

FIDELES FORWARD



THE CAMPAIGN FOR FIDELES CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Dear Fideles Christian School Family and Friends,

Thank you for your interest in learning more about Fideles Forward! This is an exciting moment for the school, as we grow and share our excellent school model with more families in Forsyth County and the surrounding areas. The Fideles Forward capital campaign will enable Fideles to add a second building to our campus, providing expanded space and programs for older students in a dedicated Upper School. This will allow us to transform our existing school building into a Lower School, focusing on the needs of our youngest learners.



Scott & Amanda Christian

We were drawn to Fideles because our families were seeking excellent academic opportunities for our children in a strong Christian community at a reasonable tuition. We wanted a school that would provide academic structure and support, but still allow us to be involved in our children's education. We have found Fideles to be all of this, and more! Fideles offers college-preparatory classroom instruction by qualified teachers part of the week, combined with self-directed assignments to be completed at home with parent oversight. Fideles provides our families with a nurturing community, where everyone works together to help our children become their best selves.

This is why we are delighted to be co-leading the school's Fideles Forward capital campaign. The \$1.75M campaign is the first step in fulfilling the Fideles Master Plan, which will ultimately provide for two renovated academic buildings (Upper and Lower Schools), a gymnasium, covered parking deck, and other campus enhancements. The expanded footprint will enable Fideles to grow its student body from our current 300+ student enrollment to 500 students over the next five years. Fideles is currently at capacity, with a waiting list for several grades. With rapid growth in Forsyth County and the school's strong enrollment and retention rates, Fideles is well-positioned to share this "well-kept secret" with more families in the area: strong academics, Christian values, family involvement, small size, and reasonable cost.



Ace & Erika Howell

This is a pivotal moment in the life of Fideles Christian School. We all have an opportunity to be part of something much larger than ourselves, to truly build a foundation for Fideles' future. We hope you will read the following pages to learn more about our plans. More importantly, it is our hope that ALL of our families

and the greater community will see the value of this expansion and choose to create a lasting partnership between the school, the families and students, and the greater community. Please consider supporting the Fideles Forward campaign wholeheartedly. Your investment in Fideles will provide opportunities for more of our youth and yield dividends for our community well into the future.

*Fideles Forward Campaign Co-Chairs
Scott & Amanda Christian
and Ace & Erika Howell*

“We were drawn to Fideles because our families were seeking excellent academic opportunities for our children in a strong Christian community, at a reasonable tuition.”





The New Face of Home Schooling

Two-and-a-half-million students are homeschooled in the United States today, and the population is continuing to grow an estimated 2% to 8% annually. According to EdChoice's 2017 Schooling in America survey, while currently around 3 percent of students are homeschooled, around 7 percent of families would homeschool if they could. There are a variety of reasons that more families do not homeschool. Some parents don't have the confidence in their own abilities to teach every subject to their children. Others cannot devote themselves to homeschooling full-time. Most of all, many homeschooling families want their children to socialize with other children to learn how to share, cooperate and get along with others.

There is a need for organizations to support these parents in their endeavor to provide excellent, supportive, and accredited education. Fideles Christian School is a fully accredited, PK-12 academic program in which classes meet two or three days per week on campus. The remaining two to three days of the week, students work in their homes under the supervision of their parents to complete

assignments given them by their teachers.

In many ways Fideles is like other traditional college-preparatory schools. Similar in structure to University Model Schools, students attend classes instructed and led by qualified teachers, receive assignments from them, and compile a transcript based on an accredited college-preparatory curriculum. At graduation their diploma is equivalent to and confers on them all the rights and

privileges of any student in the State of Georgia and nationally under the State University Board of Regents. And, unlike home-schooled students, qualified Fideles graduates are immediately eligible for the Hope Scholarship.

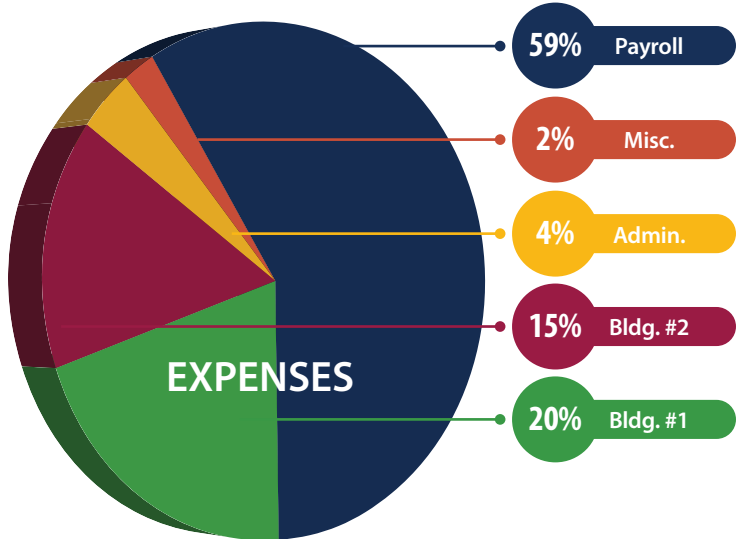
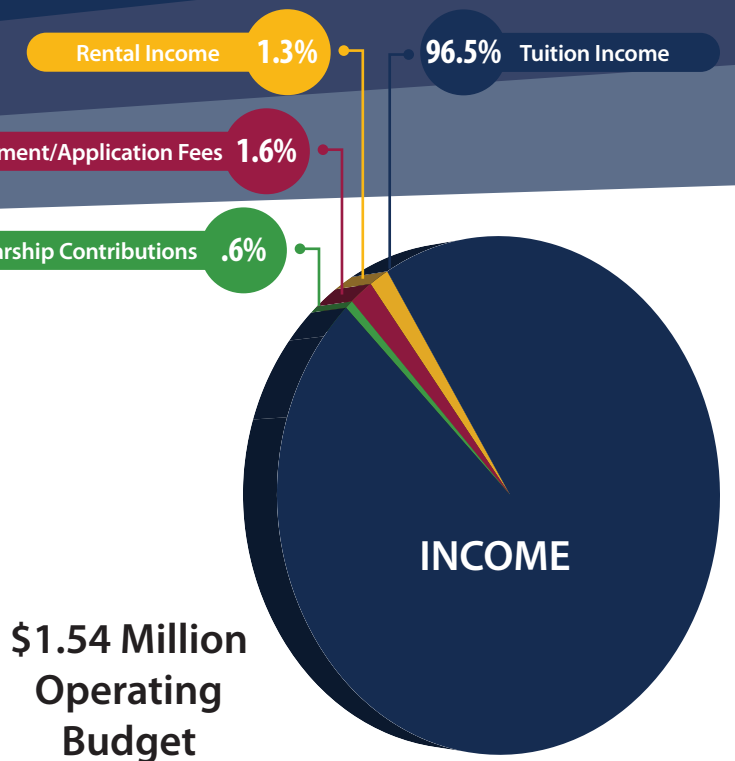
History and Growth

Fideles Christian School was founded in 1997 by Jonny and Ellen Whisenant. Their story began with the simple belief that they were to raise their children to be disciples of Jesus, and that their children should have a quality, affordable Christian-based education. They believed that as parents, they were the ones primarily responsible for that task and began their long journey pursuing that end. Over time their conviction that parents should be directly involved in the education of their children grew even stronger. But they also realized the importance of utilizing the God-given educational talents of adults in the Church. The result was Fideles Christian School, a school that blends those two convictions.

Fideles is accredited through AdvancED, the largest accrediting agency in the world, and is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).

Fideles Christian School started as classes taught by Ellen for middle school students in a home basement. In 2004 the school moved to its current location and launched a full program for kindergarten through high school. In 2006 Fideles was incorporated as a 501c3 non-profit and received full accreditation. Located in Cumming, GA, Fideles serves students from Forsyth County and the surrounding community. The school has grown over the years and has made the necessary investments to ensure that students who graduate from Fideles have the credentials to succeed beyond the classroom.

The school is housed in a single building for all PK through 12 classrooms. Currently 309 enrolled students attend the school and many grades are filled to maximum capacity. Many families are on the waiting list and would like to attend Fideles, but there is limited space. In addition, the high school classes would greatly benefit from specialized classrooms such as science labs and technology that the current shared space will not allow. Clearly it is time for Fideles to expand.



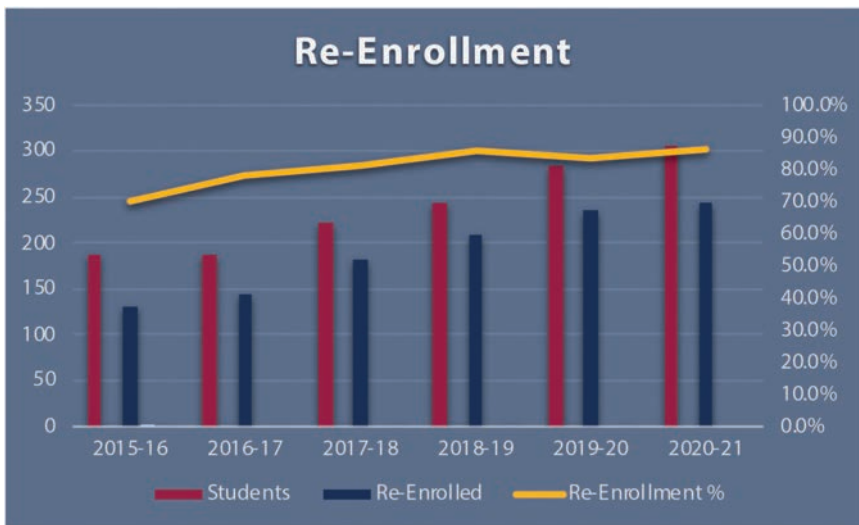
The school is governed by a 9-member board of directors. Carla Rutherford (pictured left), the Executive Director, has served on the administrative staff of Fideles since 2004 and oversees the academic, business, admissions, marketing, and development operations of the school. She manages a team of 9 administrators, 36 faculty, and 2 support staff who run the operations of the school.

The table below shows both a six-year growth trend in overall students enrolled in the school as well as a steady increase in the percentage of eligible students who re-enroll for the upcoming

landlord is willing to provide an extended lease on the property until Fideles is able to purchase the land outright (he is willing to sell the current building to Fideles at a future date as well). In

the meantime, he has provided a lead gift to the campaign to help jumpstart the plans for renovating the existing warehouse into an attractive and customized Upper School.

Fideles Christian School is conducting a \$1.75 Million Campaign to cover the cost of the interior buildout, exterior grading and landscape, furniture, fixtures and technology upgrades. The land/building lease costs are covered through the school's current tuition/operating budget (the school can make the required payments on the second building, even without increasing enrollment).



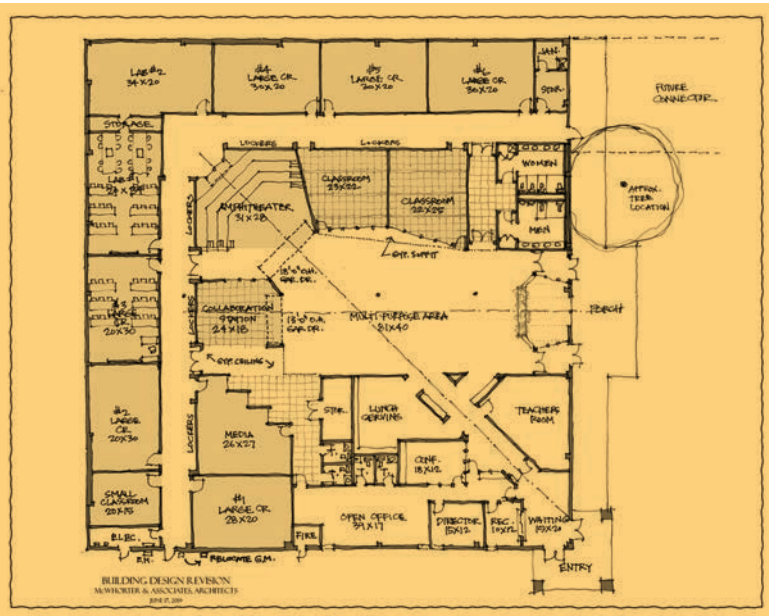
school year. Re-enrollment has reached nearly 90% as of Spring 2020. These numbers are a validation of the effectiveness of the current staff, administration and board.

In the current facility which is being utilized beyond its maximum capacity, these growth and re-enrollment trends will severely limit the number of new students and families that can be served. The board analyzed these trends and determined that Fideles is well-positioned to expand the school to reach more families with its successful school model. In 2018 the school began looking in earnest for an additional building to be used as an Upper School. The land and building adjacent to the current school became available, and the owner of the current school building, a strong supporter of Fideles, purchased the property for the school's use.

Fideles Christian School has entered into a lease/purchase agreement to acquire the land and warehouse next to the current school building. The



This campaign and building project are Phase I of the school's Master Plan. The Master Plan includes future development of the properties with a gymnasium, covered parking lot, Lower School renovations, and other property enhancements.



Goal 1: Campus Expansion Phase 1

1285 Oak Industrial completed to be an Upper School

- Entrance and parking lot reconfiguration
- 9 classrooms
- 2 science labs
- 1 media/technology room
- 2 flexible education spaces
- Amphitheater
- Lunchroom/Multipurpose Gathering Space

Goal 2: Expand academic electives to offer more STEM and Fine Arts

- Electives can be expanded when there is dedicated space. Currently high school classes share space with lower school students, making such options impossible.
- Technology for STEM classes is included in the campaign goal.

Goal 3: Achieve a maximum number of 500 qualified enrolled students and more than 30 graduates annually by 2025

- The goal is to reach 500 students in five years. That enrollment is not necessary for the school to be financially healthy.
- The school will not expand beyond 500 students, to keep the small school atmosphere that families desire and help with student success.

**Proposed Gymnasium/
Multi-Purpose Facility**

**1390 Weber Industrial: Current
Facility Proposed as Lower School**



The direction for our educational program flowing from our mission is defined by the acronym HEART. We desire to be an organization known for its love of God and man whose educational program provides the following distinct features:



HONORS GOD: As Christians we believe in the importance of acknowledging God as the author of all things including scholastic subjects. All subjects should be taught in the light of His Word if they are to have any ultimate value to us. Therefore, our program seeks to honor God by acknowledging His preeminence in all subjects, and His guidance in all activities.

EMPOWERS FAMILIES: Healthy, cohesive families are central to the vitality of society. However, our modern lifestyle tends to separate parents from children and diminish the influence that parents have in their children's lives. It is our intention that a two or three day per week classroom schedule will allow parents to take the leadership role in directing, mentoring, and monitoring their children's education while still benefiting from the knowledge and encouragement of gifted teachers.

AFFORDABLE: Partnering with parents allows us to offer private Christian education to the average family. With a part-time classroom model, overhead costs are lower so tuition can be 40%-50% below that of the traditional private school. Yet, like other schools, our program contains 360 days of college preparatory, educational instruction.

RIGOROUS ACCREDITED ACADEMICS: We believe that all students should be equipped with the knowledge, tools, and skills necessary to compete effectively in a competitive world. Our program is accredited by AdvancED (SACS), and follows the Georgia College Board entrance requirements, includes SAT and ACT readiness, and exceeds the Georgia Performance Standards. We are continually re-evaluating our academic program for improvement.

TRANSFORMATIVE: Our goal is to transform students by the renewing of their minds (Rom 12:2), preparing them, in turn, to transform the culture in which they live and work. Faculty and staff are committed to the "whole" student — to their spiritual maturity as well as academic achievement.

Strong Academic Success

Fideles Christian School is committed to providing a quality Christian College-Preparatory education compatible with nationally recognized academic standards. The average class size is 16 students, with no more than 20 students in any class. Age-appropriate materials cover core academic disciplines and electives in the lower grades. High School students must complete 23 credits for graduation, consistent with Georgia academic requirements. Students who have gone to FCS full-time since 9th grade, or who have transferred from another accredited school with the required credits are eligible to graduate from FCS. Fideles offers four Advanced Placement classes for upper classmen each year: A.P. Biology, A.P. Chemistry, A.P. Language/A.P. Literature (alternate offerings each year), and A.P. American History. Juniors and seniors are eligible to dual-enroll in another approved, accredited program for a maximum of one class per semester with prior approval from the Fideles Administration.

For the past five years Fideles students have averaged higher on the SAT than the average for students in Forsyth County, State of Georgia or the United States. And over the past four years 93% of students taking AP's have scored a 3 or higher on the final exam.

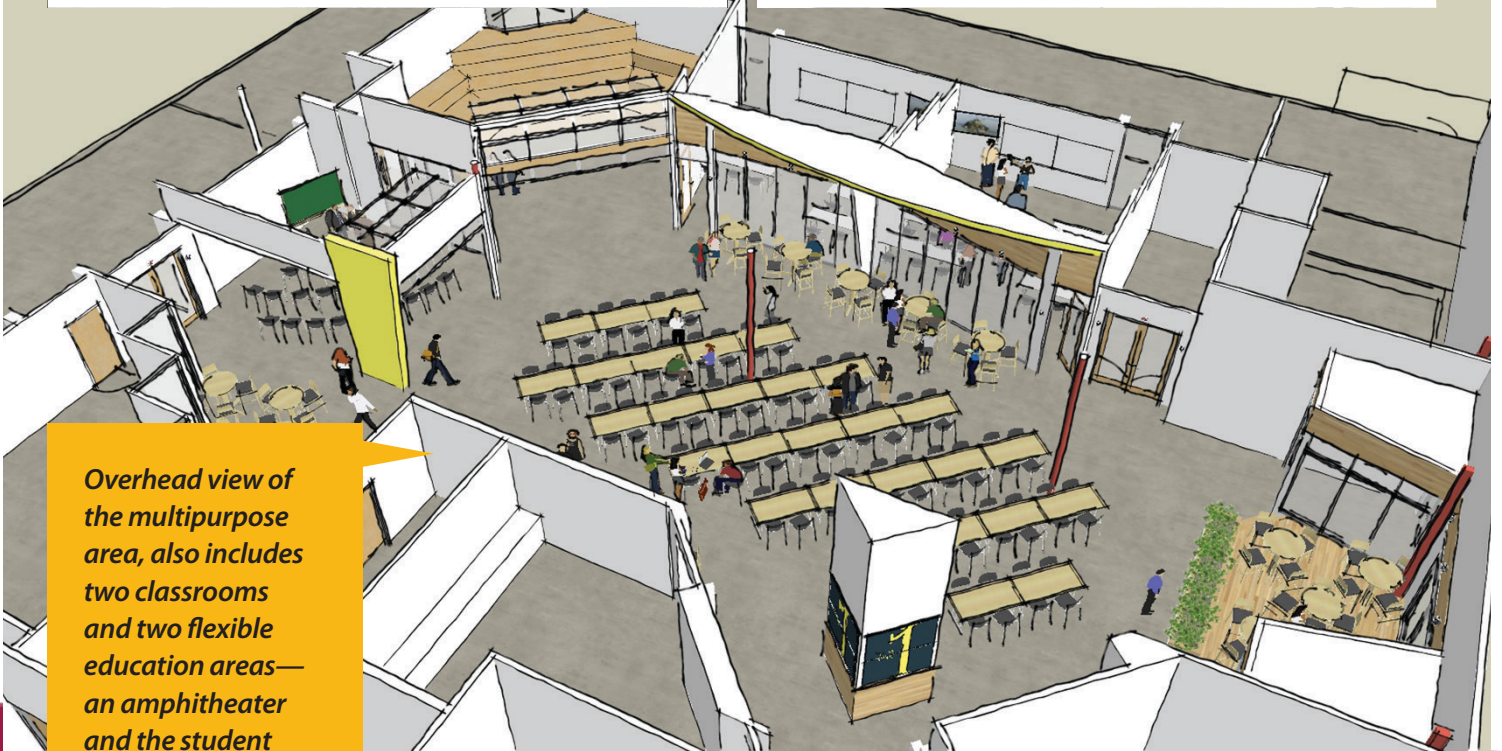
Since 2012 94% of graduates have gone on to college. Those that elected not to attend college joined the Military or took a gap year prior to attending college. Fideles graduates have been accepted to more than fifty different universities throughout the country, from Boston University to the University of Arizona, Carnegie Mellon to Georgia Tech, and everywhere in-between.

Our academic success has led to increased interest in our school and more selectivity in our acceptance rate. Fideles has seen inquiries and applications steadily increase over the past six years. Our acceptance rate has necessarily dropped, as there are more applicants for a limited number of spots. The school's reenrollment rates have maintained in the mid 80% range the last few years.





Architect's vision of the exterior of 1285 Oak Industrial



Overhead view of the multipurpose area, also includes two classrooms and two flexible education areas—an amphitheater and the student collaboration room.

The Construction project will be managed by the Facilities Committee: Greg Badgett, Fideles Board Chair; Silas Ford, Chaplain and Operations Director; and Carla Rutherford, Executive Director. Fideles has selected McWhorter and Associates as the architect and CBI construction company. The team meets monthly to track progress toward construction. Post-construction questionnaires will be issued to parents, students and teachers to make sure that the facilities are meeting and exceeding their expectations.

Leading the Way

As the growth in Forsyth County and North Atlanta continues, the need will be ever greater to provide families with desirable school options that nurture and prepare our future generations.

Fideles Christian School is ready to expand its offerings and reach more students and their families with a proven, affordable, college preparatory experience with a Christian world view. The success of this campaign depends on the dedication and commitment of the school and community's leadership and your willingness to step forward early in this effort. The example set by your gift will inspire others to give generously and will assure the success of the campaign.

A three-year pledge period has been established for the convenience of donors. All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law. There are also a number of named gift opportunities to honor the donor or the donor's family and friends.

Your investment in Fideles Christian School will ensure broader availability of excellent and affordable Christian education to the growing population of North Atlanta. Thank you for your support.



Greg Badgett

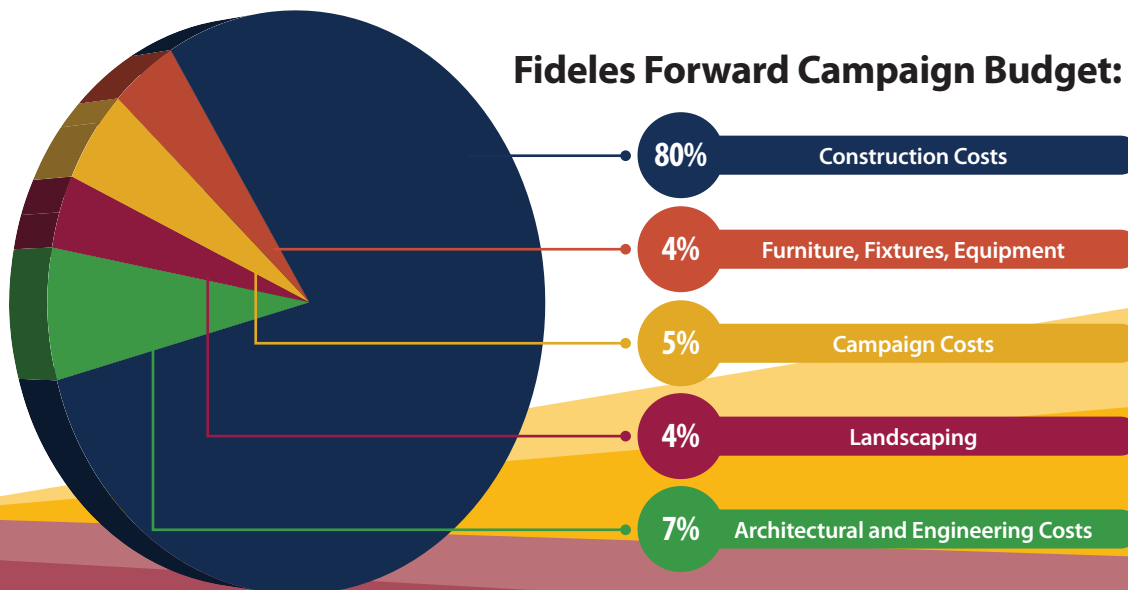


Silas Ford



Carla Rutherford

Fideles Forward Campaign Budget: \$1.75 million



Statement of Mission

The mission of Fideles Christian School is to partner with parents to provide affordable, academically rigorous college-preparatory education from a Christian world view so that students may be prepared to engage and impact their community with excellence.

Spiritual Objective

The spiritual objective of Fideles Christian School is to encourage its students, families and staff to live and work whole-heartedly for the Lord and for the building of His body, the Church. We further wish to encourage all associated with this school to live in ever-increasing obedience to Him by bringing all facets of their lives under His control and authority (Matthew 22:37-40). Therefore, parents, staff, and board members, must agree with the Fideles statement of faith and mission.

Campaign Leadership

Campaign Co-Chairs

Scott and Amanda Christian
Avery and Erika Howell

Capital Campaign Cabinet

Jenni McAllister
Greg Badgett
Ken and Erin Brown
Silas Ford
Allyson Heck
Craig and Jennifer Richards
Carla Rutherford

School Board of Directors

Wayne Abbott
Greg Badgett
Jon Cook
Sandra Hackett
Allyson Heck
Matthew Lake
John Melvin
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