



# Woods Charter School

## Board of Directors Declaration of Candidacy

Name: **Andrew B. Fisher**

Date: **5/3/2022**

I currently have children in the following Divisions (underline all that apply):

Middle

High

### Eligibility Requirements:

In order to serve on the Woods Charter School Board, applicants must meet the following requirements as per our bylaws:

The applicant must have a child currently enrolled at Woods Charter School.

The applicant cannot be an employee of Woods Charter School.

The applicant cannot be the spouse of an employee of Woods Charter School.

The Bylaws also state that a child may not have more than one parent on the Board at a time.

Statement:

I commit to upholding the mission and charter contract of Woods Charter School.

Signature (e-signatures accepted):

Date: **5/3/2022**

Please complete this form, as well as Sections 1 and 2 that follow, and send to ([cbryan@woodscharter.org](mailto:cbryan@woodscharter.org)). Please include a headshot in a jpg file.

**SECTION 1** Please note that the information included in Section 1 will be published on our website exactly as submitted. This information will inform our parents as they vote for board members.

**Relevant Experience and/or Employment: List pertinent professional, volunteer, and board of director experience (or attach brief resume).**

I have been a lawyer in practice since 2004. I've focused my work on representing entrepreneurs and small- to medium-sized businesses in all aspects of formation, financing, employment, and pretty much anything else a new or growing business needs to take on from a legal standpoint.

In addition to my legal practice, I am an entrepreneur myself, having founded several business including Smallcakes (a cupcake bakery with locations in Woodcroft and West Cary), Startomatic (a software-as-a-service company), and my own law firm, Fisher Corporate Law.

I served as president of a condominium association board for several years in New Jersey. Over the years, I've coached my kids in soccer and t-ball, and am currently an active volunteer in our subdivision's 100-plus member swim team as well as my 3<sup>rd</sup> grader's South Durham Little League team.

Finally, I have been a volunteer admissions interviewer for more than fifteen years with Princeton University, my alma mater. In that role I have the privilege of meeting several exceptional Triangle-area high school seniors each year. I am consistently awed by the quality of education and character these students have developed in schools throughout the area. This gives me a great idea of what is possible for students at Woods, and the goals we should be setting for its students, both academically and personally.

**Strengths: What strengths do you bring to the Board? What area(s) of expertise/contribution do you think you can make?**

Having advised numerous boards of directors over the years, and having sat on a few as a director myself, I am well aware of what makes a board effective and efficient. The right combination of pragmatism, inclusivity, and a willingness to be curious about creative solutions to hard problems make for a successful board. I consider myself to be a consensus builder and a practical thinker, which are valuable tools for any effective board.

**Mission: Explain what the Woods mission means to you. How do you think you could help support it? Further it?**

Allowing and encouraging students to reach their fullest potential must be the cornerstone of any excellent school. This certainly starts with academic excellence, but we must also teach our students the tools to make them great leaders and passionate, life-long learners.

My wife and I do our best to encourage curiosity and independent thinking in our own kids every day, while also driving home the importance of academic excellence and of working to master classical liberal arts and the modern scientific method. I would bring this attitude to the Woods Board.

**Reason for Serving: Why do you wish to serve on the board? What do you hope to accomplish as a board member?**

With three kids at Woods (as of Fall 2022), I feel the need to give back to the school to which we are so committed for the next thirteen years. There is no better investment we can make than in the education of our children, and I would like to increase my investment in that process by taking a more active role at

Woods.

I would hope to be a positive part of the continual process of evaluation, adjustment, and improvement that is necessary for any organization, particularly one that has been as successful as WCS over the years.

**Challenges: In your view, what are the biggest challenges facing Woods Charter School and how do you believe the school should address them?**

The faculty are the heart and soul of our school, and they need to be fully supported through their personal and professional development. The financial challenges of attracting and retaining the best faculty, given Woods' status as a charter school, are among the top problems to be solved at Woods. Continuing to build on the school's long history of successful fundraising is a top priority.

**Other Commitments: Do you have any other volunteer commitments or serve on other boards? If yes, please list them.**

I currently volunteer with several of my kids' athletic teams, but those are seasonal and relatively limited in time commitment.

**Governance Experience: If you have previously served on or worked with a governance board, describe the governance structure. Did you find this experience to be a positive or a negative?**

I served on a condominium board for several years in northern New Jersey. It was quite challenging as the owners were an extremely diverse group with widely varying visions of the future of the association, which was a mixed residential and business building. As board president, despite those challenges, I was able to build consensus among the owners that allowed us to make investments in the association that improved the quality of life and increased all of the owners' equity in their units. At the same time, I ensured that all of the stakeholders felt heard, and no one's voices or concerns were minimized.

**Service: Please detail volunteering that you have undertaken at Woods Charter School to date.**

Along with my family, I put in a long but rewarding day at the school work day last summer – mostly spreading wood chips and various indoor projects. We've also been participants in the campout as well as walk to school day, and I've volunteered to chaperone several class field trips over the past year.