

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Becoming a member of the Board of Trustees for Leonardo da Vinci Health Sciences Charter School (LdVCS)

An effective school board plays an important watchdog role in keeping your local school on track and setting policies that affect your child and your school. The school board sets the vision and goals for the school and holds the school accountable for results. One school board member cannot do the job alone. Effective members contribute their unique talents while collaborating and working as a team with other board members.

What do school boards do?

Communities typically elect a school board of three parent members and four community members to oversee the schools in the local school district (Chula Vista Elementary School District [CVESD]) and make certain the desires of the community are met. LdVCS, as a charter school, falls under the purview of CVESD's school board, but also has its own school board — its Board of Trustees — to oversee our school.

Our Board's primary responsibilities are to:

- Set the vision and goals for the school, monitoring school performance
- Adopt policies that direct how the school's priorities are set and how to achieve its goals
- Hire and evaluate the Director
- Adopt and oversee the annual budget
- Manage the collective bargaining process for employees of the school
- Ensure long-term viability of the school

A typical Board meeting will include many business items, such as approving the school calendar, adopting curriculum, overseeing construction, and approving contracts with outside vendors. It will balance discussion of the business of running the school, while paying close attention to the school priorities for academic achievement.

How long will my commitment be?

Trustees are elected for a one- to two-year term. Trustees can serve more than one term.

How often do we meet and how much time will I need to invest in this volunteer position?

Meetings are scheduled to be held once a month and last for about 1 to 1½ hours; special meetings may be held, if necessary. Preparing for a meeting by thoroughly reading meeting documents prior to that month's meeting is essential. There may also be other opportunities at the school or in the community to support LdVCS throughout the year.

Is there any type of training to ensure I understand my roll as a Board Member and what is expected of me?

Yes, California Charter School Association (CCSA) offers yearly Governance Academy training for active board members to educate them about the Brown Act, Conflicts of Interest, and Best Practices for board members.

How do I know if I'm qualified to become a Board Member?

Anyone who has a passion for the school community, the Charter School movement, or the community it serves, is potentially qualified to become a trustee. A person can either be: 1) a parent, grandparent, or family member of an enrolled student, or 2) a community member. We welcome varied areas of expertise as it provides more diversity in knowledge and can help better serve the school community.

What will I need to do to be nominated for this position?

You will need to submit a resume and cover letter or short bio specifying what qualifications you have to become a board member, what skills and experiences you would bring to the table. Nominations will be accepted by the Board at the March board meeting. Elections will take place at the April meeting.

If you have additional questions or if you would like to submit your nomination, please contact Angelica Gastelum at angelica.gastelum@davincicharter.org or by phone at (619) 370-2156.