Dear Community Member,

Because of your role within the community, you have been recommended to us as a potential board member for Meridian World School, a public, tuition-free, K-12 charter school currently serving almost 1600 students from Williamson County. This is more than double from our first year in 2011 with 680 students in K-8th grades.

As a public charter school, we are a 501c3, and while we operate much like a public school; tuition-free, open-enrollment, academic and financial accountability to the State of Texas, we operate with a written charter that outlines our curriculum direction and a contract with the state. We are limited in our capacity and use a lottery system for entry. Thus we maintain a wait list that is at 1500 students for this year.

Enclosed you will find a packet that includes some general and specific facts about Meridian. You may also be interested in visiting our website, www.mwschool.org for an even more in-depth description of our curriculm using the the International Baccalaureate (IB) framework for primary and middle and the IB Diploma program for the 11th and 12th grade students.

We operate with a Head of School (similar to a superintendent), Mr. Rick Fernández, and a six-member Board of Directors. Our board nominating committee consists of Mr. Joe Burke, Board President, and Ms. Jessica Morales, Vice-President and me, Karalei Nunn, Founder and COO of Meridian School.

Below, you will find specific information to the type of leadership we are seeking for board membership. We intend to grow from the current size, to seven within the next year and are seeking a diverse group of leaders with various backgrounds, professions, and passions to serve. We encourage you to consider Meridian as an opportunity to give back to your community and to be a part of the leadership of an innovative public school movement.

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 be following up with you within the next week. We are thankful for your time and hope that you will be interested in getting to know Meridian better and may find the time and ability to serve.

Sincerely,

Karalei Nunn
Founder and COO
Meridian World School, LLC
Board Member Characteristics

A unique defining characteristic of Meridian School is our commitment to our students and their families and our staff. We commit to our students that we will provide them the best public education in Central Texas. We will do this, in part through employment of the best professional staff. We commit to our teachers that we will maintain a good working environment and salaries competitive with the local school district so that we demonstrate recognition of their value to our mission.

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

• Have commitment and dedication to the mission of Meridian School, which is ‘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.’

• Understand and actively endorse the Learner Profile as defined by the International Baccalaureate.

• Are willing to help establish strategic direction, set broad policy, steward the assets, and give input into the review of the Head of School, all in support of the organization’s stated mission.

• Participate through a financial contribution to the extent possible in the Meridian Annual Campaign to accomplish 100% board participation.

• 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 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 all 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 schools’ 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, know what the budget is, and take an active part in reviewing and approving the budget, as well as monitoring performance against that budget.

• Complete a background check via fingerprinting.

• Maintain status as a registered voter in your precinct.

• Complete state-mandated board member training of 8 hours the first year and 6 hours each year following. The training is often out-of-town. Meridian School pays for the cost of training, travel, and overnight stays when required.

• Attend regularly scheduled board meetings (5 scheduled for 2017-2018) and called board meetings as required (1-2). Be available by phone and email and serve on one board committee.

• Offer resignation letter or request a leave of absence, if two consecutive board or committee meetings in a term year (June to May) are missed without proper notice.

• Uphold confidentiality and be in compliance with the Texas Open Meeting Act and open record requirements.

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

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**Board Selection Process**

1. Request for applications for available Governing Board positions.

2. Review of completed board member applications.

3. Interview with board nominating committee.

4. Meet with Head of School.

5. The nominating committee selects a candidate for recommendation to the board.

6. Meeting with board members and/or vote at board meeting.
BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION
PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

1. First Name/ Initial / Last Name

2. Street Address, City, State, Zip Code

3. Best Phone/ Alternative Phone

4. Email Address

5. Please list your current employer.

6. How long have you worked for this employer?

7. Please state the position that you currently hold:

8. What motivates you to become involved with Meridian School?

9. What do you understand to be the responsibilities of a board member?

10. What strengths can you bring to our board?
    Legal / Human Resources / Education /Business or Institutional Finance/ Management/Community Engagement

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

12. Please describe any previous experience as a volunteer board or committee member:
13. Board meetings and/or committee meetings may require approximately 5-7 hours per month for preparation and the meeting. Are you willing/able to commit that amount of time to the work of the board?

14. Please list your current affiliations:
   Organization / Dates / Title

15. Professional training is required for all members of charter school boards in the State of Texas. New board members must receive 8 hours of training during their first year, 6 each year thereafter. Credit hours are available through seminars at the annual Texas Charter School Convention, Training seminars held around the State, scheduled trainings at Meridian, webinars, etc. Meridian School will pay for approved training and travel and expenses when required. We ask that board members provide their time. Are you able to commit the time required for training?

16. As a public charter school, Meridian receives $1,000 fewer funding dollars per student than a traditional public school and we fundraise to compensate for a small part of that difference. We urge 100% participation of our parent body and expect our board members and administration to set the example as leaders. Will you participate financially as you are able in Meridian’s Annual Fund?

17. Please provide three references (preferable 2 professional and 1 personal):
   Name / Telephone / Email / Relationship

I hereby certify that all information given in this application is true and correct.
Signature Date

Submit completed application to board@mwschool.org by February 28, 2018