

BFA Board Nominations
Biography and Supplemental Questions

1. Your Name

Bryan Thomas Molen

2. Number and grade of children in your family enrolled at BFA

We have three children: Kaitlyn (7th Grade); Jacob (4th Grade); Jackson (2nd Grade)

3. Number of years your family has been at BFA

We have been at BFA for 5 years

4. Brief biography, including any charter school experience

I am currently the secretary of the BFA Board. I hold a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Maine. I have been in the commercial risk management and insurance brokerage industry for 17 years, and currently work for Aon plc, a global professional services firm. I have served on the BFA Board for 3 years, and in addition to supporting the Board in the role of Secretary, I chair the Strategic Planning Committee, as well as serve as the Secretary to the BFA Foundation Board.

5. Number of BFA Board meetings and events have you attended this school year (identify by type of event - Board meetings 4; PTO meetings ___; Committee meetings ___; Community events 2; Other 2)

In 100 words or less per question, please answer the following:

1. Describe the ideal relationship between the BFA Board and the BFA community.

The ideal relationship between the BFA Board and the BFA community should be one of mutual respect and empathy, built on a foundation of communication and supported by the core intention of doing what's best for our kids. It is important that the Board maintains its focus on supporting the mission and vision of BFA, while doing our best to ensure the community knows the decisions that are being made and why they are being made. The Board must always be approachable and willing to listen to the members of its community.

2. What are the current challenges facing charter school boards?

Charter school boards are faced with challenges that must be navigated, both internally and externally. Some of these challenges are:

a. Public misperception of charter schools

- b. Legislation that could be passed that would have negative impacts on a charter's ability to operate**
- c. Changes in the political climate by those serving at the federal, state or district level who maintain a negative view of charter schools and desire to create challenges to make it difficult for charters to exist**
- d. BFA specifically faces potential impacts from expanding neighborhoods and developments, which will have their own schools and potentially charters that may compete with us for students**
- e. The potential that BFA may not maintain its competitive advantage against the other schools in the area**
- f. The challenge of not effectively communicating with the BFA administration and the broader community.**

The list goes on, and the challenges we face are immense; however, BFA is more than prepared to overcome these obstacles and weather any storms that may come.

3. What motivates you?

Whether it be personally or professionally, I am motivated by an innate desire to bring the best of the best to those around me, and to execute on the commitments I have made. I am also motivated by my kids. They drive me to do my best. With respect to BFA, I am motivated to make this school the best it can be, both for my kids and for the student population, as well as for the amazing faculty and staff that care so much our kids and our school. I am motivated to execute on what is best for this amazing school to ensure its stability, growth and profitability, so that it will in turn be able to execute on its mission and vision.

4. Share any personal aspirations you would like to achieve by serving on the BFA Board.

I have no personal aspirations for serving on the BFA Board. My only objective is to work cohesively to do what is best for BFA. Now that most of the cap ex work has been done on the school, and as the Board takes more of a continuous improvement focus going forward, it is critical that I would use my presence on the board to strategically think through the direction of the school in the years to come, in addition to being a consensus builder with my fellow board members.

5. Describe a moment when you knew BFA was the right school for your family.

We knew the moment we stepped in the door that BFA was the right school for our family. It was just a feeling initially; however, over the years there have been countless affirmations of our decision. If I were to draw on anything recently that

continues to fortify our love of BFA, it was that tragedies that hit our school at the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019. Through these horrifically tragic situations, the BFA community as a whole stood together. The love and passion of our teachers and administration for our kids, and the way that the everyone rose up to support each other was an impressive sight to behold. It truly showed the spirit of the school and its community, and it was just one more affirmation that our family was at the right school.