



Dear Parents:

As many of you are aware, the Charter School of Morgan Hill is a non-profit corporation. As members of this corporation, you are responsible for electing the Board of Directors. This year, we have one open parent position and one open community representative position. Below you will find the candidate statements. You may cast your vote two ways:

- At the Family Fun Fest next Friday, May 29th, ballots will be available at the ticket booth.
- Ballots will be available in the office beginning the morning of Friday, May 29th. Votes can be cast up to 3:30 pm on Thursday, June 4th.

Thank you for taking the time to fulfill this important duty!!

Parent Representative: Cindy Gion

- **Please write a brief description about yourself and your experience.**

My husband, Mark, and I have been CSMH parents for six years, and our sons, Jackson and Cole are currently enrolled in the 8th and 5th grades. As a family, we have had many positive experiences as members of the CSMH community for which we are grateful.

In addition to my parenting commitment, I'm in the midst of the 20th year of my career in the field of accounting and finance. I worked for 3 years as a CPA for Ernst & Young, and since then, I've been employed by Hewlett-Packard. I'm currently in a finance director role which I jobshare with a colleague. This flexible work arrangement allows me to balance my work schedule with parenting and volunteering.

I am passionate about children, education, diversity, and sports which is reflected in my volunteer experiences. As a student / athlete graduate of Santa Clara University, I served as a member of the President's Athletic Advisory Committee for 18 years, and recently I completed a 3-year term as the Treasurer of the Bronco Bench Foundation which raises and manages monies for athletic scholarship endowments and athletic dept. operating funds. I love to coach all kids for any sport whether it be in a recreational or competitive environment. At CSMH, I founded the lunch time intramural sports program five years ago for grades 3-5 which embraces the school values of inclusion, physical health, and friendship. I've also enjoyed coaching basketball for the middle school teams, NJB, SCBA, and soccer at the YMCA. Lastly,

I am a strong advocate for special needs children where I've recently served as a founding member of the MHUSD Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

➤ **Why do you want to be a CSMH Board Member?**

I would like to serve on the board of CSMH because I am passionate about our school and community, and I want to contribute as a leader to its ongoing success. I believe that I can leverage my business and finance experience to help navigate CSMH through these tough economic times. I also believe that I can leverage my SEAC experiences to help CSMH progress in the area of diversity and inclusion.

➤ **If you are elected, in what ways would you plan to connect yourself with the school, beyond attendance at board meetings?**

If I am elected to the Board, I will commit to a strong communication link between the CSMH parent community and the Board. I will also actively engage myself in the implementation of our CSMH Strategic Plan. Beyond that, I will continue with my various parent volunteer activities in the classroom and athletic fields as well as assisting with the financials for the annual auction.

Thank you for your support,
Cindy Gion

Community Representative: Matthew Taylor

➤ **Please write a brief description about yourself and your experience.**

I am a corporate attorney working in the business and tax group for Berliner & Cohen, a San Jose law firm. I am a native Minnesotan and most of my family still resides in the Minneapolis area. I have lived in the Bay Area almost five years. About three years ago I settled in Morgan Hill with my fiancé after the purchase of our first home. We chose Morgan Hill for a variety of reasons including its strong sense of community, the positive environment for raising children, the proximity to major economic and cultural opportunities, and what we felt was a city we could call home for many years to come. As part of that process, I became involved with Leadership Morgan Hill ("LMH") and the class of 2007. My experience with LMH introduced me to the many different facets of Morgan Hill and reinforced my desire to become involved in maintaining and expanding the community which I now call home.

During the past year (beginning in November of 2008) I was fortunate enough to fill a vacancy on the current CSMH board as a community representative. I have served on, and currently co-chair the finance committee. I was also a member of the budget-advisory committee, formed to help navigate the 2009-10 budget during the current economic downturn. I also presented the finance and facility committees' joint report at CSMH's town hall meeting this past March.

➤ **Why do you want to be a CSMH Board Member**

Growing up in Minnesota I was blessed with a strong public school system. I am convinced that charter schools can and do play an important role in providing new and alternative educational formats in what can sometimes be a slow-moving and bureaucratic system and I have seen first hand the success CSMH has had within our own community.

As someone relatively new to the community and without children of my own, I feel that a board position with CSMH has provided me with a unique opportunity to be part of a genuinely innovative approach to education. I am also motivated to help in the development, even if in a small way, of an education system that will serve a central role in the lives of my own children in the near future. I truly believe the concepts and curriculum that prove successful with CSMH have the potential to impact the education system of Morgan Hill as a whole. If provided the opportunity to continue in my role as a board member, I hope to expand my contributions and help with the progress of CSMH's mission, including the implementation and success of the strategic plan.

➤ **If you are elected, in what ways would you plan to connect yourself with the school, beyond attendance at board meetings?**

I would attend and contribute to the various fundraisers and events which serve to benefit the school and its students. I also plan on continuing my role with the finance committee. Specifically, I have a particular interest in researching and reviewing financing opportunities for CSMH. I have begun, with other members of the committee, to research particular financing options available to charter schools which I am hopeful can lead to (i) improved facilities, (ii) the opportunity to expand enrichment and other programs, and (iii) possibly serve as a financial reserve for the school's operations going forward. I would also hope to use my legal skills and connections to the extent it could benefit the school.