedicated parents for various projects and tasks around the NCS campus, including significant activities preparing the campus for re-entry after the Covid pandemic. I've had the opportunity to work closely not only with parents and faculty, but also our administrators to understand our funding and need for volunteer work around the campus.

3. Please express something of your philosophy and vision regarding the NCS as a Waldorf-inspired school.

The Waldorf-inspired school atmosphere is an ideal setting for my and many other children. The community environment is one that I truly appreciate and embrace, as it leads the administration, faculty, parents and children to learn and grow in a way that stands out from other educational approaches. You can see the development in our students (and parents!) into strong, productive, empathetic contributors to our world. Being able to communicate, participate, interact, and contribute is becoming an increasingly valuable skill that can only be fostered in an atmosphere where community, kindness, compassion and connection to people and nature are a core focus of daily instruction.

I hope that I can continue to be a part of the NCS Board of Directors to have not only a continued role in creating, maintaining, and fostering the Magical NCS environment, but also rebuilding our spirit in a post-pandemic world.

50 WORD STATEMENT

Having just completed my first term on the NCS Board, I'm excited to move the school past the Covid pandemic and see it thrive in its intended capacity to nurture our students' head, heart and hands through support, campus and facility improvement, and staff/faculty engagement.