

# Scott McQuiston

## School Board Nominee (Secondary Teacher)

### **What motivates you to want to become a School Board member?**

My first three years teaching at PACT, I was on the Secondary Programming Committee for two years, and on Secondary Curriculum Committee for one year. In that time I saw how powerful an an impact the governing committees can have when the staff, parents, and students all partner together. Unfortunately, last year when I was on the Secondary Programming Committee, I witnessed a divide form between the staff and parents on the Secondary Curriculum and Programming Committees. Since then I have really been wanting to see the rift get mended and have us all back to working on one team, focusing only on what is best for the students.

### **What expertise and experience in K-12/higher education will you contribute to the School Board; and what level of education and professional training do you bring?**

I have a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics Education from St. Cloud State University. I spend 3 years substitute teaching, taught for 1 year at Crossroads Alternative High School in the Anoka-Hennepin school district, and this is my 4th year teaching high school Math at PACT. I have also served on the PACT school board for 1 year as well.

### **What are the 1-3 biggest areas of concern you see facing PACT Charter School today, and how will you help solve them?**

There are two main areas right now for us to focus on improving as a school. This would be the process of rebuilding trust between staff and parents at the committee level, and raising our test scores. 1) There seems to be a system of mistrust built up right now between the staff and the parents at the board and the committee meetings. This will not be an easy problem to solve, but I will continue to do my part to try and be a trustworthy board member. 2) We really need to focus on getting our standardized test scores up higher. As a board member, I feel that the biggest thing we can do to help fix this is making sure that we keep focused on what is going to be best for our students education when making decisions.

### **If elected, how do you plan to work collaboratively with Board members through the lens of what is best for all K-12 students?**

As a Board member it is vital to be able to work collaboratively with any and all of the other Board members. I would do this by ensuring that I am always treating the other members with respect and making sure that I am doing my part to make decisions with the focus on what is best for all of the student's educations. For all the board members to work well together, we need to make sure we are acting with integrity and portraying the character traits we are wanting to teach our students as well.

### **What is your vision for education at PACT Charter School, how does it align with the school's mission and vision, and how will you help accomplish this?**

To see us be a school where we are less frequently asking ourselves "how do we improve our test scores," but instead "how do we maintain our high test scores." Our Mission and Vision asks us to "cultivate an academically rigorous environment" and to develop our students to be "educationally excellent" and to "value life-long learning." By getting to a point that we are providing an appropriate amount of rigor in our curriculum and providing staff with the tools they need, we will be produce students who value life-long learning and will be educationally excellent. In doing so, we will also see our test scores rise. I will help us reach this by keeping the focus on what is best for our students education, and what our families and teachers need to do our part in providing the best education possible for those students.

### **What is your connection to PACT Charter School?**

I have been a secondary math teacher at PACT for 4 years now.

