

## 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  
[Ecology Learning Center, Monville Maine](#)

2. Full name [Kelly M. Vianne Carey](#)

Home Address [48 Purple Heart Hwy, Brooks ME 04921](#)

Business Name and Address [United Midcoast Charities, Camden ME](#)

Phone Number [207-542-7999](#)

E-mail address [kellcarey78@gmail.com](mailto:kellcarey78@gmail.com)

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

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). [NO](#)

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

Having grown up in Waldo County and now educated my children here for 17 years, I'm acutely aware of the approach taken by the public school system in the area, and the public magnet school, and the challenges of funding a private education on an average income. My older children attended the Mount View School and found that its focus on the use of technology was a poor fit for their learning. My son spent the majority of his time interacting with his laptop, rather than teachers or peers. Having taught in a homeschool coop for several years, I notice that teenagers really benefit from a dialectical approach that can respond to their curiosities and allow them to directly experience the world around them.

I serve on the board because I want the children of my community to have a human-scale school, with a focus on relational and experiential learning. Kids learn to use technology rapidly without much instruction, but nothing can replace the trust and freedom that come from a school based on relationships with teachers, peers and community.

I believe that our charter school is unique in its emphasis on developing whole-hearted and connected young people of character. Most schools both public and private focus on employability to the exclusion of the development of the human.

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

Serving on the board involves setting the school's general policies and overall curriculum policies, fundraising, approving and monitoring the annual budget and financial procedures, hiring and evaluating the head of school, approving personnel policies, and monitoring their implementation by the head of school, assuring that the charter school fulfills its charter contract, and strategic planning.

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.

I have not previously served on a board, but my role at United Midcoast Charities includes critical support to the board's Governance Committee and in policy development. For example, I researched and wrote our board's Mutual Agreement, the basis for board performance evaluation; the board orientation manual; and volunteer procedures. I have experience in administering a fundraising system in compliance with federal requirements and prepare for the organization's annual audit. I coordinate our capacity building program, which includes budget management, outreach, and education, and I coordinate our flagship annual event. I also teach grant prospecting through our partnership with Foundation Director Online.

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

Developing policies such as gift acceptance and acknowledgement, administering fundraising campaigns, major donor strategy, donor relations management software, grantseeking and grants management, creating information systems to maintain separation of duties and internal controls.

#### School Mission and Program

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

To deeply root students in Maine's ecological & cultural landscapes, foster authentic real-world learning through mentorship & craft, and cultivate compassionate and resilient leaders prepared to engage in the

challenges of today & tomorrow. In other words, *process matters*. This school is designed to meet the innate hunger of young people for meaningful learning relationships, and for the sort of intellectual respect that allows them to interact directly with their environment and with others. This kind of education teaches understanding of others, flexibility, autonomy, self-regulation and curiosity--which are the most difficult job skills to gain.

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

The Ecology Learning Center will be a 9-12 public high school with a focus on ecology and experiential learning. Programs will draw heavily on the knowledge of community members in addition to staff, and project based learning will mean that students develop deep knowledge of the social and natural world outside of the school building. Students will share responsibility in creating sustainable systems for the school such as food, heat, and buildings.

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

Sound management, clear policies, and a collaborative, respectful work environment are essential to any venture, but especially one involving children. The board and executive staff are responsible for establishing school climate, even though they work largely out of view of the students. A respectful relationship between board and staff and a clear understanding of the duties of each, enable productive, efficient work.

A fundamental respect for the intellect, curiosity, and full personhood of children is essential to a successful school venture. Children are not vessels which are filled by adults. They are persons with their own motivations, thoughts, and desires, and a natural desire to know and understand the world. A real education recognizes children for what they already are and gives them the tools and opportunities to become even more themselves. Thus, a successful school will be attentive to the nature and needs of the individual student, provide high quality materials, and uphold strong academic standards that show respect for the capability of the student.

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

When students readily engage with school staff, peers, mentors, and learning materials, show consistent improvement in complex thinking and problem solving, complete high-quality academic work including research and writing, and show an ability to apply the systems thinking inherent in ecology studies to a variety of situations, then I will feel confident that the school is successful.

Governance

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

As mentioned, the board's role in establishing strong policies and providing financial oversight are invaluable. The board sets the tone for the organization and takes the lead on fundraising, supports and supervises the Executive. The role of the board does not include supervising daily operations and general management, as these fall under the mandate of the executive.

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

I expect to see a student body of 18-25 young people who demonstrate significant, age appropriate learning, a successful annual campaign, a thorough evaluation of year one and a organization-wide work plan for year 2.

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

At the end of four years I expect to see well established fundraising for the annual cycle and a growing emphasis on major gifts, and a first crop of graduates who display confidence and capability to move on with the next step in their lives. I expect graduates will have developed portfolios that make them deeply interesting to recruiters for higher education, and I expect to see stable staffing in school leadership positions.

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

Establish firm financial procedures and internal controls, initiate fundraising, cultivate a collaborative relationship with the executive, develop a leadership succession plan.

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?

The board mutual agreement should establish the procedures for this as well as define ethical conduct, and all members agree to transparency, ready response to concern, and freedom from retaliation. In most cases, concerns should be directed to the president, who can bring the concerns to the officers and then the whole if needed. If the president or another officer is implicated, the approach should be to a noninvolved officer.

#### 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**

*I worked with Treasurer Beth Alma in a homeschool cooperative from 2011-2014.*

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**

*I worked with Executive Director Lisa Packard at the same coop when it was hosted at the organization where she worked in 2011-2012.*

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, Kelly M Vianne Carey, 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.

  
Signature

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Date      June 18, 2019