

2020 Board Nomination Form

- Your Name
Matt Keillor

- Number and grade of children in your family enrolled at BFA
Two children, Natalie (7 grade) and Andrew (3 grade)

- Number of years your family has been at BFA
Eight years. My daughter started kindergarten the second year BFA opened.

- Brief biography, including any charter school experience
Matt graduated with a History Education degree and spent eight years as a classroom teacher in a variety of classroom settings. Matt began his career teaching English in Japan. Upon return back to the US, Matt taught middle school and high school, most recently in the Bay Area, California. In 2004, Matt moved from the classroom to educational sales, where he worked with school districts across the US, promoting student engagement and effective use of technology for students. Matt currently works as a Senior Account Executive for Flexential, an IT company here in Colorado, where he provides organizations with data centers, cloud hosting, and cybersecurity technologies to optimize their business strategies.

- Number of BFA Board meetings and events have you attended this school year (identify by type of event)

Board meetings (7 out of 8)

PTO meetings -

Committee meetings - (STEM Committee) 4

Community events - most

Other - STEM Expo, Colorado Punkin' Chunkin'

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

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

I believe the BFA community benefits from open and frequent communication from the BFA board. The BFA community needs to have an understanding of the BFA board's role and its relationship with the administration of the school. The board represents the BFA community in the strategic direction and policies of the school. The board should listen to the perspectives of all stakeholders, evaluate the pros and cons, and then ultimately make decisions based on what is in the BFA students' best interest.

- What are the current challenges facing charter school boards?

Charter School boards face the challenge of attracting and retaining top teachers, ensuring their school building and school culture is a safe environment for all students, and allocating financial resources appropriately for the success of the school.

I believe BFA, through our history, has done a great job of addressing the challenges that face the school. Following the buildout of the second phase of the school, the board approved an increase in teacher salaries, made improvements to the physical security of the school building, and approved the Second Step curriculum to address the well-being of students, all while maintaining a fiscally conservative approach to the BFA finances.

- What motivates you?

I enjoy helping others, whether it be in my professional role or volunteer roles, and providing experiences for my family and friends.

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

Opening up doors of opportunity for all BFA students. We live in a fantastic community with a tremendous amount of resources in the area of STEM. Exposing students to as many of those opportunities as potential career options for students is a personal aspiration of mine.

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

I knew that BFA was the right choice for my family when I saw firsthand how committed the BFA staff was to the well-being and education of my kids. The administrators, teachers, and staff all work together as a family to provide the best for our students. Also, I really appreciate the STEM aspect of BFA. I have witnessed STEM Committee volunteers spend countless hours organizing the STEAM Expo in September. This unique one-day experience gives BFA students the opportunity to engage in STEAM-related exhibits which inspire them to become good problem-solvers in our community. It is an event that distinguishes BFA from other great schools.