



School Board Biographies

Amanda Daniel – Mrs. Daniel has worked in the Human Resources field for over 20 years partnering with senior leaders in manufacturing technology companies to meet the organization’s business goals. She graduated with an MA in Organizational Development from the University of St. Thomas in 2013. Mrs. Daniel is currently the Chief Human Resources Officer for SkyWater Technology leading the HR team in the areas of benefits, compensation, HR systems, talent acquisition, HR business partnership, and organizational development. This is Amanda’s 6th year on the board and 2nd year as Board Chair. “I am passionate about supporting CA’s mission, vision, and school objectives. I joined the board so I can be more involved in supporting our Director, our teaching staff, and our support staff in making this the best place for our children to build skills for life.” Mrs. Daniel is also the Chair of the Personnel Committee and provides insights on performance management, employee relations and other personnel topics. Amanda and her husband Reed live in Waconia and have two daughters, Ava (8th grade) and Alix (5th grade), attending Cologne Academy.

Melissa Hansen – Mrs. Hansen is a Marketing and Communications Specialist in Community Education at Eastern Carver County Schools. She has been in the education communications field for over 14 years. Mrs. Hansen earned her MA in Strategic Communications Management from Concordia University-St Paul in 2013. Her family has been a part of the Cologne Academy community since 2012 and currently has one student attending. She was the PAVE Co-Chair from 2013-2016 helping to build community and raise funds for the school. Mrs. Hansen resides in Waconia with her husband and three children. The 2020/2021 school year was her first serving on the School Board and she is looking forward to learning more about the school’s operations, helping administration navigate new challenges and opportunities, and promoting the outstanding work of the staff and scholars.

Nathan Kells – Mr. Kells is currently a Cologne Academy Community Member board representative. He feels that Cologne Academy is the heart of the community. He has a passion to support CA students, parents, teachers, and administration as the city grows. Mr. Kells has worked at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum since 2008 and is currently the Membership Manager, working in a beautiful place and leading an amazing team. His past work experience includes the Miami Science Museum, Miami Children’s Museum, Landis Strategy and Innovation, Design Group, and Event Lab. He and his husband, Michael, moved to Cologne in 2018. Growing up in rural Minnesota, He always wanted to return to a smaller community, and is happy he chose Cologne! He also currently serves on the Cologne City Council and is the Membership and Marketing Director for the Cologne Lions Club. Additionally, he is involved in the creation of collateral materials for two separate organizations supporting efforts in Kenya. He has an undergraduate Communications and Graphic Design degree from St. Cloud State University and a master’s degree in Strategic Communications from the University of Minnesota. He feels truly blessed to have the opportunity to serve our community!



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Jenna McInnis – Mrs. McInnis is a former employee of Cologne Academy. From 2009-2016, Mrs. McInnis worked in various positions including sixth-grade homeroom, middle school language arts, teacher leader, and programs coordinator. She earned her Bachelor's in Education at Minnesota State University, Mankato, graduated with highest honors, was awarded "A Women of Courage and Vision" for her work in leadership at the University and has made progress on her Masters in School Administration through Capella University. Mrs. McInnis serves on policy, teacher relicensure, and marketing committees for the board. Mrs. McInnis resides in Cologne with her husband and four children where she works from home as an independent sales consultant for Usborne Books & More. "I have stepped back from my career at Cologne Academy to be home with my children but it has always been my passion to be a part of its growth and success, providing the best possible education for our community and setting examples for other schools to replicate our model. Being a board member allows me to continue to play an integral role at Cologne Academy. I couldn't be more proud of where we have been and what we have created for future generations."

Paul Modeen – Mr. Modeen is currently a small business owner in the field of commercial construction and facilities management. Serving as a community member and Treasurer, Mr. Modeen brings a diverse civilian, civic, and military background to the board. He has served as the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Dahlgren Township since 2016 and previously served the community with the Carver County Parks Commission and Chaska Planning Commission. He has worked in various leadership roles within governance, strategic planning, and project management. In addition to his civilian career and local elected office, Mr. Modeen serves as commissioned officer in the Minnesota Army National Guard where he works with local, federal, and international stakeholders on public affairs, mission planning, and execution. Mr. Modeen holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration-Accounting/Finance and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of St. Thomas. Mr. Modeen has been a Cologne Academy School Board Member since 2020. Mr. Modeen resides in Dahlgren Township, Minnesota with his wife and two sons.

Laura Oman – Mrs. Oman is a 3rd-grade teacher at Cologne Academy and has been teaching since 2011. Prior to teaching at CA, she taught 4th grade at Beacon Academy for 6 years, and before that she taught Spanish for 2 years at a small charter school in Oregon. Mrs. Oman's leadership roles at Cologne Academy have included being a Q-comp team member, PBIS committee member, and Battle of the Books organizer. She looks forward to continuing to serve the school as a member of the board. Mrs. Oman has a BS from The University of WI-Eau Claire in Elementary and Middle Education, with a minor in teaching Spanish. She also has a graduate certificate in Charter School Leadership from SMSU. She resides in Chaska, MN with her husband (also a teacher) and her two children, both of whom are CA alum.

Sheryl Reddig - Mrs. Reddig has been an Executive Assistant/Office Manager for Hormel Foods Corporation since 2015. She earned an Associate of Arts Degree in Marketing from Dakota County Technical College in 2006. She has over 20 years of administrative experience in various industries from a metro-based salon and day spa chain, a law firm, in addition to five years working at a private school in northern Minnesota. She and her husband Brad have a passion for foster care and adoption. They have hopes of being able to open their home to foster care in Carver County one day, and continue to support foster and adoptive families in the community and their church. They live in Waconia with their two children, Zac and Hope, who attend Cologne Academy. Mrs. Reddig also has a passion for children with special needs, having adopted both of her children who have mild to moderate special needs. "That is one of the many reasons I wanted to be a part of the Cologne Academy School Board. I hope to also be an advocate for special needs families as they travel through the different trials that they may come across. We are so very blessed to have a school like Cologne Academy in our community!"



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Administration - Ex-officio Members

Traci LaFerriere, Chief Financial Officer –Ms. LaFerriere worked at the Minnesota Department of Education from 1995 – 2001 in various positions including Charter School Coordinator in the Office of School Choice Programs. From 2001 – 2006 Ms. LaFerriere was the Operations Director at Academia Cesar Chavez involved in the initial opening of the school and responsible for the school’s finances, human resources, student admissions, transportation, food service, and facilities. From 2006 to present, Ms. LaFerriere has been the contracted business manager for Southside Family Charter School, Tarek Ibn Ziyad Academy (2006 to 2011), Natural Science Academy (2008 to present), and Cologne Academy (2012 to present). Ms. LaFerriere graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Psychology.

Lynn Peterson, Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer– Dr. Peterson has been employed at Cologne Academy since it opened in the fall of 2008 and has served as its Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer since July 2009. Prior to entering the education field, Dr. Peterson was a senior marketing analyst for Target Corporation. Dr. Peterson resides in Cologne with her husband, Craig, and has four children.

Dr. Peterson has the following education and licenses:

Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, Western State College, Gunnison, Colorado

Teacher Licensures, Crown College, St Bonifacius: Pre-Primary Education License, K-6 Elementary Education License, 5-8 Middle School Social Studies License, K-12 Physical Education License

Masters of Arts in Special Education, University of St. Thomas, St Paul: K-12 Learning Disabilities License

Education Specialist in Leadership in Educational Administration, Capella, Minneapolis: K-12 Principal License

Concordia University, St. Paul: K-12 Superintendent License

Doctorate Degree -Educational Leadership, Concordia, St. Paul