

Please give an introductory paragraph about yourself. (i.e. name, number of children attending ACS, how many years at ACS, hobbies, work history, etc.)

My name is Mark Spoone and I 'm originally from Hawaii and love the outdoor life. Colorado is the next best thing to living on an island I and enjoy motorcycles, hiking, working out, building things and traveling.

My wife Minda and I have been Douglas County residents for over 20 years, we have 5th and 7th graders at ACS who started at ACS in kindergarten, and I'm a strong believer in the charter school model.

Why do you want to serve on the Governing Board?

Both of our children started ACS in kindergarten and we expect to be ACS parents for 11 years. I think it is our family duty to support and contribute to the school in ways that can have a positive impact and add value. My hope is that I can contribute ideas and support that will continue to make ACS a great school.

What experience and skills would you bring to the Governing Board? (i.e leadership qualities, technical skills, legal expertise, education, etc.

ACS is currently seeking people with skills in communications, finance and operations. I have corporate, entrepreneurial and non-profit experience that has given me a chance to work in all those areas including financial management, policy development, administrative, budgeting, fund raising and management.

I've spent over 20 years in management and senior management roles with Fortune 1,000 companies, and have successfully started and run 5 companies and taken 2 companies public. I've been CEO of several public and private companies, as well as a Board member of others.

I have a BS in Finance, and have completed the course work towards Masters Degrees in Information Systems and Organizational Behavior.

What is your vision of the role of a Governing Board member?

I think students and families come first. My hope is to provide perspective for ways that the school can best support the academic and personal development of the students at ACS, and also to help balance those needs against the available resources that every school must manage around.

Why did you enroll your student(s) at ACS?

We believe that kids' personal development around accountability, integrity and a strong work ethic are just as important as academics for kids. We interviewed the administration at a number of schools in Douglas County and we firmly believed (and still do) that ACS presents the very best set of qualities to grow honest, accountable, hard working kids while delivering a good academic education. And the fact that we live in Castle Rock so ACS is in our back yard is awesome too! ;-)

What do you feel is the most important issue now facing ACS?

The two things I think are important are making sure that charter schools continue to receive the same funding and support from the county school district as county schools so that charter kids get equal treatment, and school safety.

In what direction would you like to see ACS progress?

The two areas I'm interested in seeing ACS progress are on the technology front and the holistic development of the kids. I'd like to see a continuing increase of opportunities for the kids to get access to computer and science technologies, and I'd like to see ACS continue its focus on the personal development of the students.

On what ACS committees/boards have you participated?

I was the Chairman of the School Accountability Committee (SAC) for 2 years, the ACS liason to the district SAC committee, and my wife and I participate in the PTO and formerly managed the uniform re-sale program.

How many volunteer hours have you contributed to ACS in the past year?

My wife and I have contributed (est) 22 hours this year