

**Rocky Mountain Deaf School
Laurent Clerc Educational Fund of Colorado
Board of Directors Interest Assessment**

Rocky Mountain Deaf School (“RMDS”) is a free public charter school in Jefferson County School District. The Laurent Clerc Educational Fund of Colorado (“LCEFC”) Board of Directors is responsible for providing oversight for all activities of the school.

The LCEFC all-volunteer Board consists of between seven to ten voting Directors. Any person (except a school employee) who has a vested interest in the Educational Mission may serve as a Director. The Educational Mission includes supporting the educational programs offered through RMDS and coordinating other educational activities in Colorado for the use of a bilingual American Sign Language/ written English method for education of deaf and hard of hearing children.

The Board of Directors shall consist of:

- A minimum of 50% of Directors who are Deaf. “Deaf” means and includes all persons with congenital and acquired hearing loss, unilateral and bilateral hearing loss, all degrees of hearing loss from minimal to profound, and all types of hearing loss (sensorineural, auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder, permanent conductive, and mixed).
- A minimum of 50% of Directors who are family members of students currently or formerly served by the school.
- Directors who reflect the rich and growing diversity of our community, including but not limited to diversity with respect to age, economic circumstance, ethnicity, sex, race, range of ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity/expression.

Individual Members of the Board of Directors’ are Expected to:

- Commit to serving on the Board for a minimum of a three-year term.
- Commit to ongoing learning and development of support strategies for the Educational Mission, the school and its goals, educational theory, faculty concerns, finance and budgeting process, challenges, and needs.
- Commit to understanding and aiding in the pursuit of diversity, equity, and inclusion with respect to the composition of the Board and operations of the school.
- Keep abreast of national, state and local trends that affect deaf education.
- Become familiar with and participate in the ongoing development of the LCEFC and RMDS governing documents, policies, and procedures.
- Participate in trainings regarding Director obligations ,which include including:
 - Financial oversight.
 - Colorado open meetings laws.
 - Mandatory Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect.
 - Ethical obligations, including matters pertaining to confidentiality, conflicts of interest, and the duties of care and loyalty to the Board and school.

- Actively participate in the tasks of the Board, including:
 - Attendance at at least 80% of Board meetings conducted in an academic year. One regular meeting is conducted each month in Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan. Feb. March, April, May, and June. In addition, the Board typically conducts a day-long workshop session in August. Special meetings may also be held as necessary.
 - Review the monthly agenda, RMDS Director reports, meeting minutes, and other materials provided to Directors in advance of meetings.
 - Actively participate in discussions at meetings, ask probing questions; and seek relevant answers before voting on issues.
 - A willingness to serve on standing committees as may be needed from time-to-time.
 - Maintain regular communication with other Board members as may be appropriate to conduct the business of the Board. Timely communication regarding time restraints, any inability to attend Board meetings, or to comply with any other commitments is mandatory.
 - Overall time commitments and responsibilities will vary depending upon committee activities and Board needs. Approximately two to five hours per month outside of the regular Board meetings should be anticipated.
- Attend school family and community functions as requested.
- Serve at all times as a zealous advocate for the school and for the necessity for deaf and hard of hearing children to have access to bilingual American Sign Language/ written English method for education. This includes being an enthusiastic and knowledgeable voice for the school at community activities and any social media communications.
- Recognize each Board member's role as part of a team and be able to work collaboratively within that team.
- **Proficiency in American Sign Language is not required.** However, familiarity with or willingness to become knowledgeable of ASL and Deaf cultural norms is required. Board meetings are led and conducted in American Sign Language with the support of interpreters.
- Most meetings are held remotely via Zoom. The August workshop is typically conducted in-person.

If you believe that you have the time, skills, and desire to fulfill the above commitments and are interested in serving on the RMDS Board of Directors, please submit answers to the following questions to Board Vice Chair, Athena Troy at atroy@rmds.co on or before **May 31, 2024**.

In recognition of the fact that individuals may prefer different modes of communications, answers can be submitted in writing, through a signed or spoken video recording, or through a combination of both.

1. State your name, email, phone number, and City of residence.
2. Please identify what personal or professional connections you have with any Deaf individual.
3. Explain how your life experiences have led to your desire to support RMDS and the Educational Mission.
4. Describe any education, knowledge, experiences, skills, or abilities you possess which you would bring to help support the functions of the Board. In particular, please be sure to identify whether you have any background in:
 - a. Serving on other school boards, non-profit boards, commissions, or appointed or elected positions.
 - b. Accounting, finance, and budgeting.
 - c. Education, particularly deaf education.
 - d. Laws pertaining to Colorado public education and charter schools.
 - e. Advocacy in any capacity - parent or professional.
 - f. Fundraising, grant writing, or event planning.
 - g. Human resources or employment laws.
 - h. Networking, communications, and outreach.
 - i. Supporting the development of children in any capacity other than education, including parenting, medical training, social work, psychology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or behavioral therapy.
 - j. Leadership, governance, conflict resolution, and working with teams.
5. Identify any personal or professional time restraints which may conflict with your Board duties. For example, Board meetings are typically held at 6:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month via zoom. Please indicate if you are aware that would be unavailable at that time or any other specific times in the evenings.
6. Provide some real-life examples which demonstrate your commitment to understanding and aiding in the pursuit of diversity, equity, and inclusion. If you cannot think of any specific past examples, then explain what actions you intend to pursue in furtherance of such commitment.
7. Identify any personal or professional networks or connections which you can draw upon for the benefit of RMDS and the Educational Mission.
8. If you believe there may be a potential for a conflict of interest in connection with your Board duties, please describe the relevant circumstances in detail.
9. In your view, what are the RMDS's greatest challenges at this time?
10. Identify any potential growth opportunities for the school which you believe could be further explored or developed?
11. Describe your approach to conflict resolution and consensus building within a team.