Dear Community Member,

Because of your role within the community, you have been recommended as a potential board member for Meridian World School, a public, tuition-free, K-12 charter school currently serving 1700+ students from Williamson County. First established in 2011 with 680 students in K-8th grades, the school has almost tripled in size.

As a public charter school, we are a 501c3, and while we operate much like a traditional public school: tuition-free, open-enrollment, strong academic and financial accountability to the State of Texas; our foundation is a written charter that outlines the curriculum direction and serves as our contract with the state of Texas. We are limited in capacity and use a lottery system for entry. A wait list is maintained that exceeds 2200 students this year, demonstrating the desire for choice amongst families in Williamson County.

Enclosed you will find a packet that includes more information about Meridian. You may also be interested in visiting our website, www.mwschool.org for an in-depth description of our inquiry-based curriculum using the International Baccalaureate (IB) framework for Primary Years Program (K-5), Middle Years Program (6-10) and Diploma Program (11-12).

Meridian's Board of Directors has seven members selected from the Wilco community. Day-to-day administration of the school is overseen by the Head of School (similar to a superintendent), Mr. Rick Fernández. The board nominating committee consists of the Board President, President Emeritus, Vice-President, parent leader and me, Karalei Nunn, Founder and COO of Meridian School.

We seek a diverse group of leaders with various backgrounds, professions, and passions to serve. Attached, you will find information specific to the type of leadership we are seeking in directors.

Completed applications should be submitted to board@mwschool.org. If you have any immediate questions, please feel free to call me at 512.660.5285. Otherwise, a member of the nominating committee will contact you within the next week. We hope that you will consider Meridian as an exciting opportunity to give back to your community and be a part of the leadership of an innovative public school movement.

Sincerely,

Karalei Nunn
Founder and COO
Meridian World School’s mission statement:

*Meridian School will provide an invigorating educational environment that develops responsible citizens who can artfully navigate our complex world and enjoy a good life with others.*

A defining characteristic of Meridian is our commitment to ‘enjoying the good life with others’ for our students, their families, and our staff. We commit to our students that we will provide an outstanding inquiry-based education preparing them for college and beyond as responsible adults enjoying the good life with others. We will do this, in part through employing top quality professional staff. We commit to our teachers that we will maintain an enviable culture and competitive salaries to assure they, too enjoy the good life with others.

**Board Member Characteristics**

Meridian actively seeks potential members for the school’s Governing Board who:

- Have commitment and dedication to the mission of Meridian School.

- Understand and actively endorse Internationalism and the [Learner Profile](https://www.ibo.org) as defined by the International Baccalaureate.

- Are willing to help establish strategic direction, set broad policy, steward assets, and review the job performance of the Head of School, all in support of the organization's stated mission.

- Participate through a financial contribution in the Meridian Annual Campaign at a level meaningful to each individual.

- Will positively represent the organization in the best of possible ways, understanding that as a board member, one is *a de facto* ambassador for Meridian World School.

Additionally, board members will:

- Work diligently to understand the mission, purpose, goals, and programs of the school, and prepare for all board and committee meetings by reviewing related documents and materials in advance.

- Strive to serve with humility and remind others to do the same.

- Attend some of the school’s major public events and fundraisers, celebrate the school’s successes, and actively encourage support and attendance by friends, colleagues, and associates.

- Clearly understand that it is the Head of School and staff who are responsible for the day-to-day administration, operation, and performance of the school.
• Support the Head of School and staff without interfering in their operating responsibilities.

• Along with fellow board members, as a part of the fiscal stewardship of the school, be familiar with and take an active part in reviewing and approving the budget, as well as monitoring performance against that budget.

• Complete an FBI background check via fingerprinting.

• Maintain status as a registered voter in your precinct.

• Complete state-mandated board training of 8 hours the first year and 6 hours the following years of your tenure. Training is generally offered in Austin each June. Training and transportation expenses are paid for by Meridian. Should the training selected by the board be outside of Austin, the cost of overnight stays will be paid as well. If these options do not work, on-line training is available.

• Attend 5-6 regularly scheduled board meetings and 1-2 called board meetings as required. Be available by phone and email.

• If two consecutive board meetings are missed without proper notice, offer a resignation letter or request a leave of absence.

• Uphold confidentiality and be in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and open records requirements.

• Sign a Conflict of Interest Disclosure statement.

• Serve a term of three years, and possibly as an officer for a portion of that time.

Board Application Process:
1. Request for nominations/applications for available Director positions.
2. Review of completed applications by nominating committee.
3. Nominating committee interviews Director applicant(s).
4. Head of School meets applicant(s).
5. Nominating committee makes selection(s).
6. When selecting a parent approved Director, the leadership of Volunteers in Partnership meets to accept or reject the nominee.
7. Nominated director attends board meeting to meet directors and view meeting. Current board members vote.
8. New Director joins board for first meeting in June.
Meridian World School, LLC
Board Member Application
(please type or print)

Name (First, Initial, Last):

Street Address:
City, State, Zip Code

Preferred Phone:
Email Address:

Current Employer:
Position:
Length of Tenure:

Are you a parent of a student at Meridian?

What motivates you to become involved with Meridian School?

What do you foresee as your responsibilities as a board member?

What knowledge and skills do you bring to the board?
Legal Human Resources Education Finance/Accounting Management

What skills would you like to gain as a board member?

Please outline your previous experience as a volunteer board or committee member:

Board and/or committee meetings require an average of 4-5 hours for preparation and meeting time for each occurrence. Are you able to dedicate this amount of time?

Please list your current affiliations: (Organization / Dates / Title)

Please provide three references – preferably two professional and one personal.
Name / Email / Relationship

I agree to represent Meridian as defined in the Board Member Characteristics and certify that all information provided in this application is true and correct. ____________________________

Signature

Date