

**Chicago Public Schools (CPS)
Office of Innovation and Incubation
2016 New Schools' Request for Proposal (RFP)
Board Member Form**

General

Name:

Hemal Patel

Position/Title:

Structural Engineer

Job Description:

I analysis and design highway and river bridges. After calculating the proper size of all structural members, I produce CAD drawings that contractors will use to construct the bridge.

Type of Experience:

I have three years of experience in designing bridges. In addition, I have a passion for working with students in STEM. I have experience organizing STEM related activities and learning experiences through the Boys and Girls Club and the Future City Competition as a volunteer. In addition, I have participated in multiple student-centered Engineers' Week events.

Role of a Board Member

1. Please indicate whether you are currently or have previously served on the Board of a school or any non-profit organization:

Yes

No

If yes, please list and describe:

2. What is your understanding of the role of a Board member of a public charter, contract, or alternative school?
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A board member's role is to carry out the logistics of creating and maintaining a school in the most effective and efficient way possible. The board will write the school's bylaws and philosophy, hire faculty and administrative staff, organize training, oversee the budget, and create a plan for the school's continuing sustainability. Each board member will tend to specialize in one or two of the aforementioned logistical categories.

3. Why are you interested in serving as a member of a public charter, contract, or alternative school?

I am interested in serving as board member of the proposed Evelyn Ann Charter Institute because I want to connect students in West Pullman to opportunities in STEM and the professional world. Though I have not previously served on a school board, my experience working with students will help me transition to this role and allow me to have a positive impact on the school and the community. My professional experience as structural engineer will allow me to connect students with mentorship and workshop opportunities in architecture, civil engineering, and construction around the city of Chicago.

4. Why do you believe that you are qualified to serve as a Board member of a public charter, contract, or alternative school? What previous experience, skills, or background do you have that is relevant to serving on the Board of the proposed charter, contract, or alternative school?

I have experience organizing STEM related activities and learning experiences through the Boys and Girls Club Chicago and the Future City Competition as a volunteer. In addition, I have participated in multiple student-centered Engineers' Week events. Finally, I have served as a mentor through Spark Chicago, a nonprofit that connects middle school students with professionals in the Chicago Area. The above demonstrates my passion for working with students through STEM related activities. I would like to bring my passion and fresh mindset to the board, when establishing the school's curriculum and culture. From a logistics standpoint, I have experience with budgeting and fundraising. I have created multiple cost estimates for bridge design and rehabilitation projects in the state of Illinois. I am also six months away from obtaining my Professional Engineer and Structural Engineer licenses, and can provide valuable feedback with regards to building maintenance procedures and costs.

5. What is your understanding of the school's mission, vision, educational philosophy and program?

Evelyn Ann Charter seeks to educate high-school students through a project-based curriculum that is both rigorous and relevant in the real-world.

6. As a Board member, how do you assess whether a school is (or is not) achieving its mission?

We will develop formative, diagnostic, and interim assessments for students and teachers. We will gather data from these different types of assessments to track the progress of school members throughout an academic year. We will also distribute anonymous surveys every quarter and encourage students/staff to share their ideas on how to improve the school, both logistically and academically.

7. Describe the role that the Board will play (or currently does play) in the school's operation.

The board will carry out the logistics of creating and maintaining a school in the most effective and efficient way possible. The board will write the school's bylaws and philosophy, hire faculty and administrative staff, organize training, oversee the budget, and create a plan for the school's continuing sustainability. In addition, the board will be responsible for communicating with people outside the school and in the professional world to expand the school's network.

8. 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 first institute a rule that allows the board to remove any individual board member with a majority vote. This establishes a checks-and-balances system that will most likely prevent any individual from acting against the best interests of the school. In the case, where an individual acts unethically, I would discuss the issue with the rest of the board. We would come up with an immediate resolution to solve the issue, and prevent it from happening again. Note, resolution other than removal of board member would be preferred, given that the board strives to keep a family-like culture within the group and with the school.
