

## **It's time for SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATIONS!**

This year's school board elections will take place on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010. We will be electing three new members to our nine-member board of directors. The board plays a crucial role in providing direction, vision and continuity for our growing school community. We hope that you will give serious consideration to volunteering for a board position, or will take the time to recommend someone who you think would be willing and able to support the school in this way.

Last year the State Legislature passed a new charter school law. One of the changes instituted by the new law was that a charter school's board of directors shall be composed of at least one licensed teacher at the school, one parent or legal guardian of a student enrolled at the school, and one interested community member who is not employed by the school and does not have a child enrolled in the school. TCGIS's board will already meet these requirements at the time of the election. Having a diverse board representing different points of view benefits the school in many ways. We would welcome nominations of people who have experience in a legal, marketing, business, human resources or educational field (ideally involving elementary or middle school curriculum and/or language immersion) and who are interested community members. Of course, any person who has a passion for the school, and a willingness to work with and for the community to promote and improve the school would be a great asset to the Board.

One term on the board of directors consists of three years, and a director may serve for up to two consecutive terms. A key responsibility of a director is to participate in the development of policy and major decision-making at board meetings, which take place at least twelve times a year. Another key responsibility is to be active on an ongoing basis in at least one committee of board. Current Board committees include Governance, Finance, and Grants and External Relations. Typical issues that arise at board meetings include financial oversight, hiring of staff, approval of the school calendar and curriculum, long-term facilities planning, long-term financial planning, grant writing, and relations between the school and its authorizer, the Germanic-American Institute. In addition, all new board members are now legally required to attend training in board governance, a board's roles and responsibilities, employment practices and policies, and financial management.

TCGIS is committed to creating a safe and effective school environment for children, as well as managing all school business in a responsible manner. Therefore, all board members will be asked to supply the information needed to conduct a criminal background check.

Board nominations are open until Friday, April 16, and all application paperwork is due by the following Monday, April 19. The application forms can be downloaded from the TCGIS website ([http://www.germanschool-mn.org/board\\_docs.html](http://www.germanschool-mn.org/board_docs.html)) or picked up from the school office. If you have any questions or have suggestions for potential candidates, please contact Kimberly Kompel, Board Secretary ([kimberlykompel@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlykompel@gmail.com), 651-414-0304) or any other member of the current board.