



Pacem School

Celebrating Curiosity - Igniting Passions

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Pacem Board Advisory Committees Information for Potential Members

Section 1: Introduction and background on Pacem and our mission

We invite you to consider joining Pacem's advisory team and becoming a part of our inspiring educational community. Serving on one of our committees is a wonderful way to give back to the community, help young people, and support this unique educational alternative. We're looking for dynamic, interested people like you who want to share their skills and expertise with us.

In case you don't already know a lot about us, Pacem School is an intellectually inspiring, joyful learning community in Montpelier, VT. We are a state-approved, full-time independent 6th - 12th grade school, and in addition, we offer coursework and extra-curricular support to homeschoolers age 10-18. Our students are curious and passionate. We give them time and freedom to pursue their interests while supporting them with an intellectually rich curriculum. Our exceptional faculty, all experts in their fields, inspire and guide our students every day. Pacem provides a community where each student is known and cherished. This setting allows our students to develop confidence, feel empowered, and to blossom.

Our Mission is:

- ◆ to provide a vibrant and supportive educational community where all students are known and valued and learn the tools to solve problems peacefully and collaboratively.
- ◆ to guide and support students to be the primary architects of their own educations and to pursue their individual intellectual and creative passions.
- ◆ to offer small academically challenging classes, a flexible stimulating curriculum, and inspired teachers who celebrate curiosity and creativity and challenge all students to reach their fullest potential.
- ◆ to help children and teens grow into caring, responsible, and confident young adults who can make a difference in their communities and have the skills and awareness needed to create a more cooperative, just, and sustainable world.

Section 2: Advisory Committees

We currently have four advisory committees, and we are looking to have 3 to 4 active members on each committee. Every committee should have at least one member of our

Board of Directors, and every member of our Board of Directors is expected to serve on at least one committee. Our current committees are:

1. Fundraising and Development Committee: This committee works with the director to raise money for the school. This could include helping with the annual appeal, researching and following through on potential grants and major donors, organizing fundraising events (including our annual online auction) and organizing future capital campaigns.

2. Finance Committee: This committee includes the treasurer and oversees Pacem School's finances. In particular, this committee will set financial goals for the schools and will work with our investing partners at Maple Capital Management.

3. Facilities Committee: This committee will set goals for the school's facilities. This could include organizing workdays for minor improvement projects, working with the faculty to set priorities for updating our current facility, and possibly setting goals and searching for a more permanent location for the school.

4. Marketing Committee: The goal of the marketing committee to think innovatively about new ways to reach potential students and spread the word about Pacem, and to organize events and materials to promote Pacem.

Section 3: Time Commitment

We all have full lives with varying amounts of time and resources to bring. We ask the following commitment of our advisory committee members.

- ◆ Participate in at least 75% of committee meetings. (Meetings are held at a minimum quarterly)
- ◆ Complete preparation, reading, or research time for meetings as necessary (1/2 - 2 hours monthly depending on current committee work)
- ◆ Read and respond promptly to committee-related email
- ◆ Act as an ambassador for Pacem within one's personal communities and networks
- ◆ Serve at least one complete term of 2 years

Section 4: School Governance and Decision-Making

Committees provide advice as appropriate to the Board of Directors and the Head of School. The Board of Directors and the General Circle have decision-making power for the school. Pacem has a distinct form of governance: the sociocratic process. Our deep sense of community and small size both allow and are supported by this approach, which is based on the equality of each person and on honoring the voice of each individual. We believe that creative and high-quality decisions come from a synthesis of many ideas through consent-based, facilitated, decision-making in our sociocratic process. This process builds community, trust, and group problem-solving and communication skills, and it assures that no voice or idea is lost.

Policies and decisions are made by 5 interconnected governing circles. Every member of the community is on at least one circle, though they may choose not to participate.

General Circle meets monthly during the academic year and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the school. The General Circle is made up of representatives from the Faculty, Student, and Parent circles. Each circle makes recommendations to the General Circle

Faculty Circle meets monthly during the academic year and oversees decisions regarding curriculum and student education.

Parent Circle meets as needed during the year and oversees decisions that concern parents.

Student Circle meets every other week during the academic year and oversees decisions that concern students.

Board Circle is responsible for overseeing Pacem's overall vision and financial well-being.

More information about sociocracy in general can be found from the organization "Sociocracy for All" <https://www.sociocracyforall.org/> and <http://www.sociocracyforall.org/sociocracy/#keyconcepts>

Section 5: Current Pacem Board members:

(President)

Adam Necrason (Treasurer)

Steve Sharp (Secretary)

Lexi Shear (Director)

Laura McCaffrey (Faculty Representative)

Samara Mays (Parent Representative)

Laura Martinez (Alumnx Representative)

Kathleen Kesson

Section 6: If you are Interested in Joining us:

We'd love to hear from you! Please send a letter of interest and current resumé to:

Lexi Shear

Head of School

lexi@pacemschool.org