

Chris Shortall - 2022 Novato Charter School Board Candidate Statement

1. What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the NCS Board of Directors?

There are two areas that I believe are critically important to our school that I would seek to focus on as a member of the Board:

Community: I believe that building a community of families at NCS is critical to the success of this school. I want parents to view NCS not just as a place where your kids are dropped off and picked up from school each day, but as a community where people of all backgrounds and philosophies are welcomed and encouraged to participate. I believe one of the many reasons that NCS stands out among Novato public schools is the community that has been built here. But I worry that COVID-19 has put a dent in that; I want to focus on helping to rebuild that sense of community amongst the families who are so fortunate to send their children to NCS.

Transparency: I believe it's critical that the NCS Board and overall Leadership be transparent about how the school is managed - whether financially or other. In my role as a member of the Board, I will seek to improve the transparency of how we operate, what we discuss, and how that is communicated across the NCS community.

2. Please list the qualifications you would bring to the job (such as management skills, financial skills, fundraising experience, other Board memberships, and/or relevant volunteer activities).

I currently work for a large (\$25B+ annual revenues) technology company here in the Bay Area as a Planning & Operations Director for our Engineering organization. More specifically, I support the creation of an annual product development plan for an organization of 20,000+ employees, so I am well versed in planning and management. Prior to that experience, I worked for a large consulting firm helping large and small companies, including non-profit organizations, drive better financial process effectiveness. This has given me extensive experience on how to run and improve financial management. In my very limited spare time, I coach my 4 children's sports teams (baseball, soccer, lacrosse) and try to engage with volunteer activities at Novato Charter School whenever possible.

3. Please express something of your philosophy and vision regarding the NCS as a school guided by the Core Principles of Public Waldorf Education.

As a parent to 4 children at Novato Charter School, I am passionate about the success of our school not just for my kids, but for all children who attend. Prior to my children attending Novato Charter School, I was not familiar with Public Waldorf Education Principles as I attended Catholic Schools here in Marin County from Kindergarten through High School. Having become much more familiar with the Core Principles, I feel so fortunate that my children have the opportunity to learn in a Waldorf environment. What strikes me most about the Waldorf approach is what I perceive as a development in our children of a love for learning. Our kids aren't just being taught how to memorize facts for a test; they're being taught to enjoy educating themselves, which they'll carry their entire lives. What a gift!