

## CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISCLOSURE FORM

To be completed individually by each proposed charter school board member.

Serving on a public charter school board is a position of public trust and fiduciary responsibility. As a board member of a public school, you are responsible for ensuring the quality of the school program, competent stewardship of public funds, and the school's fulfillment of its public obligations and all terms of its charter.

As part of the application for a new charter school, the Maine Charter School Commission (Commission) requests that each prospective board member respond individually to this questionnaire. Where narrative responses are required, brief responses are sufficient.

The purpose of this questionnaire is twofold:

1. To give application reviewers a clearer introduction to the applicant team behind each school proposal in advance of the applicant interview, in order to be better prepared for the interview; and
2. To encourage board members to reflect individually as well as collectively on their common mission, purposes, and obligations at the earliest stage of school development.

### Background

1. Name of charter school on whose Board of Directors you intend to serve

Cornville Regional Charter School

2. Full name

Nicole A. Reinholt

#### Home Address

97 Waite Hill Road, Cornville, ME 04976

#### Business Name and Address

Cornville Regional Charter School

Early Childhood Center

48 South Factory Street

Skowhegan, ME 04976

#### Phone Number

Cell: 207 431 5663

#### E-mail address

nreinholt@crcsme.org

3. Brief educational and employment history. (No narrative response is required if resume and professional bio are attached.)

See attached resume and bio

4. Indicate whether you currently or have previously served on a board of a school district, another charter school, a non-public school or any not-for-profit corporation (to the extent not otherwise indicated in your response to Item 3, above).

Ecology Learning Center Board member

5. Why do you wish to serve on the board of the proposed charter school?

I feel connected to the underlying premise of the environmental and project-based learning that the Ecology Learning Center (ELC) proposes to offer to children. The ELC desires to build relationships with the communities in their catchment area. Youth who develop strong community connections have greater chances of achieving success and avoiding the current rash of pitfalls that are rampant in our society. As an administrator in special education and building based programs at the Cornville Regional Charter school, I feel a sense of duty to support the development and implementation of another charter program. I have had the experience of witnessing students feeling happy and successful at school for the first time. The charter school option meets a previously unmet need. The environmental focus of the ELC further piqued my interest and addresses a growing societal focus.

6. What is your understanding of the appropriate role of a public charter school board member?

The school board serves as the governing body of the school. The role of the board member is to be an open minded listener who is willing to assimilate information and ideas and then able to present ideas and work collaboratively with the other members of the board to develop policies, insure safe facilities, and provide overall guidance of the school district.

7. Describe any previous experience you have that is relevant to serving on the charter school's board (e.g., other board service). If you have not had previous experience of this nature, explain why you have the capability to be an effective board member.

Although I have never been a board member, I have sat at board meetings as a school administrator and observed the interactions, behaviors, and procedures carried out by the school board. In my previous role as the director of special services for a Maine school district, I delivered monthly reports to the school board and presented those reports at board meetings. The relationship between the school administrators and the board members was collegial and mutually respectful. I valued our relationship and not only did I grow as a public-school administrator, but the programs I oversaw benefitted from board members' questions, critique, and comments. As a parent of now grown children and community member, I have attended school board meetings, sometimes celebratory and sometimes controversial. I admire the thoughtfulness, willingness to listen and learn, and commitment I observed in my local school board members and feel honored to be able to put the same effort into the board and community that I serve as a member of the school board.

8. Describe the specific knowledge and experience that you would bring to the board.

I bring to the ELC School Board, knowledge about and experience in special education from the point of view of a parent of children with special needs, a special education teacher, and a special education administrator. I have experienced first-hand the challenges that children experience in school and wished for alternative approaches as I raised children who learned differently. During my teaching years, I worked with many children who would have thrived in a program that offered hands on, project based, and community minded programming. I have always thought about what it would be like to start a school, one that values community, arts, nature, hard work, and experiences.

School Mission and Program

1. What is your understanding of the school's mission and guiding beliefs?

It is my understanding that the Ecology Learning Center endeavors to provide youth in an ecology-oriented program that offers project-based learning experiences within the surrounding communities. It will foster community relationships and focus on mentorships, environmental

sensitivities, hands on projects and goals, and will foster inquisitiveness, independence, and leadership skills. Academic skills and concepts will be woven into the focus on environmental issues and activities. Students will need to develop communication, literacy, and mathematical skills in order to present their ideas to others, orchestrate the design, implementation, and final completion of their endeavors. The academic skills required to accomplish experiential learning targets often goes unnoticed.

**2. What is your understanding of the school's proposed educational program?**

I understand that the ELC program will have a strong experiential component, connection to the community, mentorships, and also offer the academic instruction needed for students to be able to meet proficiency in the Common core State Standards.

**3. What do you believe to be the characteristics of a successful school?**

You know you have entered. Successful school when you walk through the door and see artifacts and evidence of child engagement and excitement. The 'footprints' of the children are throughout the education environment. That may look very different depending on the school, the ages served within that school, the focus of the school, etc. When children are engaged in their work, when educators are excited and exuberant in their teaching and instruction, and when families feel and express a sense of belonging and joy at seeing their children showing keen interests in their school, that is when you know the school is successful. In addition, along with excitement, joy, and interest in learning, success is seen in progress toward growth targets. Students who are positive and excited about what they are learning will show growth as evidence by demonstration of proficiency in their individual growth targets.

**4. How will you know that the school is succeeding (or not) in its mission?**

The school's success can be measured by student progress toward meeting their individual growth targets and demonstration of proficiency according to the Maine Learning Results. Other measures of success might include numbers of students staying in the program over their high school years, attendance rates, data from parent, guardian, student, and staff surveys.

**Governance**

**1. Describe the role that the board will play in the school's operation.**

The board will be the governing body to guide policy and to ensure that the school's mission is continually the focus and maintained. It will keep watch over programs and services, it will ensure that the school has the facilities needed to ensure programming can take place. The board will be the supporting entity to oversee budget approval so that the school has needed staff, transportation, facilities, nutritional program, and have the foresight to ensure the school will carry out its mission, accomplish its goals and show growth and improvement over time.

**2. How will you know if the school is successful at the end of the first year of operation?**

At the end of the first year, success will be measured by attendance, growth toward individual learning targets, high rate of teacher retention, positive feedback from students, families, and staff, and positive relationships and feedback from the communities within the catchment area.

**3. How will you know at the end of four years if the school is successful?**

One indicator of success after four years would be to see the first ELC senior graduate and move forward toward their post-secondary endeavors. Secondly, success can be measured by

looking at the multi-year student achievement through data, with the expectation of showing a growth trajectory.

4. What specific steps do you think the charter school board will need to take to ensure that the school is successful?

The school and the board will need to stay focused on the original mission. As a start-up program, all involved with need to be reflective in their thinking to continually look at processes and outcomes and adjust practices along the way to continually seek improvement. ELC educators and board members must be sensitive to the needs and hopes of the families that they serve in an effort to establish family buy in and support. School board members and administration must maintain awareness of the issues, initiatives, and input from the local communities to continually build important community relationships.

5. How would you handle a situation in which you believe one or more members of the school's board were acting unethically or not in the best interests of the school?

I would address my concerns with the board in a discrete manner to allow investigation and due process to take place. As a person the expects others to act at a level of high integrity, it is also my premise that my perception is just that, my perception. I often seek the input or advice or a critical colleague when I see or feel someone is acting outside of expected or ethical norms. I seek advice before acting, to ensure my perspective is not biased or inaccurate.

Disclosures

1. Indicate whether you or your spouse knows the other prospective board members for the proposed school. If so, please indicate the precise nature of your relationship.

*I / we do not know any such trustees* Yes

2. Indicate whether you or your spouse knows any person who is, or has been in the last two years, a school employee. If so, indicate the precise nature of your relationship.

*I / we do not know any such employees* Yes

3. Indicate whether you or your spouse knows anyone who is doing, or plans to do, business with the charter school (whether as an individual or as a director, officer, employee or agent of an entity). If so, indicate and describe the precise nature of your relationship and the nature of the business that such person or entity is transacting or will be transacting with the school.

*I / we do not know any such persons.* Yes

4. Indicate if you, your spouse or other immediate family members anticipate conducting, or are conducting, any business with the school. If so, indicate the precise nature of the business that is being or will be conducted.

*I / we do not anticipate conducting any such business* Yes

5. If the school intends to contract with an education service provider indicate whether you or your spouse knows any employees, officers, owners, directors or agents of that provider. If the answer is in the affirmative, please describe any such relationship.

*Not applicable because the school does not intend to contact with an education service provider*

*I / we do not know any such persons* Yes

6. If the school contracts with an education service provider, please indicate whether you, your spouse, or other immediate family members have a direct or indirect ownership, employment, contractual or management interest in the provider. For any interest indicated, provide a detailed description.

N/A *I / we have no such interest* Yes

7. If the school plans to contract with an education service provider, indicate if you, your spouse or other immediate family member anticipate conducting, or are conducting, any business with the provider. If so, indicate the precise nature of the business that is being or will be conducted.

N/A *I / we or my family do not anticipate conducting any such business* Yes

8. Indicate whether you, your spouse or other immediate family members are a director, officer, employee, partner or member of, or are otherwise associated with, any organization that is partnering with the charter school. To the extent you have provided this information in response to prior items, you may so indicate.

*Does not apply to me, my spouse or family* Yes

9. Indicate any potential ethical or legal conflicts of interests that would, or are likely to, exist should you serve on the school's board.

*None* Yes

**Certification**

I, Nicole A Reinholt, certify to the best of my knowledge and ability that the information I am providing to the Maine Charter School Commission as a prospective board member for Ecology Learning Center Charter School is true and correct in every respect.

Nicole Reinholt  
Signature

6-19-19  
Date

