

Dear PCCS Families,

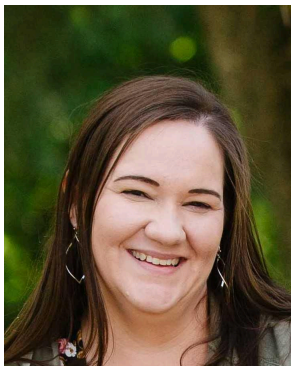
As you will recall, you received a request for nominations of candidates for election to the PCCS Board. Three candidates are on the ballot this year to fill two open positions. Two of the open positions can be filled by either a parent or community member and one teacher position is open. Cale Steinhoff is running unopposed for the teacher opening. We are grateful to current board members who will complete their terms this June: Shelly Dickinson, Jess Provancha, and Cale Steinhoff.

**Voting in the PCCS election will begin on Monday, March 3, 2025 and close on Monday, March 10, 2025.**

Once again this year we will be using Election Buddy to collect and tabulate the votes. You will receive an email from Election Buddy when voting begins. This email will have a unique access key which can only be used to vote once and your voting choices will remain anonymous.

You will see these names on the ballot:

**Samantha Hemmah (Parent)**



I am a parent of a third grader and a rising kindergartener. Northfield's community, schools, and opportunities are the reason my family decided to make it our home. We enjoy family vacations at the lake, being outdoors, and many children's activities and sports. Currently I am a stay-at-home mom and my background is in construction. I worked as a project estimator for MacArthur Company for eight years. My husband and I consider ourselves lucky to have landed a spot to join Prairie Creek three years ago as our daughter entered first grade.

Being involved with my kids' schools is a priority for me. In the past three years, I have sought opportunities to get involved at Prairie Creek. Currently I serve as a member of the Community Connections Committee, classroom parent for the Meadowlarks, a member of the Feather Friends (welcoming new families into the school), and helping run Prairie Creek Makers each spring. That's not all I have to give! Which is why I am running for the chance to serve on the School Board.

Prairie Creek is such a hidden gem. I value that the school centers its mission on providing a progressive education and focuses on the needs of each individual child, while also encouraging a strong bond with nature and spending time outdoors. I hope my advocacy as a parent and active Prairie Creek community member supports the school in a way that lets Prairie Creek continue delivering high quality, child-centered, progressive education to its students.

**Jess Provancha (Parent)**



Greetings, Prairie Creek Community! I'm Jessica Provancha and I am the parent of two students who are a part of the PCCS community and I'm running to serve on the Prairie Creek board. I am currently wrapping up my first term as a board member, and I would be honored to continue to serve the Prairie Creek Community for another term. My family relocated to Northfield during the pandemic to be closer to family. After accidentally stumbling upon Prairie Creek and learning about the school's mission and the strong progressive education we knew that this was a place for our children not only to learn but to thrive. At PCCS, I have the peace of knowing that my children are

known by name by every person who is here, they are safe, loved, and have all of the makings to be lifelong learners.

I hold an associate's degree in ASL interpretation from Saint Paul College. I spent the first part of my career as an ASL/English Interpreter in the public school sector, which gave me a unique insight into the inner workings of the education system as a whole. I worked in public education for about nine years and left my position after I had my second child. My scope of practice as an interpreter is in medical/mental health settings, higher-level educational settings, legislative/social justice initiatives, climate action, and advocacy work.

### **Claire Wittek (Parent)**



Hello! I'm Claire Wittek, mom to a Nuthatches 1st grader and an up-and-coming Kindergartener this fall. My two stepdaughters – now 21 and 17 – also attended Prairie Creek, which is how I first became familiar with the school and all that it offers. I knew without a doubt that I wanted my kids to experience the same sense of community, evolving curriculum and appreciation for nature.

As a social worker, I've spent many years working alongside underserved communities within Hennepin County, advocating for families to ensure they receive the services they need. For the last three years, I've worked in child protection, serving as a voice for children whose safety and well-being are at significant risk. This has been the toughest work I've ever done, but also the most rewarding – knowing that I've been able to make a difference in a child's life and providing them with opportunities they may otherwise wouldn't have had.

Those who know me personally joke that I would be a lifelong student if I could. I have a bachelor's degree in journalism, plus two graduate degrees – one in public administration and one in social work. I love to learn, am curious by nature and ask a lot of questions (just ask my husband!). Knowledge is power, and I believe that education has the ability to transform lives in many ways. This is why I would welcome the opportunity to become more involved with Prairie Creek's community as a member of the Board – thank you for considering!

### **Cale Steinhoff (Teacher)**



I am so excited for the opportunity to give back to Prairie Creek and its greater community. I currently work as a special education teacher at Prairie Creek and have worked at the school since 2015. I strongly believe in Prairie Creek's guiding mission and commitment to equity, nature, and making the world a better place. I'm looking forward to serving the school community and representing my colleagues on the Prairie Creek school board!

Sincerely,

Beth Molitor and Jess Provanča

PCCS Board Nominations Committee