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TO: Parnassus Preparatory School Staff and Families  
FROM: Policy and Election Committee  
SUBJECT: School Board Elections  
DATE: January 06, 2026

As you are aware, Parnassus Preparatory School's School Board of Directors' election is coming up in February. Parnassus engages an election processing vendor, so read this entire memo to understand how to vote.

Please mark the following dates on your calendar:

- Candidate Forum: Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:00pm
- Deadline for Return of Ballots: Thursday, February 5, 2026
- Results Announced: Tuesday, February 10, 2026

### **Candidate Forum**

All Parnassus Preparatory School parents and staff are strongly encouraged to attend this forum to be held Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:00pm in the Parnassus Agora.

The forum will have three components.

1. *Candidate Presentations:* All candidates will have a few minutes to introduce themselves and present their prepared responses to general questions selected by the Parnassus Policy & Election Committee.
2. *Question and Answer Session:* The moderator will ask all candidates to respond to additional written questions. While the candidates are presenting their responses to the prepared questions, community members will be encouraged to write additional questions they would like all the candidates to answer on index cards. These cards will be collected throughout the candidate presentations. Two Policy and Election Committee members will sort the questions as they come in. This process is designed to ensure that the most-often-noted questions get answered, that we avoid repetition, and that any inappropriate questions are weeded out. The sorters will pass several of the most common questions to the moderator. The moderator will ask as many of these questions as can be covered in our remaining time. The moderator will randomly give each candidate the chance to answer first or last, so that seating doesn't determine answer order. All candidates will answer these questions, and each will have 1 minute per response. There will be no open-microphone questions. This session will last no more than one hour.
3. *Informal Discussion:* At this point in the forum, the formal program ends. Candidates and community members will then have an opportunity to speak informally with one another. Whereas Parts I and II were focused on hearing from all the candidates, this segment allows for discussion and questioning of individual candidates by community members.

**Voting Guide**

Attached to this communication, you will find your copy of the *Voting Guide*. This guide is designed to let you know who is running for the School Board and give you background on the candidates' views. The responses were prepared and submitted by the candidates and have not been edited in any way other than formatting. Please bring your *Voting Guide* with you to the forum on January 20, 2026.

**Submitting Your Vote**

Please note that we are using a trusted, competent, disinterested vendor, Election Services Corporation, to conduct this year's election. To be sure that your vote is counted properly, please follow the instructions on the ballot enclosed in this package. You will note that you may choose to vote electronically *or* via mail. The vendor shall ensure that only one vote is counted per Eligible Voter and any subsequent attempts to vote are rejected. Your vote must be received at the election vendor's processing center by the close of business on February 5, 2026.

If you would like more information about the election process, please see the Election Policies and Procedures documents posted on the school website.

If you have questions about how to vote online or return your paper ballot, please contact Election Services Corporations' customer service representatives at [parnassushelp@electionservicescorp.com](mailto:parnassushelp@electionservicescorp.com).

**Results Announced at Board of Directors Election Meeting**

The results of the election will be announced at Parnassus Preparatory School on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at the election results meeting which begins at 6:00pm. Everyone in the Parnassus Preparatory School community is welcome to come and observe.

Thank you very much for participating in this School Board election at Parnassus Preparatory School.

**PARNASSUS PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

**VOTING GUIDE**

**TO THE CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE**

**SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**JANUARY 06, 2026**

***Introduction***

This **Voting Guide** is designed to help everyone in the Parnassus Preparatory School community become acquainted with the candidates for the School Board election. Please consider Parnassus' strategic needs and the following background as you think about your choices.

***The Overall Function of the School Board***

School Board members have a legal duty and an ethical obligation to ensure that Parnassus carries out its mission, vision, and goals for the entire school. As stated in our charter approved by the State of Minnesota, Parnassus's mission is to provide students with a classical education grounded in the classical Trivium that demands their best in intellectual achievement and character development. The School Board's job is to map out the strategies that will carry Parnassus into its successful future for the entire school community.

Therefore, as part of the School Board, each School Board member is a steward of Parnassus, responsible for its long-term viability. Whether a parent, legal guardian, teacher, or community member, School Board members do not represent particular constituencies, but focus on Parnassus's overriding interests and welfare.

***This Election***

In this election, you will be voting for one (1) community candidate and (1) parent candidate. This **Voting Guide** will give you information on all the candidates. In addition, we hope you will also plan to attend the **Candidate Forum** on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:00pm in the Agora to meet and hear more from the candidates.

***Needs of the School Board***

An effective School Board requires a diverse set of skills from its members. To achieve optimal success, we must have the following types of experience represented: finance, accounting, legal, marketing, technology, public affairs and education (particularly experience with classical philosophy). Of the skills needed on the School Board, which do you possess? We ask you to consider candidates that would fulfill several existing needs on the School Board.

Many thanks for participating in this election. We have a very special school; by selecting thoughtful and committed School Board members, we can ensure that Parnassus continues to build on its promising beginning.

## **COMMUNITY CANDIDATE – MR. GREG FRIESS**

**Name:** Mr. Greg Friess

**Address:** 7375 Berkshire Ct. Maple Grove, MN 55311

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**Phone:** 612-718-4042



### **Why are you interested in serving on the School Board?**

My interest in serving on the Board of Directors remains what it was over 15 years ago when I joined a group to help found the school: To provide all families in this area with a choice in public education generally and an option for a Classical Education specifically. I have continually served on the Board of Directors since its inception. If re-elected, my focus will be:

- To protect and nurture Parnassus' mission to provide a Classical Education grounded in the Classical Trivium
- Work with the Board and Administration to affect a smooth transition as we move to a new Executive Director
- Work with the Board and the new Executive Director to continue to strengthen the organization for generational success. I would use my position on the Board to focus on developing our staff and Board for growth, work to ensure continued financial strength, and most importantly, continue to improve our academic results.

### **Which aspect of our organization interests you most?**

Ensuring a high-functioning oversight Board will continue to be my focus. I would like to be a part of maintaining a collegial Board environment that works effectively *with* our Executive Director and the Administration.

### **What are some of your previous volunteer experiences or leadership roles in non-profits?**

Serving on the Parnassus Board has been the focus of my volunteer activities for the past several years. In the past I have also served in various capacities in my children's activities including coaching and Scouts. What I have learned is that, even as a volunteer, it is important to serve with professionalism, integrity and most importantly—diligence. Attending all meetings, showing up on time—coming prepared. Committing to these things helps to drive a high-functioning organization.

### **What appeals to you about School Board services as a volunteer activity?**

Serving on a School Board is a humbling and daunting opportunity. At Parnassus, hundreds of families *choose* to send their children to our School. As a Board Member, it is our responsibility to oversee the education of our Scholars. Additionally, we need to maintain compliance with a myriad of oversight bodies and federal, state and local regulations. Being a member of the Parnassus Board allows me to work to maintain our commitment to Classical Education. I can work to continually improve our academic results. If we continue to do our job well, it can not only improve Public Education for the families who choose us, but hopefully, it can raise the level of Public Education throughout the area.

### **An effective School Board requires a diverse set of skills from its members. To achieve optimal success, we would like to have diverse experience represented, such as: legal, business acumen, real estate, marketing, finance, accounting, public affairs and education (particularly experience with classical education philosophy). Of the skills needed on the School Board, which do you possess?**

The most relevant skills I have for this position derive from my service on the Board. I have been able to develop a strong understanding of Minnesota Charter law, academic requirements, financial management, and the role of oversight in running a public school. My educational background is in Economics. I have professional experience in financial analysis of public companies and forecasting. Additionally, I have experience with accounting, banking and tax compliance working with my spouse in our small business.

### **What additional skills, connections, resources, and expertise do you have to offer and are willing to use on behalf of Parnassus (such as fundraising, grant writing, previous board experience, etc.)?**

If elected to serve another term, I would rely on the skills and experience I have developed from my service on the Board to continue to build on Parnassus' mission to deliver a Classical education. I believe we have a strong

foundation in place. But we can build on this foundation to make our school a place that families choose for their children's education and a place that attracts and retains the best teachers and staff—for generations to come. I would like to use my voice on the Board to strengthen our financial position, improve our school's performance, and strengthen our relationship with our families and the surrounding community.

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## **PARENT CANDIDATE – MS. KELSEY HOLMBERG**

**Name:** Kelsey Holmberg

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**E-mail Address:** Kelsey.e.holmberg@gmail.com

**Phone:** 952-201-4091



### **Why are you interested in serving on the School Board?**

I am interested in serving on the School Board because I am deeply committed to the long-term success of our school and the quality of education it provides. As a parent of two children currently in Prima and 3G, I value being actively involved in their educational journey. I strongly believe in the mission of Parnassus and its role in offering families an alternative to traditional public and private schools. Serving on the board would allow me to contribute to sustaining and strengthening this vision for the benefit of all students and families in our community.

### **Which aspect of our organization interests you most?**

I am most interested in Parnassus' commitment to providing students with a rigorous classical education as an alternative to public schooling. I value the emphasis on critical thinking, character development, and a curriculum rooted in the liberal arts, as these principles prepare students for academic success, lifelong learning, and responsible citizenship. This opportunity to volunteer on the school board with Parnassus is a part of showing my own children the commitment to those values and my responsibility toward our community.

### **What are some of your previous volunteer experiences or leadership roles in non-profits?**

I have been an active member within our school community, attending school board meetings regularly for the past year, and volunteering monthly. I serve on the Executive Director Search Work Group, contributing to candidate vetting and stakeholder input. I am also part of Munera Pro Parnassus, where I helped plan the Nostos event.

Beyond the school, I bring broader nonprofit experience – having worked and volunteered in fundraising with a college advancement office. I currently serve on the Centennial committee at our church, planning a year of events and activities. Across these roles, I've built strengths in governance exposure, stakeholder engagement, and event planning, along with a steady commitment to service.

### **What appeals to you about School Board services as a volunteer activity?**

I am passionate about ensuring our school thrives and delivers the best possible opportunities for every scholar. Serving on the School Board as a volunteer appeals to me because it allows me to actively support the school's success and contribute to decisions that shape its future. I believe in working collaboratively to create an environment where students can excel, and I want to do everything I can to help the school achieve its goals in the most effective way possible, while ensuring an efficient use of funds focused on enhancing educational programs, supporting teacher development, and providing resources that directly benefit student learning and well-being.

**An effective School Board requires a diverse set of skills from its members. To achieve optimal success, we would like to have diverse experience represented, such as: legal, business acumen, real estate, marketing, finance, accounting, public affairs and education (particularly experience with classical education philosophy). Of the skills needed on the School Board, which do you possess?**

As a Senior Business Analyst, I bring business acumen, structured problem solving, and the ability to view issues from multiple points of view to develop creative, practical solutions. My background spans both financial institutions and healthcare, where I routinely navigate complex regulatory and legal requirements. This translates directly to understanding and applying the policies and compliance obligations that affect the school and helping set priorities. I am comfortable assessing data, stakeholder input, and fiscal considerations to inform governance, risk management, and budgeting decisions.

**What additional skills, connections, resources, and expertise do you have to offer and are willing to use on behalf of Parnassus (such as fundraising, grant writing, previous board experience, etc.)?**

I have four years of hands on experience, including cultivating relationships, coordinating appeals, and stewarding donors to support organizational priorities. I stay well connected both in the Maple Grove community and within the school, and I believe it is valuable to work with those relationships to help Parnassus build partnerships, volunteers and support. As an engaged parent, I bring a grounded perspective that represents families' interests while keeping student outcomes at the center. I am committed to using these skills and connections on behalf of Parnassus to advance its mission and expand resources that directly benefit our students and teachers.

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**PARENT CANDIDATE – MR. EMMANUEL PORTE**

**Name:** Emmanuel Porte

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**Phone:** 763-291-2890



**Why are you interested in serving on the School Board?**

I am interested in serving on the School Board because I care deeply about the quality of education, character development, and long-term success of our students. As a parent of two students of Parnassus, I want to help ensure that Parnassus continues to provide a strong academic foundation while nurturing an environment where every student and family feels supported and valued.

I am especially passionate about supporting international students and parents. As an immigrant myself, I understand some of the challenges families may face, including language barriers, cultural adjustment, and feeling hesitant to ask for help. I want to help ensure that these families feel welcomed, heard, and confident navigating the school community.

Serving on the Board allows me to give back, represent the parent voice thoughtfully, and help guide decisions that impact both current and future families. I am committed to contributing to a school environment where all students can succeed academically and personally.

**Which aspect of our organization interests you most?**

I am most interested in Parnassus's commitment to academic excellence and its mission-driven approach to education. I value the emphasis on strong curriculum, disciplined learning, and character formation. I am also especially drawn to the school's opportunity to support a diverse student population and to ensure that all students regardless of background have the tools and confidence to succeed.

**What are some of your previous volunteer experiences or leadership roles in non-profits?**

I currently serve as a youth soccer coach, where I volunteer my time to mentor, teach, and support young athletes. In this role, I work closely with children and families, promote teamwork and discipline, and help create a positive environment that encourages growth both on and off the field. Coaching has strengthened my leadership, communication, and mentoring skills and has reinforced my passion for working with youth and families in a community-centered setting.

**What appeals to you about School Board services as a volunteer activity?**

School Board service appeals to me because it combines leadership, service, and education in a meaningful way. I value opportunities where my time and skills can have a lasting impact. Serving as a volunteer board member allows me to contribute thoughtfully to governance, policy, and planning while remaining focused on what matters most student success and a strong school community.

**An effective School Board requires a diverse set of skills from its members. To achieve optimal success, we would like to have diverse experience represented, such as: legal, business acumen, real estate, marketing, finance, accounting, public affairs and education (particularly experience with classical education philosophy). Of the skills needed on the School Board, which do you possess?**

I bring experience in leadership, strategic decision-making, organizational management, and business acumen, supported by my MBA in Leadership and my specialization in Policy and Strategy in Global Competition. My educational background reflects a serious commitment to learning and to understanding how organizations operate effectively and responsibly. These skills equip me to contribute to sound governance, thoughtful policy discussions, financial awareness, and long-term strategic planning for the school.

**What additional skills, connections, resources, and expertise do you have to offer and are willing to use on behalf of Parnassus (such as fundraising, grant writing, previous board experience, etc.)?**

In addition to my leadership and business background, I bring a relatable perspective as an immigrant and parent. I understand firsthand the challenges some students face, particularly those navigating language barriers or cultural adjustment. I am passionate about helping create an environment where students feel comfortable asking for help, advocating for themselves, and fully engaging in their education.

I am willing to dedicate my time, skills, and energy to support Board initiatives, collaborate with fellow members, and assist where needed whether through planning, committee work, outreach, or community engagement. I am committed to serving with integrity, transparency, and a genuine desire to help Parnassus continue to thrive.