

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS: CANDIDATE APPLICATION

## Candidate Information

Name: Cherilyn Kynaston
Board Seat position # seeking (list only one): 1
How are you affiliated with North Star Charter School?: We have 4 children who are current or past students
School(s) and grade level(s) of your children, if applicable: Junior in College, UVU Sophomore: Rocky Mountain HS 7 <sup>th</sup> grade NSCS 5 <sup>th</sup> grade NSCS

## Biography (introduce yourself in 150 words or less)

<p>Our 4 children have attended NSCS from K-12, with a 2-year leave overseas where our children attended a Chinese immersion school, American School, home schooling, Compass Charter School, and back to NSCS. This experience gave me a unique understanding of the methods and values of other schools, the excellent curriculum available to home schoolers, and the dangers of anti-American CRT in education. I believe my experiences abroad and taking our oldest child through the NS system (2<sup>nd</sup> grade thru graduation) makes me qualified to recognize the great things happening at NSCS, in both the Elementary and Secondary schools, and to keep improving. As a homeowner in Meridian, I rallied my community against an approved nightclub on the corner of Ustick/ Eagle, winning our appeal to the Meridian City Council. I am deeply committed to keeping our community and school a wholesome, moral, and safe place for our children and families.</p>
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## Candidate Questions:

1. How did you hear about this position?

By email
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2. Would you consider yourself supportive of school choice?

Yes
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3. What is your knowledge of charter schools in Idaho or elsewhere?

I understand that Charter Schools are publicly funded, tuition-free schools of choice, but operate outside of the traditional scope required by state schools, school districts or local school boards. The advantage being that they can design curriculum to their specifications and can do so with greater autonomy than traditional schools. Charter Schools focus on an emphasis designated in their charter. Charter Schools generally attract higher quality faculty due to the liberty afforded them in the classroom, the high academic standards, and focus of the charter.
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4. Based on North Star's charter and bylaws, what do you understand to be the aspirations of the school?

My understanding is that North Star has high expectations for intellectual achievement and behavior of its students with the support of parents. High expectations and high achievement are
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promoted with a goal of "college readiness". NSCS also has an emphasis on using technology with an emphasis in all grades on economics and business. They inspire their students toward critical and creative thinking, and self-reflection as they develop the character traits of perseverance, compassion and depth of character, empowering students to flourish in their communities, country, and across the globe. They also achieve this through a focus on accelerated educational expectations for all grades. They aspire to maintain a safe, supportive, and structured learning environment that encourages high academic achievement, intellectual confidence, leadership, and virtuous citizenship.

NSCS provides the community greater choices in the types of educational opportunities available through the public school system, where character building, business, economics, and college preparation take center focus.

We personally appreciate that the environment fostered at NSCS is one of personal accountability, a safe learning environment, high academic standards, a love for the US Constitution and our country, high moral character, honesty, and integrity.

5. In what ways have you participated in supporting North Star (e.g. PTO, fundraising, volunteering, etc) ?

Volunteering, attending informational meetings, printing sweatshirts for Student Council, participating in holiday bazaars and school dances, and chaperoning school field trips.

6. What are your observations of what's going well at the school?

I have observed that the teachers and staff are truly invested in the aspirations stated in the charter. It is the reason we love North Star. They have collectively created a very cheerful and driven environment, focus on developing wholesome personal character, citizenship, patriotism, a growth mindset, excellence in education, and making it a joy for kids to be learning in school. It is obvious that the faculty and staff love working for North Star and are personally invested in the success of the students and the school.

7. What do you believe are opportunities for improvement for the school?

North Star is doing a remarkable job, but one thing that could improve is with kids who have failed older assignments, by addressing it and making kids accountable to make corrections in Advisory or keeping them in class during lunch.

Also, it could be beneficial to have annual parent surveys conducted to collect feedback on what is working well, possible improvements, curriculum feedback, interactions with faculty and staff, etc. But really, NSCS is doing a great job.

8. Have you attended any North Star Board meetings? How many?

Yes, 2

9. What background, experience, or skills can you offer as a potential Board member?

As a parent I have had many years of experience with NSCS, with international schools and Compass Charter school, as well as Discovery Elementary in Meridian and home school curriculum. This experience gives me understanding of how schools operate outside of the NSCS system. I am analytical, honest, fair, and a business owner myself, so I understand and embrace NS's charter and wholeheartedly support it. In the past few years, I led our community in filing an appeal with the Meridian City Council against a nightclub which had been approved by Planning and Zoning on Eagle and Ustick roads. I rallied my community to raise funds, write in and testify at the City Council Meeting. Because of my efforts and those who came to my aid, we were successful in getting the city to deny the previously approved application with 100% of council

members denying it. I am passionate about the safety of our children at school and in the community.

When we lived in Taiwan, we placed our 2 younger children in a Chinese immersion school, and our 2 oldest at the American School in Taichung. In order to keep up with the educational rigor at North Star, I turned to homeschooling for our 4<sup>th</sup> grader. While our son was completing his first semester at the American School, I spent these months researching the best possible curriculum to continue the North Star tradition. Cost was not a factor, and we invested in the highest quality curriculum and materials. I gave him a firm foundation in history and a love for our country as we focused on the events leading up to the Protestant Reformation and the founding of America with many hands-on projects and writing assignments. I also wanted him to have a solid foundation in math. I minored in math in college and chose Saxon Math and Singapore Math. I also wanted him to be an excellent writer, and taught him a course from the Institute for Excellence in Writing among other Language Arts curriculum.

I am very passionate about education - not indoctrination or propaganda which is creeping into our public square and state school systems.

I believe that protecting our K-12 curriculum content is of the highest importance in our current education climate. We should never bow to the dictates or agenda of the radical minorities with the loudest voices pushing toward CRT, DEI, or other anti-American ideas. I believe it is critical to preserve our integrity and independence as a school, and stay on top of changing legislation that affects our school. I believe a continued high educational standard is extremely important, that the whole student is considered (well rounded) and that students feel safe physically, mentally, and socially.

As a board member I will seek to be inclusive of all voices with a vested interest in the education of children at North Star, while defending North Star's values, mission, and patriotic character. It is my intention as a board member to maintain the qualities that make North Star a preferred school in our community.

10. Do you have any potential/perceived conflict(s) of interest that could be in question while serving on the Board?

**Additional question if you are an incumbent Board member:**

- Having served on the NSCS Board of Directors, what has been the impact of your participation as a board member?

**REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS (please attach files when emailing your application):**

1. Current C.V. or resume
2. Recent photograph (digital, for use on web site and in voting process)

# Cherilyn Kynaston

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## EDUCATION

Brigham Young University (1995-1997)

University of Texas at Austin (1997-2003)

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology, with Honors

Minors in Government and Mathematics

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Harte-Hanks, Austin Texas (1997-2004)

Internet Developer and Graphics Designer

Entrepreneur

Meridian Guitar, LLC. Teacher of piano, voice, and guitar lessons (2004 - 2017)

White Pine Press, LLC. Owner of custom-made retail Etsy shop (2020 - 2022). Produced sweatshirts for NSCS Student Council 2021-2022

Joy in the Journal. Owner of religious custom digital journals. (2023-2024)

## EDUCATOR EXPERIENCE

Thoroughly researched home school teaching methods (Classical, Charlotte Mason, Montessori, Unschooling, and Unit Studies) and successfully home schooled 4th-5th grader to return to NSCS without falling behind. Curriculum included: Singapore Math/Saxon Math, The Institute for Excellence in Writing/The Good and the Beautiful, Home School in the Woods for a hands-on history curriculum, and Supercharged Science for a hands-on science curriculum.

Home schooled 3 children while waiting for each child to be accepted to NSCS in 2019.

Have come to understand elementary and secondary education through the lens of schools my children attended in Asia: Li Zhe bilingual private school in Taichung, Taiwan, The American School in Taichung, Taiwan, and Compass Charter School in Meridian, Idaho.

## LEADERSHIP

President of Primary, LDS Church, Taichung, Taiwan (2017-2019)

Religious education of children, ages 5-12.

Scout Leader, Meridian, Idaho (2016-2017 and 2019-2022)

Personally led successful community campaign against Oasis Night Club which had been approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission in Meridian City for Eagle Road and Ustick Road. Rallied the community, raised the required funds, and won our appeal with 100% of the Meridian City Council Members voting in our favor.

**SKILLS**

Professional Graphics Designer (Photoshop, Adobe Bridge, and Canva)

Musician (Guitar, Piano, and Voice)

Entrepreneur minded

Mother of 4 children, all who attend/graduated from NSCS