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**Board of Directors Election
Voting Guide
May 2024**

The purpose of this Voting Guide is to introduce you to the St. Croix Preparatory Academy Board of Director candidates. This guide will list the candidates with their qualifications and views.

Who can vote in this election?
SCPA defines a “Voter” as:

- All Employees. All employees (e.g. administration, faculty members, educational assistants, food service, etc.) excluding employees contracted via external organizations;
- Parents/Legal Guardians. All parents/legal guardians, with a limit of two votes per family.

The election will be held online via Simply Voting from Monday to Tuesday, May 13-14, 2024. Please look for more information in the Prep Weekly and on stcroixprep.org.

This election is legal and binding. By choosing qualified candidates, you will help St. Croix Preparatory Academy meet the challenges that face the school in the coming years.

**St. Croix Prep
School Board Candidates**

Voters will choose:

- 1 faculty candidate
- 1 parent candidate

Rita Thorson - Faculty Member



Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors?

I have been serving on the board for just over a year and would like to continue as a teacher representative because I see the value in serving the school in this way. The board directly supports the work of our school and is critical in making our students, staff and community successful.

What areas of expertise would you bring to St. Croix Preparatory Academy?

I have been a teacher for the past 23 years, with the past three years at St Croix Preparatory Academy. I have lived in 4 different states and worked in schools in each of them providing me a wealth of knowledge to draw from. I also have served as a Dean of Students this past year at St Croix Prep, which allows me to see the school from another lens, in a role supporting all divisions, students, and staff. I am committed to continuous character development through our K-12 character committee. My previous school in River Falls was named a National School of Character my last year there in 2017.

What aspects of St. Croix Prep do you believe are the most important to maintain?

There are no aspects of our school that can be ignored, but there are surely aspects that require consistent attention. Continued support of our staff and students in the work that is solidly in place should continue to be supported. As already mentioned, the character pillar is an important part of our work, and I am driven to continue building our culture of character.

What strategic issues do you believe need to be addressed by the Board of Directors in the next few years?

With the retirement of our Executive Director coming soon, the succession planning of his role is extremely important. We do need to continue reviewing the many functions of that role and ensuring a smooth transition. I also believe in the Wellness of our overall student body, so as a staff member I will continue to serve on our Wellness Committee and our Character Education committee. Both of these impact the overall health of our student body and staff, which is most important to me.

Which of the board committees (e.g. Governance, Succession Planning, and/or Finance) would you be willing to serve on to address the strategic issues of the School?

I am currently serving on the Succession Planning Committee and intend to continue serving with that group if I am elected to serve again.

Danielle Smith - Parent



Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors?

My interest to join the board is fueled by my passion for Prep's commitment to education and the community it provides. I am eager to contribute meaningfully and collaborate effectively with fellow board members.

What areas of expertise would you bring to St. Croix Preparatory Academy?

Over the past decade at Prep, I've accumulated a wealth of knowledge across all school divisions. With a background in the financial industry and extensive volunteer experience, I hope to offer valuable perspectives for making informed decisions and helping guide strategic direction.

What aspects of St. Croix Prep do you believe are the most important to maintain?

Maintaining the classical education model is of utmost importance for preserving timeless character and fostering critical thinking skills. This empowers students with a strong academic foundation but also instills a sense of intellectual curiosity and lifelong learning.

What strategic issues do you believe need to be addressed by the Board of Directors in the next few years?

Two strategic issues facing Prep include the recruitment of a new executive director to provide leadership and direction, and continued community engagement to maintain and insure a successful school.

Which of the board committees (e.g. Governance, Succession Planning, and/or Finance) would you be willing to serve on to address the strategic issues of the School?

I'm open to serving on any of the board committees. I look forward to lending my skills and expertise wherever they're needed most.



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**St. Croix Preparatory Academy
Mission Statement**

St. Croix Preparatory Academy will develop each student's academic potential, personal character, and leadership qualities through an academically rigorous and content rich educational program grounded in a classical tradition.

**Write-In Candidate Request for
St. Croix Preparatory Academy
Board of Directors**

This request must be signed by the candidate.

I, _____, request that all write-in votes cast for me for the St. Croix Preparatory Academy Board of Directors during the election on May 13-14, 2024, be counted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 204B.09, subd. 3.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

This form must be received by noon on Friday, May 10, 2024,
for write-in votes to be counted separately.

Submit this form to: Susan Peterson at
susanpeterson@stcroixprep.org