

2009 SCCS BOD ELECTION BALLOT

One ballot is permitted per family having one or more children attending SCCS on October 1, 2009 and regardless of the number of children attending.

VOTE FOR THREE: Candidate provided information appears on a separate sheet

Bill Carty parent of Haley, 8th grade, and Megan, 3rd grade.

Rachael Cohen parent of Jake, 3rd grade, and Nate, 1st grade.

Karen Eyrich parent of Henry, 6th grade.

Mara Mactaggart parent of student Yarmony Iona Bellows, 3rd grade.

Submitted by: _____
[print name of parent/guardian]

Parent/Guardian of: _____
[student(s) name(s)]

[signature required]

Return completed and signed ballots to the SCCS Office and deposit them in the "2009 SCCS BOD Election" ballot box. Please vote as soon as possible. Deadline for voting is 6:30 PM, October 6, 2009.

CANDIDATE SUBMITTED INFORMATION

Bill Carty:

- 25 years in the Valley
- 2 kids @ Stone Creek
- Sell Real Estate
- Been with the school from the start
- Coach the 7th/8th grade Stone Creek basketball team
- Current Board Member for Homestead HOA

Rachael Cohen:

Rachael Cohen grew up in Eagle County, attending Red Sandstone Elementary, Minturn Middle School and Battle Mountain High School. Upon completion of her teaching degree, Ms. Cohen returned to the Valley to teach. She worked as a teaching assistant in the Special Education Department of Battle Mountain before taking a founding teaching position at the Eagle County Charter Academy. Ms. Cohen taught 7th and 8th grade Math and Reading during her tenure as well as serving as Team Leader and a term on the Board of Directors for the school. Ms. Cohen and her husband Brad moved to Kansas City in 1998; this same year legislation allowing Charter Schools in Missouri was passed. Ms. Cohen worked for a non-profit, The Learning Exchange, helping to create The Charter School Partnership. The Partnership brought together those with the power to authorize and oversee charter schools (in Missouri this consists of School Boards as well as four-year Universities) with those wishing to open and run charter schools. The Partnership also worked closely with members of the Philanthropic Community.

Missing the mountains and wanting to raise their boys in this community, Ms. Cohen and her husband moved with their sons, Jake and Nate to Edwards in 2003. Ms. Cohen has been involved with Stone Creek Charter School since it opened its doors. While she has put in numerous hours with various fund raisers, in the classroom and most recently on the Principal Search Committee, Ms. Cohen feels now is the time to step up to a new level of volunteering by joining the Board of Directors. She believes her experience in education, both in and out of the classroom, along with her experiences as a very involved parent will bring a valuable perspective and balance to the current board.

Karen Eyrich:

I first started volunteering when my kids were at ABC preschool in Vail. Someone asked me to be on the board of directors, that it wasn't too much work. Wrong! Shortly after I became part of the board our preschool director left, leaving the preschool without any leadership. We were meeting weekly, sometimes daily to search for the perfect candidate. I am certainly aware of how much a commitment a volunteer position can be. All of my four children started at Meadow Mountain Elementary School. While I was there I served on PTA (president for two years) and also on the accountability committee and district accountability. I've had children at Minturn Middle School and also Eagle County Charter Academy. My two oldest were at Vail Christian High School; Willy is a senior there. Parker just graduated and is now at Mesa State. Emily, 15, is at Battle Mountain High School. Henry, my youngest, is in 6th grade at Stone Creek, having started here in the 3rd. grade.

Why did I choose to join the Stone Creek community? I loved both Meadow Mountain and Minturn Middle School. But I wanted a K-8 school for the continuity between grade and middle school. I also love the Core Knowledge curriculum. From the beginning of Stone Creek I have also attended the majority of the Board Meetings. In the beginning it was a one man show (Bill Hammer). Over time I have seen the board grow into a strong, cohesive unit. I hope to become of this board.
work full time at Firstbank of Vail, live in Eagle-Vail, and in my spare time do scrapbooking and family genealogy.

Mara Mactaggart:

As a new parent at Stone Creek Charter last year, I was very pleased with the curriculum. I enjoyed volunteering with PTO for student enrichment, and greatly valued the board's hard work running our

school. But after extensive involvement with SCCS, I found I still lacked clear information about the school's goals, history, charter, and finances. I was also saddened by the frequent discord I encountered at board meetings.

I have come to the conclusion that a breakdown in communication often occurs at our fine school between the different well-meaning groups of parents, teachers, PTO, administration, and the board of directors.

For our school to grow, and for SCCS to attract new students and thus increase state and parent funding, we need to be a more cohesive institution of learning. To attain higher enrollment numbers, it is imperative that our community views SCCS with positivity and clarity. No matter how strong our academics, a divided home front does not foster a sense of security, nor encourage an image of achievement, well-being, and balance.

With your vote, I would like to help create a better atmosphere of friendship, respect, and courtesy between the dedicated, and deeply concerned inter-school groups which together, make SCCS a success.

For the past four years, I have become more involved with my daughter's education by volunteering at Eagle County Schools. I am a Stay-at-Home Mom, and have time to listen to parents. Last year at Stone Creek, I volunteered over eighty hours, assisting class field trips, and helping with the Jogathon, Mustang Round-Up, and Kentucky Derby Fundraisers. I independently wrote and funded the friendly Valentine for Operational Donations, and created the Skate-Into-Spring FUNraiser to boost school spirit. My daughter raised the most funds for Jogathon, and I donated a new teacher/staff fridge, and financed a teacher/staff appreciation and recognition dinner.

I attended a small school in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (which was started by parents, much like Stone Creek) and graduated from Harvard University. As an artist, and also in the property rental and house remodeling business, I have lived in the Vail Valley for over twenty years. My husband and I met on the Minturn Mile, and we moved from Minturn to the Eagle area where I enjoy skiing with my family, trail-riding my horses, and collecting eggs from the chickens Ms. Towle inspired us to adopt!

If you elect me to the school board, I will work on renewing our charter, as well as either finding a permanent location for Stone Creek or achieving a multi-year lease from the Town of Avon. Better communication between all parties will be my highest priority, and I aim to improve SCCS's image of financial and administrative security within our community. It is also of great importance to me to help the board meet our financial obligations and pay our vendors. Voting for **Mara Mactaggart** is an action which will bring diversity to the board, and if elected, I will also bring the following characteristics to each board meeting: "HONESTY, SENSITIVITY TO AND TOLERANCE OF DIFFERING VIEWS, A FRIENDLY, RESPONSIVE, AND PATIENT APPROACH, COMMUNITY- BUILDING SKILLS, PERSONAL INTEGRITY, A DEVELOPED SENSE OF VALUES, CONCERN FOR (MY) SCHOOL'S DEVELOPMENT, (AND) A SENSE OF HUMOR" as stated on page.4 of Responsibilities of Individual Board Members listed in the Best Practices in Charter School Governance Resources guidelines on our school website.

I am happy to answer your questions pertaining to the school, and thank you, fellow parents, for your support of Stone Creek Charter School. Telephone # **(970) 328-4998** or e-mail maramactaggart@earthlink.net