

Board Candidate Bios

Naoise Colgan – Board Candidate



I am a parent of two Stargate kids, Cian (6th grade) and Sarah (4th grade), both of who have been enrolled at Stargate since Kindergarten. My wife of 15 years, Diane, has been active as a volunteer in both the classroom and most recently on the election committee; it is my turn to step up and help the school.

I am an experienced senior manager currently employed as Vice-President of Operations for a healthcare company in Broomfield (McKesson Health Solutions), and so deal with many of the challenges addressed by the Board on a regular basis. I am very experienced leader with skills in budgeting / finances, facility management, and personnel management issues. In my work environment I believe in being transparent and would look to bring this to my work on the Board as well.

I have an undergraduate degree in Engineering (Mechanical) and an MBA. I have lived in Colorado since 1994.

Sharon Robinson – Board Candidate



I am Sharon Robinson and I would like you to consider me for the Stargate School Governing Board. My husband, Rick, and I have two children at Stargate, one in third grade and one in fourth. This is our family's fifth year here as both our children have been attending since Kindergarten.

I have been an active volunteer for the past four years, volunteering both in and out of the classroom. I have volunteered on field trips, in the library, and on various committees throughout the school. I have served on the Fundraising Committee, planning the Stargate Gala, and was responsible for coordinating the entire E-book fundraiser in 2008. I also served on the Committee Definitions Committee (CDC) which played an instrumental role in creating the new governance structure while writing the charters for all the committees currently at Stargate. I am currently the Parent Co-Chair of the Accountability Committee, which is responsible for board oversight, ensuring the proper

Alisa Zimmerman – Board Candidate



I am passionate about education at all levels and now see an opportunity, as a member of the new Stargate Board, to apply my extensive management experience to support continued progress at the school as it moves to the next level of board governance and academic achievement.

Having attended schools stateside and overseas, as well as living and working overseas, I feel my diverse upbringing, collaborative leadership and team approach to addressing and resolving issues, would complement the range of talent serving the school at the board, staff and community levels.

In my past positions managing programs and services for nonprofits, local government and higher education, I have enjoyed the challenge of taking new or recently revamped operations and structuring them so they can serve their constituents better and for the long term. I excel at strategic planning, program design and management, marketing,

Board Candidate Bios



Sharon Robinson continued

workings of the committees, and following up on grievances/complaints. We are in the process of performing the annual review of the board this spring.

Prior to having children, I worked in various areas of finance for 10 years. My last job, which I held for over 5 of those years, was managing a portfolio of mortgages on golf courses all over the country. I am still responsible for managing our family's finances. I received my BBA in Finance from Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia in 1989.



Alisa Zimmerman continued

community outreach and resource development.

I am a lifelong student. In addition to master's and bachelor's degrees, I am currently enrolled in the Denver Community Leadership Forum, an annual training program offered by the School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado-Denver for those working in the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

I welcome the opportunity to expand my service to the Stargate community as a board member and hope you will consider my past accomplishments and present commitment to education an asset as the school continues to strengthen its focus on the future for the benefit of its students and their families.



Board Candidate Responses to Questions

The Board candidates were all asked to respond to the following questions to allow the parents an opportunity to learn more about each of them. A table comparing skills that each candidate will bring to the Board follows the questions.

Why do you want to Become a Stargate Board Director?	
NaoiseColgan	I want to be more involved with the school and contribute as a parent. Being a member of the Board is a good match with my professional skills and experience, and how I think I can best contribute.
Sharon Robinson	I have been involved with development and implementation of the governance structures through the Committee Definitions Committee and the Accountability Committee for the past two years. I believe I can continue this effort as a member of the Board.
Alisa Zimmerman	Since my daughter's enrollment at Stargate and my recent career transition into the field of education plus related research in K-12 educational reforms, I have become more concerned about how the school sets policy and goals, develops curriculum and programs, recruits and supports its staff, but most importantly, how it effectively serves the diverse needs of its students in a changing academic and economic environment.
What has been your involvement in Stargate?	
NaoiseColgan	Personally I have been a chaperone for some overnight field trips, e.g., Keystone with the 5/6 kids, and Natural History Museum with the 3/4 kids. I attend parent teacher conferences for my kids. I frequently attend after school activities, e.g., concerts, bingo nights. My wife volunteers in the classroom, for field trips and is a member of the recruiting committee.
Sharon Robinson	I have been a volunteer in various classrooms and the library. I was the Entertainment Book Coordinator and have served on the Fundraising Committee coordinating the Entertainment Book sales in 2008 and worked on the Gala in 2006 and 2007. I also worked on coordinating Teacher Appreciation Day, and served on the Committee Definitions Committee (CDC) in 2008. I am currently the parent Co-Chair of the Accountability Committee.
Alisa Zimmerman	I have attended the state of the school meetings, student concerts and school celebrations, volunteered in my daughter's literacy class and participated in fundraisers for the school. I have also met with Sharon Kenyon to talk about Stargate's past and present, and where someone with my background could help the school in the future.

Board Candidate Responses to Questions

What skills do you bring to the board from previous experience and/or your profession?	
Naoise Colgan	I am currently a senior Operations executive with a healthcare company responsible for a team of over 700 people. As such I am experienced in setting administrative and personnel policy, human resource laws and management, and I have budget responsibility for over \$70 Million in annual expenses. I am a member of the senior executive team leading my business and so know how to work well in a group setting.
Sharon Robinson	My several years of committee work at Stargate have provided me with experience and the ability to work with groups to come to consensus. I also bring 10 years of skills from working in various areas of finance, including managing a national mortgage portfolio. Last, but by no means least I bring multi-tasking skills that come from being a parent of two very active boys.
Alisa Zimmerman	Fundraising, Public Relations, Planning, Educational expertise, Organizational and Finance Management, Administration, Marketing, and Strategic Planning
What do you see as the most pressing issues for the School and the Board in the upcoming 1-2 years?	
Naoise Colgan	I expect school funding to become a very important and painful issue for all Colorado schools over the next 1-2 years. The Board will have to provide direction and counsel to the school administration as some difficult decisions will need to be made. The need to achieve a certain level of cuts will need to be balanced with the Stargate mission. Another current issue that will still need to be addressed moving forward is building cohesion within the various Stargate stakeholders; the impact of the recent leadership changes is still evident and needs some further work to address. Finally, an ever present issue is meeting the needs of the student population; gifted and talented kids need a different environment to succeed and this needs to be ever nourished with a good environment
Sharon Robinson	Currently, the lack of a well-defined Strategic Plan is keeping the board from moving forward. I believe that finalizing the Strategic Plan will enable the board, its committees, and the Head of School to make essential decisions. The board has made strides this year in implementing our "new" governance structure, chartering committees and empowering them to do work; I would like to continue in this process and ensure that all the recommended committees are chartered and functioning
Alisa Zimmerman	Maintaining the unique academic focus and respected reputation of Stargate (i.e., competitive) when there are so many choices now for parents to consider where to enroll their children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining fiscally sound and open to using new revenue streams (grants, donations) to decrease dependence on district funding and increase the school's ability to be more financial independent • Retaining the best teachers and administrative staff by providing them sufficient opportunities to enhance their professional development so they become masters of their craft and can empower others

Board Candidate Responses to Questions

What do you hope to contribute and accomplish while serving on the Board of Directors?	
Naoise Colgan	I hope to contribute strong and active participation as a Board member, working with both the parents and the administration to provide oversight and direction for the school. I believe strongly in the objectives of Stargate and will work to ensure the goals are achieved.
Sharon Robinson	The board has made strides this year in implementing our "new" governance structure, chartering committees and empowering them to do work; I would like to continue in this process and ensure that all the recommended committees are chartered and functioning.
Alisa Zimmerman	I would contribute to the strategic planning efforts of the Board so that it is completed and implemented.
What is your understanding of the Stargate Mission/Policy? Do you support it?	
Naoise Colgan	<p>I believe Stargate was set up to provide a positive, nurturing learning environment for gifted and talented students, so they could achieve their full potential. Their needs are different and so the school environment needs to support this.</p> <p>I am very supportive of the school's mission / policy and will work to make sure the execution meets the mission.</p>
Sharon Robinson	I believe the existing mission of Stargate School is to educate each gifted student to his/her full potential while recognizing their differences. I absolutely support it, this is why I send my children to Stargate.
Alisa Zimmerman	It is the guiding principle influencing all school policy and planning. I fully support it.



Board Candidate Comparison of Skills

Skills:	Naoise Colgan	Sharon Robinson	Alisa Zimmerman
Fund Raising		•	•
Public Relations	•		•
Planning	•	•	•
Financial	•	•	
Personnel	•		
Legal	•		
Education Expertise			•

Area of Expertise / Professional Skills:	Naoise Colgan	Sharon Robinson	Alisa Zimmerman
Organizational and Financial Management	•	•	•
Community Development	•		•
Administration	•		•
Academic / Education	•		
Business/corporate	•	•	
Accounting			
Banking and Trusts		•	
Investments		•	
Charter School Law / Regulations			
Government Representative			
Fund Raising (both professional fund-raisers and those with leverage in getting funds)			•

Area of Expertise / Professional Skills:	Naoise Colgan	Sharon Robinson	Alisa Zimmerman
Law			
Marketing	•		•
Personnel	•		
Physical Plant (architecture, engineer)	•		
Strategic or Long Range Planning	•		•
Public Relations	•		•
Real Estate		•	
Community Resident	•	•	
Business Owner			
Parent of Child in School	•	•	•



Accountability Committee Candidate Bios



Anupama Anupindi – Accountability Committee Candidate (Parent)

Anupama has a Masters Degree in Accounting and Microsoft Certification in Computer Software Development. She worked as an Accountant in India and moved to USA in 1996 after getting married to her husband who has a PhD in Computer Engineering.

In USA, she started her career as a Computer Consultant in Denver, CO which led to an employment with Qwest Communications as a Senior Software Engineer.

After the birth of her twin daughters, Kusala and Komala, she started a Computer Consultancy business called APOORVA. Five years later, she purchased a Gas station in Greeley, CO and two Indian Grocery Stores in Broomfield / Lafayette which are now profitable and have been sold. She continues to manage the Computer Consultancy business with profits.



Matt Holitza – Accountability Committee Candidate (Parent)

Matt Holitza is a 4th generation Colorado native. He lives in Broomfield, Colorado with his wife Leanne and sons Mason(9) and Jack(5). Matt currently works as a Solutions Marketing Manager for the worldwide IBM Rational marketing team. Matt has a bachelor's degree in Finance and a master's degree in Computer Information Systems from Colorado State University. He has volunteered as a soccer coach for the past 5 years for Broomfield Soccer Club and actively volunteers in Mason and Jack's classrooms at Stargate. He loves to work with children and wants assure that they receive the best education possible from Stargate school. He hopes to bring his broad business experience, creative problem solving and his out-of-the-box thinking to assist the accountability committee in making recommendations to the board during an economic environment that demands innovative ideas.



Barbard Falace – Accountability Committee Candidate (Staff)

Mrs. Falace holds a BA in speech Pathology and Audiology from SUNY Plattsburgh, NY. She received her Colorado teaching license through Metro State College of Denver. This is her fifth year teaching 5/6th grade at Stargate School. Mrs. Falace has taken courses involving gifted education from the University of Denver. She has attended many conferences for educators of gifted children and taken professional development courses in the field as well. Before teaching at Stargate, Mrs. Falace taught first and second grade at a private school in Boulder.

Mrs. Falace served on the Stargate Parent Staff Council as an elected faculty representative for two years. She would like to be a member of the Accountability committee because I believe that it is important that faculty take responsibility for maintaining our mission and vision by having input in the governance of the school. She also would like to serve as the liaison between the faculty and the Board.

Accountability Committee Candidate Bios



Anupama Anupindi continued

She has been an active member of Stargate Community by volunteering in the classroom and in the library. Also, as a member of CRC, she participated in planning and execution of several Stargate events. She is now working as a temporary librarian at the Stargate.

An important aspect of her life is her family—her husband, two daughters and both sides of her family that live around Denver metro. She spends her time by preparing and donating food for homeless shelters through an organization called “Circle of Goodwill”.

She also spends time with family & friends get-togethers and outdoor activities such a Bolder Boulder and in support of her husband’s participations in Tour de Cure, Buffalo Classic and Moab Skinny Tires.



Barbard Falace continued

In her free time, Mrs. Falace enjoys sewing, Rockies baseball, Avalanche hockey, and traveling.



Recruiting Committee Candidate Bio



Joe Henderson – Recruiting Committee Candidate (Parent)

Joe Henderson is the proud father of two boys who have attended Stargate since kindergarten. Danny is a 7th grader and Lucas is in 3rd grader. He has served for the past year on the Recruiting Committee and has the desire to support the Board and watch the students flourish in the best possible learning environment. He has also coached in the Saturday morning basketball program for the last six years.

Joe and his wife Julia recently launched Sustainable Traffic Solutions, Inc. STS is a traffic engineering firm with the goal of providing traffic engineering, transportation planning, and roadway design services to clients in Colorado and Wyoming.

Joe is active in the community coaching youth sports, is an Elder in the 1st Presbyterian Church of Brighton, and serves on the Long Term Initiatives Committee with the Denver Presbytery.

