

## TrekNorth School Board Nomination Form

*Your completed form will be copied and made available to voters exactly as you have prepared it. Please return form to:  
2400 Pine Ridge Ave., Bemidji, MN 56601 or kganske@treknorth.org by March 29th at 3:10pm, 2019*

Nominated by Self  Other (name of nominator) \_\_\_\_\_

Name Lydia Pietruszewski Phone 218-766-8852

Address 26744 310th St, Shevlin, MN 56676 E-mail lydiapsience@gmail.com

Check one: Teacher  Parent of TrekNorth student  Member of Bemidji area community

### Board Job Description

The purpose of the board, on behalf of the community of Bemidji, is to see to it that TrekNorth  
(a) achieves appropriate results for appropriate persons at an appropriate cost (as specified in board Ends policies), and  
(b) avoids unacceptable actions and situations (as prohibited in board Executive Limitations policies).

### List the reasons that you are interested in serving as a board member of TrekNorth High School.

I believe our students should be prepared to face the world as critical-thinking problem solvers, as open-minded caregivers of each other, as contemplative peacemakers and stewards of the earth while enjoying the positive therapeutic benefits of being physically active, exploring the outdoors, and recognizing positivity in daily life. I believe in the power of differentiated education and formative relationships. I believe TrekNorth has done these things well, but there is always room for improvement. I want to have the opportunity to help TrekNorth continue its success and to work together with others who are passionate about the future of the school.

### Tell us about your experiences that qualify you to sit on the board. This may or may not include other board experience.

Having taught science, led trips, and worked as a paraprofessional at TrekNorth from 2006-2012 and kept up to date with TrekNorth's success, I am familiar with the evolution of the school and the lofty mission to which it is dedicated. My son Louis attends 6th grade and my plan is to keep him at TrekNorth until he graduates.

I have participated on decision-making committees at Win-E-Mac School and Bemidji High School as a teacher, at Bagley Elementary School as a parent, and I have learned lasting lessons from both successes and failures.

Also, my former leadership role as chairperson for the Bemidji Area March of Dimes March for Babies allowed me to build my skills in effective communication, diplomacy, organization, fundraising, and networking.

This past year I have continued my education and trained in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), Historical Trauma, Cultural Competence, and Trauma Informed Behavior Support. Additionally, I am a core team member of the Bemidji Area Rural Child Care Innovation Program which allows me to network with business professionals in the Bemidji area and to voice concerns to make a difference in promoting high-quality care of our young children. I am also in the process of planning a new child care center in cooperation with GoldPine Home assisted living of Bemidji. Upon state licensure and opening, I will be the Director and hope to partner with TrekNorth on some programs involving intergenerational learning with preschool children and elderly folks.

I care about this community and its people!

**Tell us about your commitment to TrekNorth's mission:**

*(TN's mission is to maximize student academic success by challenging and supporting individual students on an academic path that includes participation in a spectrum of vertically aligned college-readiness courses, including AP courses. TN's mission is to develop leadership skills in all students through required participation in wilderness experiences and outdoor skill development. TN's mission is to support students by requiring parental collaboration in key areas, by providing parents the necessary education and training to be an effective partner, and by committing to the successful implementation of a comprehensive wellness curriculum. TN's mission is to actively guide students in their process of developing a positive self identity and a responsibility to serve their community. TN's mission is to graduate students who have the desire and ability to build community.)*

I believe when parents/guardians enroll their student at TrekNorth it is a commitment to partner with the school to foster especially those five signature character attributes of Resilience, Compassion, Honesty, Responsibility, and Motivation. As a parent of a current TrekNorth student I am mindful of this commitment, and also as an educator I recognize the importance of instilling those characteristics through high expectations, team-building and problem-solving, leadership and collaboration, brainstorming solutions to real-world problems, and daily opportunities to be outdoors.

**What personal strengths would you bring to the Board?**

I am a keen observer and questioner, a reflective thinker, and I very intentionally apply what I learn to my decision-making and my follow-through.

**Is there any other information you would like to include?**

Go Sundogs!

## **TrekNorth School Board Nomination Form**

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Nominated by Self \_\_\_\_\_ Other (name of nominator) \_\_\_\_\_

Name Lynn Boyer \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (218)766-9088 \_\_\_\_\_

Address 4201 Hideaway Ln SE Bemidji \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail lynn@crossfitbemidji.com

Check one: Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Parent of TrekNorth student \_\_\_\_\_ Member of Bemidji area community

### **Board Job Description**

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- (a) achieves appropriate results for appropriate persons at an appropriate cost (as specified in board Ends policies), and
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**List the reasons that you are interested in serving as a board member of TrekNorth High School.**

I have been a lifetime member of this community and feel it is important to contribute back. My son was also a student at Trek North and without this opportunity I believe he would've "fallen through the cracks". I love what Trek North can offer students and want it to continue to grow!

**Tell us about your experiences that qualify you to sit on the board. This may or may not include other board experience.**

I served on the BOD for Northern Cradle for almost 10 years, I also served as Treasurer on the Grant Valley Township for 18 years. I have 16 years experience of being self-employed and partnering with my husband at Boyer Mechanical Services, and currently purchased CrossFit Bemidji to coincide with my health coaching certification.

**Tell us about your commitment to TrekNorth's mission:**

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Trek North's mission is one that should be followed by all schools! Through my experience at TN as a parent, I have seen first-hand that this school looks at each student as an individual to help them grow to be their best possible self! This is the exact same concept that I follow when teaching my clients about making lifestyle changes to better their health...we are all different and what works for one doesn't always work for another.

One of the reasons we wanted our son to attend TN was because of the outdoor skill development and the emphasis on being a part of the community. Staying connected keeps us healthy!

**What personal strengths would you bring to the Board?**

From what people have told me throughout the years (especially my husband 😊) is that I have very strong leadership skills. And organization is something that I love!

**Is there any other information you would like to include?**

One concern that I have had for many years is the school lunch programs. And since becoming a health coach it is even more on my mind. What we fuel our bodies with effects how we feel and think. How can we feed our kids the proper energy to give them the brain power they need? How can we teach them about making healthy food choices for themselves? I know there is a lot of rules/regulations/bureaucracy behind this program and I would love to dig deeper to make positive changes.

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Nominated by Self  Other (name of nominator) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Leslie Harper \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ 218-760-7197 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ PO Box 1336 Cass Lake, MN 56633 \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ leslieharperojibwe@gmail.com

Check one: Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Parent of TrekNorth student \_\_\_\_\_ Member of Bemidji area community

### Board Job Description

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(a) achieves appropriate results for appropriate persons at an appropriate cost (as specified in board Ends policies), and  
(b) avoids unacceptable actions and situations (as prohibited in board Executive Limitations policies).

### List the reasons that you are interested in serving as a board member of TrekNorth High School.

1. When we needed it, TrekNorth was a wonderful experience for both my son, Theo "Mit" Liberty, and me. The school helped not only educate him, but it helped shape him into the compassionate young man he has become. I appreciate the normalization of holding high expectations for all students in the learning community, and the commonality of post-secondary preparatory experiences that TrekNorth provides.
2. While my son graduated from TrekNorth in 2017, now I have a niece and nephew who attend TrekNorth. Since the experience was beneficial for my son other children in our family are eager to continue their education at the school. Because of that I would like to be part of the council, to help maintain the excellence of the school.
3. The more fine young men and women who go through this program and go on to contribute to our community, the better off we all are. It is a bright, positive light producing tomorrow's influencers: adults of character and empathy.
4. I can bring my experience to the council and help create an environment where each student and faculty member has the opportunity to succeed.

### Tell us about your experiences that qualify you to sit on the board. This may or may not include other board experience.

I have experience as a parent, teacher, and administrator in a school setting. I was a co-founder and Director of a Kindergarten through 6th grade Ojibwe language immersion school at Leech Lake. For ten years in that role I provided administrative oversight to teaching, curriculum development, professional development, and fundraising. I was responsible to report to funding and monitor agencies. I also taught Ojibwe Language Arts for six years.

These qualifications situate me in a unique position to advocate for TrekNorth's Indigenous students as well as helping with resources and opportunities available to schools with American Indian students.

I am the President of the National Coalition of Native American Language Schools and Programs, which advocates to uphold civil rights for education sites that provide education primarily through a Native American language. I am a member of the American Indian Advisory Committee at the

University of MN-Morris since 2013. I am also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Science Work Group on America's Languages. I serve on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Indian Education Association where I was elected by membership to a three-year term for 2018-2021.

**Tell us about your commitment to TrekNorth's mission:**

*(TN's mission is to maximize student academic success by challenging and supporting individual students on an academic path that includes participation in a spectrum of vertically aligned college-readiness courses, including AP courses. TN's mission is to develop leadership skills in all students through required participation in wilderness experiences and outdoor skill development. TN's mission is to support students by requiring parental collaboration in key areas, by providing parents the necessary education and training to be an effective partner, and by committing to the successful implementation of a comprehensive wellness curriculum. TN's mission is to actively guide students in their process of developing a positive self identity and a responsibility to serve their community. TN's mission is to graduate students who have the desire and ability to build community.)*

TrekNorth's mission is a major reason I enrolled my son here. This is the combination of character building and active participation in outdoor activities that complement academics so well. To say I am sold on this approach is an understatement. Year after year we see the positive results in TrekNorth students as they learn lessons about life and nature that will be with them for a lifetime, and we see these students grow into their roles as community leaders and community developers through dedication, compassion, and positive attitudes.

**What personal strengths would you bring to the Board?**

I am a tireless advocate for our students. I have been working for them in schools, the community, at the Minnesota State Legislative Chambers, and on Capitol Hill in Washington. I am innovative, and I am tenacious when it comes to finding opportunities for our students. I bring vast knowledge as a public policy researcher and advocate for 20+ years.

**Is there any other information you would like to include?**

Yes. This is our community and for those of us who, like me, live and work here, making TrekNorth the best possible school benefits us all. I was born and raised in Cass Lake and am an enrolled member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. My parents, Judy and Dennis Harper, gifted me with a love of education and for our land and people.

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Nominated by Self  Other (name of nominator) \_\_\_\_\_

Name Jennie Clare Phone 612.578 3500

Address 415 Lake Shore Dr NE #218, Bemidji, MN 56601 E-mail jke204@yahoo.com

Check one: Teacher  Parent of TrekNorth student  Member of Bemidji area community

### Board Job Description

The purpose of the board, on behalf of the community of Bemidji, is to see to it that TrekNorth

- (a) achieves appropriate results for appropriate persons at an appropriate cost (as specified in board Ends policies), and
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List the reasons that you are interested in serving as a board member of TrekNorth High School.

*Desire to serve the school, its children and families, and the community it impacts*

Tell us about your experiences that qualify you to sit on the board. This may or may not include other board experience.

- BS Education + child development*
- 3 yrs Special Ed advisory committee Westank6*
- National Concierge (impls)*
- assoc. board member - 3 yrs*

**Tell us about your commitment to TrekNorth's mission:**

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We chose Trek because of its focus not only on academics but on developing a well rounded young adult with a view for and understanding of our civic obligation to serve the world and our environment

**What personal strengths would you bring to the Board?**

- Education degree & teaching experience
- Special Ed board service (impls. 3 yrs)
- National concierge (Service 3 yrs as Assoc) (board member)
- Current work with parents of children with special needs

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Nominated by Self  Other (name of nominator) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Chance Adams Phone: 218-766-9673

Address: 16118 popplewood rd ne Hines, MN 56647 E-mail: cadams@treknorth.org

Check one:  Teacher  Parent of TrekNorth student \_\_\_\_\_  Member of Bemidji area community \_\_\_\_\_

### **Board Job Description**

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**List the reasons that you are interested in serving as a board member of TrekNorth High School.**

I am seeking to continue my role as a member of the board because I love TrekNorth and believe in its vision and mission. I have been a board member since 2014 and a teacher here at TrekNorth for the last 14 years.

TrekNorth has encouraged me to become a better teacher and showed me what a school should be doing for the youth of Northern Minnesota. I want to give back to our community as much as it has given me.

**Tell us about your experiences that qualify you to sit on the board. This may or may not include other board experience.**

I currently have been a member of the TrekNorth board for the last five years. I have gone through all of the state required board training. Previously, I have served on the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools Board and I am currently a board member of the Council of American-Islamic Relations – Minnesota (CAIR-MN). All of these experiences have helped me understand the role and relationships the board has with the both the Executive Director and all stakeholders.

**Tell us about your commitment to TrekNorth's mission:**

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As an employee of TrekNorth for the last 14 years, I have come to love and support our mission. I have attended AP institutes and have consistently worked to align my classes and programing with our academic vision.

I also fully support our OAP and SLP programming. I lead several trips every year and continually see the benefits of these programs. Students become better citizens through TrekNorth's mission and because of these trips. During our trips, staff are able to make connections with students that allow us to push students more academically.

**What personal strengths would you bring to the Board?**

I will bring my ability to work productively with others to achieve a common goal. I find great satisfaction in being a constructive and beneficial member of a team working towards the greater good. I am open-minded and accepting of others opinions, and respecting of differences. I am organized and persistent, yet also flexible. I am socially conscious; I highly value education; and I have strong work ethic to bring these values to fruition.

Lastly, I believe teacher board members need to understand the different hats that they wear. I believe I do a good job understanding the role teachers serve on the board as well as our role in the classroom and the difference between them.

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Nominated by Self  Other (name of nominator) \_\_\_\_\_

Name Leslie Drimel Phone 766-0019

Address 918 Bunchberry LN NE, Bemidji E-mail ldrimel@treknorth.org

Check one:  Teacher  Parent of TrekNorth student  Member of Bemidji area community

### **Board Job Description**

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(a) achieves appropriate results for appropriate persons at an appropriate cost (as specified in board Ends policies), and  
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### **List the reasons that you are interested in serving as a board member of TrekNorth High School.**

I am interested in serving as a board member of TrekNorth because I strongly believe in, and would like to further, the mission of our school. The next few years are particularly important, and have the potential to bring great change to the TN community. I would like the opportunity to help guide our school through this important time. I am also interested in learning more about the inner-workings of TrekNorth, and see holding a board position as an opportunity for professional growth and leadership.

### **Tell us about your experiences that qualify you to sit on the board. This may or may not include other board experience.**

At Trek, I have served on the Child Study Team since its inception (2015-present). I have held the Committee Chair position for the Technology Committee (2014-2016), where we helped appropriate funds from the Neilson Grant, and developed the TrekNorth Technology Vision to provide a framework surrounding use of technology in classrooms. I hold the position of Technology Integration Specialist (2014-present), which allows me to work with teachers to develop goals and best practices surrounding educational technology implementation in the classroom. I am also active in our local educational community and have volunteered for the EdCamp Planning Committee for the last three years, which has brought educational professional development to hundreds of educators in the region over the past four years. Before coming to TrekNorth, I held the School Forest Committee Chair at Warroad High School (2006-2008), which entailed working with the local DNR to develop a long-term plan for their school forest land.

**Tell us about your commitment to TrekNorth's mission:**

*(TN's mission is to maximize student academic success by challenging and supporting individual students on an academic path that includes participation in a spectrum of vertically aligned college-readiness courses, including AP courses. TN's mission is to develop leadership skills in all students through required participation in wilderness experiences and outdoor skill development. TN's mission is to support students by requiring parental collaboration in key areas, by providing parents the necessary education and training to be an effective partner, and by committing to the successful implementation of a comprehensive wellness curriculum. TN's mission is to actively guide students in their process of developing a positive self identity and a responsibility to serve their community. TN's mission is to graduate students who have the desire and ability to build community.)*

My personal mission is to inspire a passion and excitement for science in my students, and to equip them with the skills necessary to be successful in student-centered learning. My commitment to maximize students' academic success can be seen daily in my classroom. I have adopted a project-based curriculum that has increased student engagement and comprehension in my science classes, and I use teaching strategies that help level the playing field and make abstract content accessible to learners of all levels and abilities, and from diverse backgrounds. I also very deliberate in working with Special Education teachers and other support staff to help struggling learners find success in my classes. I believe that I have demonstrated ability to design and implement an effective standards based science curriculum, and understand how a standards based curriculum vertically aligns with AP principles and learning objectives.

I help in the development of student leadership skills by co-leading multiple OAP trips each year. There has not been a year that I have worked at Trek that I have not been on at least one trip, if not two or three. I work hard to make these trips - which push kids out of their comfort zones - positive experiences for the students and staff on them. I also actively recruit kids to the OAP program, and encourage students to sign up for different wilderness experiences offered at the school. Moreover, I have also led a few service projects in my time at Trek, allowing me to connect with small groups of students through local service on a regular basis.

I feel that the relationships I am able to build with students at TrekNorth help them develop a positive self identity. In my years at Trek I have developed these relationships by providing a welcoming and safe classroom environment, helping coach the JV soccer program, leading the RiverWatch program in partnership with the Headwaters Science Center, and being active with our OAP and SLP programs.

**What personal strengths would you bring to the Board?**

I think I will bring a variety of strengths to the board. First, I have demonstrated strong organizational and planning skills in my teaching, which are necessary for an effective board member. Second, I am a big-picture-thinker who also understands the hard work required to reach an end goal. This quality will help to steer the direction of our school. I am a team player with good interpersonal communication skills which makes me easy to work and collaborate with. Lastly, I am hardworking and am active in my professional growth as a teacher - qualities I feel that would serve any board.

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Nominated by Self  Other (name of nominator) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Nicole Friend

Phone: (218) 290 - 5264

Address: 7615 Filbert Ln NE, Bemidji, MN 56601

E-mail: [nfriend@treknorth.org](mailto:nfriend@treknorth.org)

Check one: Teacher  Parent of TrekNorth student  Member of Bemidji area community

### Board Job Description

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### List the reasons that you are interested in serving as a board member of TrekNorth High School.

I feel invested into TrekNorth being both a teacher and coach. As I continue to work here, I have become more interested into how decisions are made and the processes involved.

### Tell us about your experiences that qualify you to sit on the board. This may or may not include other board experience.

I have been a teacher at TrekNorth for 6 years as well as the Head Boys and Girls Track Coach. I feel confident that I have been here long enough to be a positive voice for the school and its well being. This past year I served on the Salary Committee and I would like to continue being involved at the next level.

### Tell us about your commitment to TrekNorth's mission:

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Throughout my time here at TrekNorth I feel that I have created a challenging but accommodating atmosphere in my classes for all students. Along with getting students prepared for AP, I have also taught AP Statistics for two years. I have led an OAP climbing trip to the North Shore and hope to continue to go on OAP trips. I have also been part of the SLP program, taking students on day trips throughout Bemidji, such as Trilium and Adopt-A-Highway. One of my biggest accomplishments

however would be coaching the track and field team. The team has significantly grown in the last 6 years as well as had several athletes making it to the section level and one to the state level.

**What personal strengths would you bring to the Board?**

I have been a positive role model at TrekNorth for several years. I am also willing and able to attend Board Meetings. Data and statistics are also an interest of mine and I feel that this could be a strength that I would bring to the Board.