

Wildflower Montessori Public Schools of Colorado Founding Board of Directors Job Description SY 2023-2024

WMPSC Founding Board Purpose

The Wildflower Montessori Public Schools of Colorado (WMPSC) purpose is to co-create charter microschools with Wildflower Teacher Leaders and the communities the schools will serve. As charter design team members, we are clearing the path for neighborhood schools that offer authentic Montessori learning environments with a deep lens towards social justice and equity. The Founding Board is committed to navigating Colorado's public education ecosystem to operationalize our independent network of microschools through connecting with communities, policymakers, authorizers, funders, and influencers in the local and state-wide educational policy and innovation spaces. This action-oriented governance body lays the groundwork for moving WMPSC's charter vision to reality, creating the conditions for our Teacher Leaders to found and lead high fidelity Montessori micro-schools in partnership with historically marginalized communities across Colorado.

Essential Mindsets

• You are all about <u>Wildflower's Purpose</u>, <u>Norms</u>, <u>and Values</u> and are energized to bring this vision to students, families, and educators in our local context of Colorado.

Your eyes light up and you smile on the inside when you think about what is possible as we create the space for experienced Montessori teachers to design and create microschools in partnership with families. You can imagine it, and this vision aligns with your beliefs and passion.

• You enjoy getting things done

You live for the challenge and already see a work stream described in our responsibilities (see below) that excites you. You love to roll up your sleeves and get messy with a team that works as hard as you do.

- You are ready to create schools that center identities of our children
- You are committed to social justice and ready to transform the current public school model to one that prioritizes the gifts and talents that every child and family brings to the world. You are also committed to doing your own work to identify and mitigate your biases and prejudices in service of this work.
- You work with others positively and productively
- "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." You embrace this African proverb in the way you collaborate with others. You can easily work alone, but you recognize how important and fun it is to be a positive and productive member of a team. You have excellent interpersonal communication skills. People want to work with you.
- You have a growth mindset about yourself and your work
- You are a lifelong learner that is in constant evolution. You know you are good at what you do, but you also know that you always have room to learn. You learn from your mistakes and failures as much as you learn from books and from others. Growing yourself and your expertise comes naturally to you.
- You recognize that old systems and structures inhibit innovation
 Wildflower Schools support a structure of self-organizing teams, fluid roles, radical transparency, and decentralized decision-making. The WMPSC Board is reimagining the role of charter school boards in supporting

Teacher Leaders. You are motivated by this reimagining and are excited about what it means for ensuring equity in our ecosystem. You are eager to build out a network of microschools in Colorado that operate under a structure of self-management and autonomy.

Responsibilities

The Founding Board is aligned with Holacracy and Wildflower <u>Ways of Working</u>, and will meet 1-2 times per month throughout "year zero," our inaugural sites' startup year. Founding Board members will participate in Wildflower's self-management cohort series to understand WMPSC's non-hierarchical ways of working. Additionally, each board member will further WMPSC's purpose through active engagement in at least one focused project prior to launch of Board committees:

Finance	Community Design Team Aurora	Employment Matters	Board Recruitment
Establish finance practices and procedures	Form Community Design Team	Establish employment systems	Recruit two board members by July

Targeted Areas of Expertise

We are looking for community leaders, parents, and public education advocates with expertise in law; early childhood education; real estate/facilities acquisition; finance; multilingual learning; and/or strong ties to the Grand Junction or Aurora communities. Previous board experience is a plus but not required.

Why Join WMPSC's Founding Board?

Together, we will work to actively redesign a model for education that disrupts the systems of oppression that harm our children and families and unlock the power of Teacher Leaders to design a school that fosters a sense of belonging for children so that they may realize their full potential in the world. You will collaborate with other lifelong learners and changemakers to reimagine school design in a way that includes all voices in the decision-making process. You understand the task in front of us will require approximately 8-10 hours of time each month, but you see the vision and know this is transformative work we must do together for our children.

More about Wildflower Schools in Colorado

Wildflower Schools are a decentralized network of microschools founded by Montessori Teacher Leaders who have an equity mindset and the entrepreneurial spirit to create small, community-embedded, intentionally racially and socioeconomically diverse Montessori schools. Colorado Wildflower Schools expand the national network of Wildflower Schools in response to community and Teacher Leaders interest throughout the state of Colorado.

Wildflower Montessori Public Schools of Colorado (WMPSC) is part of the Colorado Wildflower hub. The mission of WMPSC is to provide families with child-centered, authentic Montessori education that bridges academic outcomes and social-emotional development through intimate learning communities deeply rooted in place, equity and belonging.

To Apply

Send your resume to hannah.ewert-krocker@wildflowerschools.org along with a summary of your interest.