



# ATLANTA CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Date: February 15, 2019  
From: Board Chair, Atlanta Classical Academy  
To: Candidates for Board Membership  
**Subj: Board Membership: A Call to Action**

Atlanta Classical Academy seeks candidates to serve on its governing board of directors. The purpose of the board is to ensure that the organization is executing its Mission, pursuing its Vision, and producing outcomes within parameters established by law, the Charter Agreement, and the board's policies.

Strong candidates will:

- be committed to advancing school's Mission, Vision, and Values;
- have enthusiasm for classical education and the school choice movement;
- possess domain expertise in leadership, education, finance, human resources, administration, law, real estate, technology, political advocacy, or fundraising; and
- have the capacity to meet the statutory and other requirements of the role.

The school's founders created Atlanta Classical to strengthen our city and indeed the nation by *developing students in mind and character through a classical, content-rich curriculum that emphasizes the principles of virtuous living, traditional learning, and civic responsibility.* That is our Mission.

We aim to build an organization with increasing influence in the region, one that is attractive to the very best teachers and school leaders and to a growing segment of students and their parents. Formally,

*Our Vision is to be a nationally regarded K-12 classical school and serve as a local and national incubator for the growth and promotion of classical education.*

Our organizational *Values* are those personal attributes most likely to perpetuate the culture we seek.

- We esteem the tenets of classical, liberal-arts education;
- We are kind, humble, and attentive;
- We demand excellence from ourselves and from our students; we value quiet professionalism and competence;
- We are intellectually curious and coachable, and we seek constantly to learn and improve;
- We embody the virtues we aim to teach our students: courage, courtesy, honesty, perseverance, self-government, and service.

## **Board's relationship with the school and its Leader**

Atlanta Classical Academy's board operates according to a model of governance called *Policy Governance*. The most important aspects of *Policy Governance* are these:

1. The Principal is the sole report to the board of directors; likewise, the board relates to the school solely through the Principal.
2. The board does not co-manage the school with the Principal. Rather, it holds the Principal accountable for producing outcomes within parameters established by law, the Charter Agreement, and the board's policies.
3. The board views organizational performance and the Principal's performance as one.
4. The board acts as one; only motions passed by the board are binding on the Principal.
5. The board has committed to governing with an emphasis on outward vision rather than internal preoccupation, strategic leadership more than administrative detail.

### **Specific requirements of Directors**

The board meets most often once per month. Regular meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at school. Meetings last approximately 90 minutes. Occasionally, we call special meetings to address time sensitive matters. Attendance at board meetings is mandatory; we do all in our power to schedule special meetings that are mutually convenient. Board members are required by GADOE to complete 12-15 hours of training annually. We ask directors to commit to a 3-year term.

In addition to board meetings, the importance of our work requires directors to attract philanthropy, to give in accordance with their means, and to connect the school to opportunities for our employees and our students. At minimum, we ask directors to give or get \$1,000 annually. These are commitments that prospective directors ought also to consider carefully.

### **Selection Process**

The board collects interest throughout the school year, interviews leading candidates January through March, and selects new members in time for them to attend training in April with our partner, Hillsdale College's *Barney Charter School Initiative*. New members receive an orientation and begin service at the beginning of our fiscal year, July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our goal is 7 – 9 high-capacity members with a depth of passion for classical education, a breadth of domain expertise, fewer than 50% parents of Atlanta Classical students, and a composition that reflects the socioeconomic diversity of the community we serve.

***Interested candidates should forward a letter of introduction, a C.V. or resume, and two character references to the Vice Chair, Mrs. Cat McAfee, at [cmcafee@atlantaclassical.org](mailto:cmcafee@atlantaclassical.org).***

To govern is a stewardship on behalf of taxpayers, our community of families, and on behalf of future generations whose country and culture will be shaped at least in part by the citizens we form. It is important and rewarding work, and we are grateful for your interest.

M. T. Kirby, Board Chair and Co-Founder