



# CORNERSTONE

MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Board of Directors Election  
Voting Guide  
2022

## I. Purpose of the Voting Guide

The purpose of this Voting Guide is to provide detailed information on election procedures and introduce you to the Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School Board of Directors candidates. This guide will include a profile of each candidate as submitted by the candidate.

## II. Eligibility to Vote

Eligible voters are faculty and staff members employed at the school, school board members and all parents or legal guardians of children enrolled in the school.

### Parents or Legal Guardians

- Parent is defined as the legal guardian of a student whose address has been given to CMES as the address of record to send school communications.
- Two-parent families with both parents living at the same address will each receive an e-ballot. This assumes that each parent's email address is on file at CMES as receiving school communications.
- Single-parent families will receive one e-ballot. This assumes that the parent's email address is on file at CMES as receiving school communications.
- Parents living at separate addresses will each receive an e-ballot. This assumes that each parent's email address is on file at CMES as receiving school communications.
- Parents who have not registered their email address with CMES as an address to send school communications will not receive an e-ballot. In order to vote, these parents should email [chrisbewell@cornerstone-elementary.org](mailto:chrisbewell@cornerstone-elementary.org) and identify themselves as parent/guardian of a CMES child and request an e-ballot be sent to their designated email address. If you do not have an email address and wish to vote, please call the school at 651-774-5000 for further instructions.

### Faculty and Staff

- Each CMES faculty and staff member will receive an e-ballot. Faculty and staff of the school who are also parents may only vote once.

### Current Board Member

- Board members who are also staff, faculty, or parents may only vote once.
- Board members who are not a parent or an employee are also eligible to vote.

## III. Election Procedures

The election will be held from May 9, 2022 beginning at 8:00 am until May 16, 2022 at 8:00 pm. Each eligible voter will receive notification when the election launches and be provided with eBallot information via email.

Results of the election will be presented at the Annual Meeting, which will be held on May 17 at 5:30 pm. All parents, faculty, and staff are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting.

Please contact Chris Bewell at [chrisbewell@cornerstone-elementary.org](mailto:chrisbewell@cornerstone-elementary.org) for more information.

## IV. Notes for this election

Elected board members generally serve 3-year terms. Following is the slate of candidates standing for this election:

<u>Board Seat Category</u>	<u>Eligible Candidate(s)</u>
Parent Member (3-year term):	<b>Tyler Bouwens</b>
Teacher Member (3-year term):	<b>Jessica Goff</b>

# Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School

## Board Candidate Profiles

### Tyler Bouwens – Parent Member

#### **1. Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors?**

I am interested in serving on the CMES Board of Directors as a way to give back and contribute to our school. Our family has been a part of the Cornerstone community for many years, and we will be for many more years to come (our youngest is entering 1st grade.) Contributions I would like to make are bringing a thoughtful voice to express parent and student experiences and concerns, as well as considerations of supporting the whole child.

#### **2. What role might you play in advancing the mission of the school?**

The mission of the school, in part, is a localized mission; making high fidelity Montessori education available to East Side residents from culturally and economically different backgrounds. I am a strong supporting of building up our East Side neighborhood, and have lived in the neighborhood for almost a decade now. I will always support initiatives around strengthening this neighborhood and will prioritize the question, "How can CMES reach out and engage students who need this high-quality Montessori education the most?"

#### **3. What areas of expertise would you bring to the Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School Board?**

Areas of expertise I will bring to the CMES Board of Directors are related to mental health, social service supports, and environmental thoughtfulness. As an advisory board member for the Serving the Whole Child Project I was able to work directly with a diverse group of Montessori schools to support communities holistically. We did this through self-compassion events, focus groups, parent engagement, and supporting cooperative initiatives in the classroom with St. Catherine's University and licensed social workers. While not formally trained, I bring a deep sense of environmental thoughtfulness to my work, which I believe has been informed significantly by my long engagement with Indigenous communities in MN. This will become increasingly important as CMES envisions our future.

#### **4. What aspects of Cornerstone do you value the most? What role does Cornerstone's foundation as a Montessori school play?**

The aspects of Cornerstone I value the most is the sense of community between parents, teachers, and the administrative staff. I also value the differences of language, culture, and backgrounds that can be found in Cornerstone and how our students work through difficult concepts such as racism, violence, economic inequality, and the climate crisis in this environment. It will surely provide a foundation of radical problem solving abilities in our students that we will all need as we address these things. Through the Montessori approach, CMES students learn how they can best learn, how they can best support the people around them, and what they are passionate about.

#### **5. What is your vision for Cornerstone's future?**

My vision for Cornerstone's future has to be congruent with the communities (students, teachers, parents, and administration) vision. I would work hard to imagine this future with 100% parent engagement, student engagement, and constant cooperation with school staff and fellow CMES board members. There are exciting opportunities ahead that we can pursue together!

# Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School

## Board Candidate Profiles

### Jessica Goff – Teacher Member

#### **1. Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors?**

I have enjoyed my terms on the Board because it gives me insight into the governance of the school at a policy level. I enjoy the multiple voices supporting this mission and vision.

#### **2. What role might you play in advancing the mission of the school?**

As a teacher and parent, I am committed to the sustainability of Cornerstone. I want to work to ensure that all members of our community - children, families, staff - get the support they need.

#### **3. What areas of expertise would you bring to the Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School Board?**

I have been a parent at the school since 2012 and a teacher here since 2013. I have been on the board for the last six years. I think my experience with different aspects of the program and roles within the community make my perspective valuable.

#### **4. What aspects of Cornerstone do you value the most? What role does Cornerstone's foundation as a Montessori school play?**

I love Cornerstone. The emphasis on implementing Montessori with fidelity means that we are supporting children as whole people, helping them grow into themselves and develop as compassionate, thoughtful, and strong individuals. I appreciate that our relatively small community means that we can help every child get what they need.

#### **5. What is your vision for Cornerstone's future?**

I appreciate the Board's strategic planning and emphasis on four areas - Access, Community, Equity, and Sustainability. Connected to these, I believe we need to continue to explore expansion and bring more members of the community into strategic planning conversations.