



## NVCS Board Member Agreement

The New Vision Charter School Board of Directors fully supports the New Vision Charter School mission statement which reads: **“Our Mission is to be a public school of choice that will produce high achieving model citizens through a content rich educational program and a partnership of students, parents, staff and the community.”**

### Students Will:

- Maximize their potential
- Respect Diversity
- Develop independent critical thinking skills
- Accept responsibility for themselves
- Respect the world around them
- Obtain fluency in a second language
- Model exemplary character traits
- Appreciate the importance of community and volunteerism
- Develop a lifelong love of learning

### Parents Will:

- Value education and understand the critical role they play in student and school success
- Support children in their academic careers
- Contribute their time and talents to the school
- Support the school’s mission and vision
- Understand they are part of a team committed to the success of all children

The Directors believe in the charter school movement, positive reinforcement and discipline, parental involvement, integrated character development, and are committed to using the Core Knowledge curriculum.

The purpose of the NVCS Board of Directors is to establish philosophy, provide vision, write, review, and enforce policies and procedures, monitor adherence to the operating contract, and oversee the budget. The NVCS Board monitors the adherence to the original intent of the NVCS founders as outlined in the original charter application. The Board does not collectively or individually participate in managing NVCS on a daily basis. Board members shall fully support the mission of the school, foster relationships with staff, parents, and the community at large, as well as being the main representative of the school for fundraising efforts.

### Qualifications:

1. Board members are required to read, understand, and agree to uphold the principles of the NVCS mission statement, charter application, and contract.
2. Board members are required to read Professor E.D. Hirsch’s book Cultural Literacy and The Schools We Need and Why We Don’t Have Them, and agree that our society has a foundation of knowledge upon which subsequent learning is built.
3. Board members must be in agreement with the purpose of the board of directors as outlined above.
4. Only one Board member per family at the same time.
5. Board members are required to read the Colorado Charter Schools Act along with Colorado Open Meetings Law requirements.



6. Board members may not be employees of NVCS.
7. Must be willing to commit for their full three year term.

## **Requirements of Board Members**

Board members will attend a yearly board conference where goals are defined, the strategic plan is defined, outside speakers present information on effective board leadership and other related topics. The operating contract with Thompson School District, the charter application and the Board agreement will also be reviewed annually. The board will also be required to attend a yearly board retreat (1-2 days) after elections, and various other professional development opportunities that may range in length from ½ to 2 days. The board will perform an annual self evaluation.

Regular attendance at monthly meetings is mandatory. Board meetings will be 1-2 times per month, and range in length from 1-4 hours. There may be additional work sessions scheduled as needed. Any member missing two consecutive unexcused absences or four unexcused absences within a twelve month period shall be treated as having resigned from the board, unless a majority of the voting directors determine that circumstances warrant retaining the member in question.

## **Governance of New Vision Charter School**

New Vision Charter School shall be governed by a Board of Directors. The Principal of NVCS shall answer directly to the Board of Directors. He/She attends all Board meetings and acts in a non-voting, advisory role. The Principal will be responsible for day to day operations of the school, and decisions on implementing policies and procedures. He/She will fulfill all administrative duties of the school, establish pay rates while working within the annual budget. The Principal also oversees work schedules for all employees.

As with all charter schools, New Vision Charter School is an entity separate from the school district in the area of governance. This unique characteristic of charter schools shall be guarded by each board member.

While at the school, board members shall be aware of the different roles they have: parent, volunteer, board member, etc. A board member shall not use his/her position of authority while acting as anything other than a member of the board as a whole. Board members shall foster good relationships with the Principal and staff. Board members are not to step outside of their role and make decisions or statements that are the responsibility of the Principal. Board members only have decision making power when they are voting with the rest of the Board.

## **Behavioral Expectations**

Board members shall abide by the open meetings law, (C.R.S. 24-6-401 through 402). Confidentiality law is also outlined in this section of the statute. Personnel matters, individual students, and negotiations are confidential by law.

Behavior expectations include a professional demeanor at all board meetings. Issues being discussed shall not be personalized and directed toward any other board member, staff member, parent, or anyone else. Board members shall respect and listen to ideas being presented by other board members. Board members shall publicly support all final approved actions taken by the board.



When receiving criticisms from parents or other interested parties about staff or other board members, speakers should be directed to the board member or staff which the situation involves. (Grievance policy) Board members will never speak negatively about the school, staff, or other board members to the school community, or parties outside the school community. Unless there is a prior agreement, only one designated board member shall speak to the press. District office relations shall be handled by the designee of the Principal and/or the Board.

Board members will commit to resolving conflict directly with each other or with the appropriate staff member and not share the conflict with anyone outside of the conflict, including, but not limited to other parents, staff members, or the media.

Board members shall exemplify the character traits expected from our staff and students: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship. Any board member finding themselves involved in any conflict of interest must put the vision and mission of the school before self interest. All board members must hold in confidence and protect all proprietary school matters regardless of the manner by which they became aware of the matter.

Board members will not have access to teacher’s rooms without the teacher and/or principal’s approval.

Above all, board members must adhere to the vision and mission of New Vision Charter School, to guide all decisions made. The goal to continually improve, maintain integrity, serve NVCS families and ensure academic success for our students shall take precedence in all situations.

This agreement does not supersede the NVCS bylaws. If there is a conflict, the bylaws take precedence.

I have read and agreed to the above Board Member agreement and the NVCS Board Member code of conduct, and will uphold all the principles within it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Term Beginning/End

I have read E.D. Hirsch’s *“Cultural Literacy”* \_\_\_\_\_  
Yes No (will read by: )

I have read E.D. Hirsch’s *“The Schools We Need and Why We Don’t Have Them”* \_\_\_\_\_  
Yes No (will read by: )



## Board Member Code Of Conduct

- I will serve the children, staff, and parents of NVCS in accordance with the Charter Application, Bylaws, Contract, Mission, Vision, and any other documents approved by the Board.
- I will respectfully listen, speak my mind and share all relevant information with the board.
- I will respect the opinions of others and presume positive intentions.
- I will make decisions based on what is best for the children and NVCS as a whole.
- I will be aware of the implications of my role and how it affects my relationships with other school community members.
- I will vote for an executive session of the board if the situation requires it, but I will consider secret sessions of the board members unethical, and do my part to prevent the situation.
- I will not use NVCS or any part of its program for my own economic advantage or for the advantage of my friends.
- I will make clear any conflict of interest I may have and excuse myself from the deliberation and vote on any such issue.
- I will not attempt to exercise my board authority over the school or speak for the board except to repeat explicitly stated board decisions.
- I will make no disparaging remarks, in or out of board meetings, about other board members or staff. I will honor those in their absence. I will address any conflict with the other person directly, and not share the issue with other board members, staff, or parents. If a parent, staff, or other board member comes to me with an issue, I will direct them to resolve it with the person involved.
- I will carefully read all information and ask critical questions so that I am fully informed about issues facing the board.
- I will express my honest and most thoughtful opinions frankly, in board meetings, in an effort to have all decisions made for the best interest of the children and the school.
- I will encourage all members of the board to participate fully in board action.
- I will abide by and support majority decisions of the board.
- I will not discuss the confidential business of the board outside of board meetings.
- I will only conduct board business inside of board meetings.
- I will not individually judge the directors or staff performance.
- I will only make decisions after careful examination of all sides of the issues.