Kristi Buchholz Response to CVCHS questions

1. Why do you want to be on the Governing Board?

I am the parent of two children, one a CVCHS graduate in 2018, currently a college sophomore, and one a current CVCHS freshman. I have closely followed the journey that CVCHS has taken over the last seven years. I had many concerns over the years and was vocal in my concerns. Many of the issues I had voiced over the years went unheard, and uncorrected. When the former director left, and the County Office of Education became involved, the governing board of CVCHS and the new Executive Director made changes to nearly all the items I had concerns about. I feel I would be a good fit, bringing a new voice to the governing board, and to the school itself.

2. What do you hope to learn from your experience on the CVCHS Board?

I hope to gain a better understanding of how a Charter School works, and how to maximize the benefits afforded to a Charter School, that may not be available to a traditional school. I hope to learn how to better support teachers, students, faculty and the community through my role as a board member.

3. Aside from attending Clayton Valley Charter board meetings, can you tell us a little bit about your professional background and how that might enhance the goals of the charter?

I have over 30 years of experience working as a teacher in the private, non-profit educational field. Working for a private school allowed me as a teacher to develop my own curriculum and implement it in ways that benefited each student individually. Charter schools are similar to some private schools, as they are not only permitted, but are encouraged to use new and innovative curriculum with their students. My years of experience will enhance my ability to support and encourage the CVCHS faculty in their endeavors.

4. Have you always supported Charter Schools? Please share your knowledge and experience with charter schools.

I have supported CVCHS since before its inception. Although my children were not of High School age when the petition was written, I wrote letters to MDUSD and the County Board of Education, asking them to approve the Charter. As Charter Schools are Public Schools, and operate on taxpayer funding, I feel they have a responsibility to be transparent and accountable in all they do. Not all charter schools, like not all public or private schools are successful, for various reasons. All schools need to take the responsibility to educate their students, and be good stewards of their funds, and treat their faculty, staff and community with respect. I am still learning about the ins and outs of Charter Schools and admit freely that I have more to learn.
5. What is your experience and/or expectation working with a Board of Directors? Please provide specific negative or positive anecdotes to explain.

Over the past 26 years, I have served on multiple boards. I have been a school PTA President four times, I have been on Swim Team Boards, Swim Club Boards, Council PTA Boards, Homeowner Association Boards, School Site Council and Church Council Boards. Through each of these experiences, I have learned many skills. I have learned to deal with conflict from other board members, as well as members of each affiliated community. I have gained skills in budgeting and fundraising. I have learned to ask questions and seek additional information when I do not understand, or do not have the skill set or education to act on a situation set before me. I have had to deal with other board members who made decisions on their own, which violated our group rules, resulting in my having to go way up the chain of command to solve the issue. Conflict is never easy, but it is a reality whenever a group of people are tasked with making big decisions. My expectation for being part of the CVCHS governing board would be that the group would work together in a respectful manner, while conducting business to keep CVCHS on track to be an absolutely amazing school.