

Richie Kucinski
Blaine, MN 55434

Child(ren) attending LILA name(s) & grade(s) OR Years taught at LILA:

This is my sixth year teaching at LILA. I was one of the original five teachers hired during LILA's inception in March of 2004. I previously taught Kindergarten for four years, and this is my second year in fourth grade. I have also served on LILA's Board of Directors since 2008.

Please list high school and colleges attended and diplomas or degrees earned:

University of Minnesota	Master's Degree in Education- <i>Curriculum and Instruction;</i> <i>Second Languages and Cultures</i>	2009
University of Minnesota	<i>Certificate of Immersion</i>	2009
Bethel College	Bachelor's of Arts Degree- <i>Elementary Education;</i> <i>Spanish Specialty</i>	2003

Please describe your experience or skills working with youth, youth issues, and parenting:

I really enjoying working with children of all ages; that is why I decided to become a teacher. I feel that I am successful at creating positive and memorable relationships with students. I love to see students learn and enjoy challenging them to reach higher levels in all areas of their life. I strive to create an environment of security, trust, fun and humor in my classroom. I truly believe that students leave my class not only with academic knowledge, but with an awareness that their teacher truly cares for and believes in them. As for parenting, my wife and I are expecting our first child this February. Please come and talk to me about parenting then!

Community Involvement:

I have served on LILA's Board of Directors since July 1, 2008. During my tenure, I have served on the Finance Committee, Director Review Committee, and school policy revision committees, as well as attended the regular monthly meetings. During summers and Spring breaks, I have served as a translator for week-long service project trips to Chihuahua and Monterey, Mexico. I have worked with Forest Lake Community Education as a track coach for LILA as well as taught community education Spanish classes in the Centennial Lakes School District. I also work as a Park Ranger during the summer for Anoka County Parks.

School Involvement

School Involvement:

- 4 years of teaching kindergarten
- 2 years of fourth grade instruction
- 4 summers teaching Camp del Sol

- Lakes International Board of Directors Committees: Finance, Directors Director Review, policy revision
- 4 seasons (soon to be 5) as LILA track and field coach
- Student Oral Proficiency Assessment (SOPA) team
- New Teacher Interview team
- New teacher mentor
- Staff Development Committees: Science, Technology, Assembly Planning, PYP Curriculum Development, Teacher Interview/Hire, Amity (Language Ambassador), Q-Comp Application

What are the primary strengths, skills, or expertise you would bring to your position on the Lakes International School Board?

Being that I have served on LILA's Board of Directors since July 1, 2008, I have been intrinsically motivated through many of the incredible advances we have made as a board over the past two years. I have been a part of many important discussions and decisions regarding LILA's budget, future implications and forecasted academic and program successes at the board level. Because of my active and engaged participation, I feel that I am on the verge of fully understanding the potential I can continue to offer Board of Directors. I have been trained in Charter School Law, Employee Practices and Policies, Board Governance, School Financial Oversight, and Non-Profit Law, as well as served on the school board committees mentioned above. I feel that I have a lot of expertise to offer about where LILA is headed in the upcoming years. My friendly, easy-going and flexible personality is definitely an asset for the ongoing and continued clarity in communication between staff, administration and LILA's Board of Directors.

Please describe why you are interested in serving as a School Board member:

Being one of the original five teachers hired at LILA back in 2004, I have been an integral part of helping LILA transform itself from an old abandoned hospital into the incredible facility and staff we are proud of today. I have invested so much of my time and heart into LILA's students, staff and community. I am interested in continuing to serve as a board member because I am deeply committed to LILA and its unique vision of creating global learners. I want to be a part of its continued success and passion; not only as a teacher, but also as a board member.

I truly believe that in order to be a successful board member, you must foster respect, trust, and open-communication. I hope my approachableness allows others to feel comfortable and relaxed around me to voice their questions, concerns or ideas. If voted for another term, I hope to display an eagerness to listen, support and encourage my colleagues, fellow board members and parents to maintain a steadfast vision for LILA's ongoing success.