

Cologne Academy

Candidate Profile

Candidate Name: Jenna McInnis

Contact Information

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My Connection to Cologne Academy:

I was employed by Cologne Academy for seven years, 2009-2016, holding various positions such as the sixth-grade homeroom teacher, middle school ELA, teacher leader and programs coordinator.

I currently am the mother of a 6th grade student as well as three future Cologne Academy students.

Why I want to serve on the board of directors:

The success of Cologne Academy became a passion of mine during my employment, I was active in several leadership committees that moved Cologne Academy's development and achievements forward. I actively sought opportunities to grow, learn, and develop my own skills in school leadership including the beginning of my master's degree in Leadership in Educational Administration through Capella University.

After making the decision to be a stay at home mother I want to continue to be present, to contribute, to lead change that will keep Cologne Academy performing as a highly successful school. I want my children, as well as all children, to have access to the best education by ensuring our teachers continue to receive leading edge training in educational methods.

Experience that I would bring to the board:

I bring eight years of knowledge and experience as an educator to our board, training as a school leader where I served on leadership and development committees, as well as my continued education in school administration.

Areas of expertise I could bring to the board:

Through my experiences as a school leader I have gained the ability to see the big picture, to look outside of myself and be able to see the needs of the school as a whole. To plan, prepare, set goals and execute those goals for the betterment of the school and success of our students.

I come with the familiarity of daily functions and challenges of our school. I know the demands on our teachers, school administrators, and support staff. I have the understanding of what reasonable expectations are and realistic goals for our school and its continued success for generations to come.

My employment began during Cologne Academy's second year, I know the school's history, the development of our mission and vision, our growth, our past challenges, where we have been and where we hope to take our school in the future.

The challenges I see ahead and how I propose to handle those challenges:

One of our challenges is the recruitment of new families, being able to provide transportation that meets the needs of a large area of people. I feel the distance from home to school deters many families from attending our great school. I would propose continued and increased visibility of our school and its successes and encourage word of mouth testimony to friends and neighbors of our current families.

We also need to ensure Cologne Academy continues to outperform schools in neighboring districts, maintain our commitment to current and future families, and continue exercising a healthy budget with a hardline focus on transparency.

Due to our location I foresee the recruitment and retention of highly qualified and effective teachers as a possible issue. I will encourage the current education and training of our teachers to continue as I see it second to none but would like to work on alternative incentives to retain the teachers that we invest so heavily in training.

As we have grown so rapidly these last ten years, I would like to see an increase in our family participation, volunteerism and involvement in our school. To continue the feel of a small school community, working with PAVE as well as parents to continue to make Cologne Academy great.