

Anna Bierma
APC Application
1/31/20

1. The FPCS charter application requires our academic policy to be made up of nine voting members: six parents, one student, and two teachers, all from our population. Why do you think the legislators directed that these people supervise our school?
 - a. I think that maintaining a diversity of perspectives and opinions is crucial to upholding a school that can serve the best interests of all of the demographics that it impacts. By placing a variety of parents, students, and teachers in positions of influence, every need and participant in the school can be well-advocated for.
2. In your own words, please explain your understanding of the role of the APC regarding our admin staff.
 - a. From my understanding, the APC is a board with members consisting of parents, staff, and students from FPCS that meets monthly to discuss the finances, curriculum, and immediate future plans of the school. They vote on important budget decisions, class intentions, and attempt to fulfill school and district wide goals of maintaining high learning standards. The APC, I believe, exists to better the school as a whole by representing all those involved (students, parents, and teachers) and giving them a chance to voice and vote for their idea of how to best improve the school.
3. Besides the regularly scheduled APC meetings, there are extra meetings, executive sessions, committee duties, and emailing responsibilities. How much time do you have for service on the APC?
 - a. I am quite busy, but my schedule is closely organized with pockets of open time for miscellaneous meetings, appointments, or extra work time. I work and am a full time student who is active in my community, but I am careful not to accept too many responsibilities as to overwhelm myself. I would say I am prepared to add APC service time into my life.
4. What qualities can you bring to the APC board that will enhance your role as a member?
 - a. I think my experience in a traditional public school (at both the primary and secondary level) will help to provide me with insight that I can share with the other APC members. I have seen the operation of public school with my experience in public school student government, so I am able to compare and contrast what worked and what did not. However, my interaction and involvement in FPCS has given me an interesting perspective into homeschooling life, so I think I can bring a unique point of view into the APC that will ultimately benefit the decisions made.

5. The teacher and parent representatives serve three year terms and the student serves a one year term on the APC. Please provide a synopsis (150- words) of your vision for FPCS during your tenure.
 - a. My vision for FPCS during my potential year as a member is to see our school grow in community involvement. I am a big advocate for youth volunteer opportunities, and I think opening up organized volunteer events to the school could help build the foundation of the school, further spread a positive name for FPCS, and support countless community organizations or endeavors.
6. With regard to the operation of FPCS, what do you think is our greatest strength, and our greatest obstacle for improvement?
 - a. I think that Family Partnership's greatest strength is the flexibility it provides for families looking for non-traditional or home schooling options. In that flexibility, the relationship between student families and sponsor teachers is also, I think, vital to smooth operation of the school. I think that FPCS's greatest obstacle for improvement is spreading the word of the many educational opportunities to the local public as a whole. I think that if more people knew about the schooling possibilities with FPCS, the school could grow quickly and, consequently, increase their educational force in the community.
7. What do you see as the most pressing issue facing FPCS in the next year and how would you like to address it?
 - a. As with many schools in the district, I think that the most pressing issue for the school as a whole is budget cuts. Finding areas to be fiscally conservative without surrendering quality of education or resources can be very difficult, but maintaining a balance of financial conservation and uphold of education quality is essential. Internally, I think that the most pressing issue facing FPCS is communication. Personally, I receive emails from the school and any programs I am a part of; however, potential weekly updates of events, deadlines, or community events (and ensuring that families have access to receiving such emails) can help establish an open line of communication between the school and students.
8. What are two or three ways that FPCS can better represent itself to the community
 - a. I think that one way that FPCS could better represent itself to the community is holding informational nights for those potentially interested in what FPCS has to offer in terms of schooling. The flexibility and possibilities for education are near endless with FPCS, but I think that not a lot of people fully comprehend that. Similar to events that King Tech or the Alaska Middle College host, FPCS could hold informational nights for possible students and their parents to spread the word about the options available for schooling with FPCS. Another way that FPCS could better represent itself to the community is by getting actively

involved with community volunteer events as an entire school. Although NHS does some volunteer work, making FPCS known as a school who does good things for our city and state makes a big difference on how FPCS is viewed as an institution.

Please include a brief autobiography of 1-2 paragraphs

I am currently a high school junior set to graduate at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. I take classes at both West Anchorage High School and UAA as a dually enrolled student. I work 12-15 hours per week at a non-profit organization called Beacon Hill; I work in the secondhand boutique that is a subsection of Beacon Hill, organizing the store, helping customers, processing donations, cleaning, and managing social media. Outside of school and work, I love to spend time volunteering at my church, getting involved in our local government, being outside, and hanging out with friends, family, and my dog. I think that my understanding of the educational needs of our city and my investment to bettering my school would make me a quality addition to the APC board.