2019 Board of Directors Candidate

Name: Sarah Coker
City: Charleston
Employment: Psychiatrist at Roper st Francis
Parent or Community Member: Parent/Legal Guardian

College Degree:
Clemson University, BS Math Science with emphasis in Biology
Medical University of South Carolina, MD

Other Training that is related to serving on a non-profit board:

Non-Profit Board Experience:

Please discuss the skills and experience you will bring the Voyager board and how your skills can be best utilized:

I am a first generation American. My mother was a teacher and raised us after my parents divorced. I'm aware of diversity and differences in schools and accessibility. I know the need to advocate for all and have seen and experienced different sides of issues with schools and access/ability and as limited due to finances, access and support. I am also a board certified psychiatrist with knowledge of how people learn, feel and operate.

How do you hope to advance the mission of Carolina Voyager Charter School by serving on the board? Explain why you want to serve:

To ensure Carolina Voyager is an amazing and enriching experience for all students.

2019 Board of Directors Candidate

Name: Kara Crowell
City: Charleston
Employment: Principal at Cinder Creek Construction
Parent or Community Member: Parent/Legal Guardian

College Degree:
Auburn University, BS

Other Training that is related to serving on a non-profit board: SC Charter School Alliance Board Training

Non-Profit Board Experience:
Carolina Voyager Charter, 2013-present
Board Chair, 2015- present
Founding Board Member, Secretary 2013-15

Please discuss the skills and experience you will bring the Voyager board and how your skills can be best utilized:

As a business owner I have to utilize many skill sets in order for my business to thrive. Financial, marketing, strategic planning, not to mention juggling the many interpersonal relationships between employees, vendors, and clients. This gives me a unique skill set in helping a charter school, as Voyager is also a small business whose mission is to educate tomorrow's leaders. Having been a founding board member I have had the privilege of being a part of a team that has helped the school realize it's early successes. I have been very entrenched with the facilities needs of Voyager and have played a significant role in the utilization of the current facility, as well as the ongoing search and negotiation for space for a permanent facility. Because of my time on the board I am well versed in the unique challenges a charter school faces and have become fluent in much of the regulations and financial hurdles specifc to being a charter school. Through my business acumen I have been able to bring insight to the decisions the board makes as we work to build a lasting foundation that will be serving the families of Charleston long after the current board and school leadership are gone.

How do you hope to advance the mission of Carolina Voyager Charter School by serving on the board? Explain why you want to serve:

My work with Carolina Voyager has been a labor of love and I don't feel like my work is complete yet. I see it as a privilege to be a representative of the school and get to share with others the amazing work that is happening at the school. I have been able to create positive relationships within CCSD and the greater community that I have been able to utilize to advance the mission while maintaining growth and diversity. While I still struggle at times with the politics of education I feel like I have been able to advocate on the school's behalf with success. I have tried to the best of my ability to give Voyager the time and attention it needs while balancing my own business. I see this as a strength as a commitment to Voyager is more than attending meetings it is being a part of the team that sets the trajectory of the school and ensures the school leader has the tools necessary to implement the vision. After all, when it comes down to it any successes and failures of the school are the responsibility of the board; that is not something to take lightly.

2019 Board of Directors Candidate

Name: Roy Francia
City: Charleston
Employment: VP of Member Development at Advantage|ForbesBooks
Parent or Community Member: Parent/Legal Guardian

College Degree:
The Citadel, BS Business Administration

Other Training that is related to serving on a non-profit board:

Non-Profit Board Experience:
CVCS, 2 years

Please discuss the skills and experience you will bring the Voyager board and how your skills can be best utilized:
By being re-elected for another two year term on the CVCS Board, I have experience/perspective on the current state of our school, the Mission, the problem statement, and will be able to seamlessly pick up where we left off on action items, courses of action, next steps.

Strengths/core values: In my 16 years in the Publishing/Marketing Sales vertical/industry, as a consistent top revenue producer, my passion lies in the following categories:
1) Insisting on the Highest Standards
2) Deliver Results
3) Customer Obsession

Here is the direct link to my LinkedIn profile: https://www.linkedin.com/in/roy-francia-45881a/ for additional background on my professional bio

How do you hope to advance the mission of Carolina Voyager Charter School by serving on the board? Explain why you want to serve:

As a vocally critical team player, and father of two elementary school children, I have first hand experience of the educational programs for the children of CVCS.

I will continue to advocate for cutting edge learning/technologies as well as continue to support the tenets of our charter which continue to embrace the sense of family and community. I will also continue to pressure test our current educational strategies/methodologies and to help create an environment that induces healthy discussion amongst our board members so that we can arrive at a solution that aims at delivering the best results for our student body (students and staff alike).

2019 Board of Directors Candidate

Name: Matthew Long
City: Charleston
Employment: Director, Enterprise Patient Access at Medical University of South Carolina
Parent or Community Member: Parent/Legal Guardian

College Degree:
The Ohio State University, BS in Business Operations Management
The Ohio State University, MS in Health Administration

Other Training that is related to serving on a non-profit board: Conflict Management, Unconcious Bias Training, Diversity Education, Lean Six-Sigma Yellow Belt

Non-Profit Board Experience:

Please discuss the skills and experience you will bring the Voyager board and how your skills can be best utilized:
As a leader in Healthcare Management at two Academic Medical Centers over the last 11 years, I have honed my leadership skills in an environment where communication with all levels within the organization are essential. Pulling together administrators, physicians, leaders and front line staff, I have exceeded organizational expectations for every department under my purview. I have been involved in the planning and transition of large-scale operations to new buildings and new technologies, ensuring patients, families and employees voices were heard and considered. I have a passion for education, volunteering to teach real world skills to MHA students at the Medical University of South Carolina and helping early readers develop their newly acquired skills. I will bring these essential leadership skills and operational expertise to the board to help bring staff, administration, parents, students, and the community together to achieve the mission of Carolina Voyager.

How do you hope to advance the mission of Carolina Voyager Charter School by serving on the board? Explain why you want to serve:

I hope to advance the mission of Carolina Voyager Charter School by using my experience and education to drive policy to help close gaps in achievement while maintaining fiscal responsibility. I will do this with a focus on professional development for our teachers and through the continued development of innovative technology and strategy in the classroom. The next few years will be the most critical for the mission of Carolina Voyager and I know that I can bring unique expertise to the board to help transition this school from its infancy into successful establishment. As a parent to an early learner at Voyager, I have witnessed first hand how this school system can impact its students and I know that I could help the board guide our school into an even greater phase of excellence.

2019 Board of Directors Candidate

Name: Ashleigh Parr
City: Charleston
Employment: Deputy Director, Business & Auxiliary Services at College of Charleston
Parent or Community Member: Parent/Legal Guardian

College Degree:
College of Charleston, BS Elementary Education with early childhood concentration

Other Training that is related to serving on a non-profit board: SACSCOC, NACAS Leadership Institute, Staff Advisory Committee Chair, HOA member, Diversity training

Non-Profit Board Experience:
HOA, 2 years on Social committee
Staff Advisory Committee to the President, 3 years
Chair (2 years), Constituent & Concerns, External Relations, Executive Committee
Stragetic Planning Assessment Committee, 1 year
Administrative Assessment Committee, 3 years, Ex-officio

Please discuss the skills and experience you will bring the Voyager board and how your skills can be best utilized:

I bring the following skills and experience:
-Assessment and Planning (16 years)
- Strategic Planning (5 years)
- SACSCOC Regional accreditation (16 years)
- Elementary Education practicums throughout CCSD
- Student Teaching at Chicora Elementary School (Success St location)
- Charleston Chamber Leadership Discovery
- Survey research and analysis
- Owner Architect Committee Member for a State higher education facility project
- Experience with capital projects (design, bid, build, & Construction Management at Risk)
- Oversee/responsible for several departmental and/or Auxiliary budgets
- Lease Management
-Various Diversity training
-Various leadership/management training
-Chair, Staff Advisory Committee which focused on bringing staff matters forward to senior leadership and the Board of Trustees

How do you hope to advance the mission of Carolina Voyager Charter School by serving on the board? Explain why you want to serve:

If selected, I plan to learn from the other Board members what has been indentified as CVCS's short and long term goals and the action steps to achieve them. I plan to listen to the staff and students to ensure we are doing all we can to create a safe, inclusive, welcoming environment where morale is high, efforts are recognized and all are successful. I am a dedicated long time public servant who is passionate about the CVCS mission and grateful for the experience my son has had in his educational career while at the school.

I want to serve as I feel our "little" school is growing up and at a milestone in its history. I believe my experience in educational facility projects, lease management, staff advisory, strategic planning, financial planning, assessment and navigating State of SC regulations will be of extreme value at this pivotal time. I'm appreciative for the foundation that has been laid by the Board, Dr. Walker, the teachers and staff, the students and families and I hope I can serve to continue supporting and developing our 21st century learners. I hope you consider my submittal for the CSVS Board as I am confident my skills and experience will bring great value to our great school.

2019 Board of Directors Candidate

Name: Whitney Quick
City: Charleston
Employment: Technical Writer / Editor at Imagine One Technology & Management, Ltd.
Parent or Community Member: Parent/Legal Guardian

College Degree:
College of Charleston, Bachelor of Science in Foundations of Secondary Education (Special Education)

Other Training that is related to serving on a non-profit board:

Non-Profit Board Experience:
Summerville Soccer Club 2011 - 2018 Sponsorship and Fundraising Director, Events Coordinator and Social Media + Website Manager

Please discuss the skills and experience you will bring the Voyager board and how your skills can be best utilized:

I was born and raised in Charleston, am a successful product of our public school system, and was a passionate, hard-working special education teacher for six years. I currently work for a government contracting company, and provide hardware/software installation manuals and other various documentation support to the United States Marine Corps. Additionally, I have prior non-profit board experience as a long time volunteer board member with the Summerville Soccer Club, a 501(c)-3, which served over 1,200 kids ages 4-18.

Through my volunteer and work history, I have many years of experience in fundraising, corporate sponsorships, events management, contracts management, documentation and policy creation, data collection, individualized education, classroom accommodations, etc.. These skills can be best utilized, as needed, to help Carolina Voyager Charter School engage in additional fundraising initiatives, vet curriculum choices and changes, create new partnerships with community leaders and businesses, etc.

How do you hope to advance the mission of Carolina Voyager Charter School by serving on the board? Explain why you want to serve:

I recognize how special Carolina Voyager Charter School is and how important it is to maintain its mission to create resilient learners and empathetic citizens. I want to serve on the board to help our school through additional fundraising and support, as needed. With my diverse professional and volunteer experience, including work as a K-12 special education teacher, technical writer and non-profit board member, I feel I have a great base to serve the school community, including teachers, school staff, students, and parents. I hope to bring a knowledgable and practical approach to advocate for the values, mission and vision of our school, as well as to serve as a vocal conduit between our school and community.