

October 20th, 2025

Board of School Trustees and Dr. Heather Short

Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation

55900 Bittersweet Road

Mishawaka, IN 46545

Dear Members of the Board of School Trustees,

I am writing to express my interest in the open Board of Trustees position with the Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation. Having grown up in South Bend and now residing in Mishawaka, I have a strong connection to the Michiana community. My wife and I are raising our three children within the Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation, with two currently attending Bittersweet Elementary School.

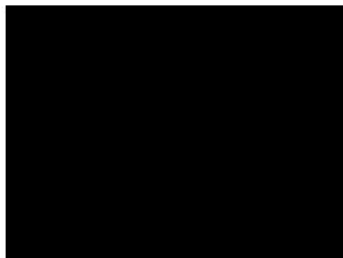
My professional background includes extensive leadership experience in faith-based and charitable non-profit organizations, where I have overseen large teams and worked collaboratively to advance organizational missions and serve diverse communities. I have also lived and worked in North Carolina, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, which has given me a broad perspective and appreciation for the value of strong public schools and engaged communities. I am committed to transparency, accountability, and service, and I would be honored to contribute these values to the Board of Trustees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BK' followed by a stylized flourish.

Brandon Kastner



Brandon Kastner



Professional Summary

Mission-driven executive leader with a rewarding history of service in faith-based, charitable non-profit organizations. Dedicated to advancing education, healthcare, and community well-being for older adults. Proven track record in strategic leadership, program development, and fostering environments that empower residents and staff.

Experience

President

Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame (Non-Profit Life Plan Community)

April 2022 – Present

- Lead a ministry serving 300 residents across the continuum of care.
- Inspire, support, and develop a team of 200 dedicated staff members, championing resident-centered programs and staff engagement.
- Advance organizational mission through strategic partnerships and community outreach.

Executive Director

Dock Woods, Living Branches Community (Non-Profit Life Plan Community)

July 2021 – April 2022

- Oversaw operations for 1,000 senior adults and families, including 200 HUD housing units.
- Inspired, supported, and developed a team of 400 staff members, fostering a culture of excellence and collaboration.
- Developed educational and wellness initiatives for residents and staff.
- Fostered inclusive environments for independent and dependent seniors.

Health Facility Administrator

Kendal at Lexington (Non-Profit Life Plan Community)

September 2020 – June 2021

- Directed licensed healthcare facility, assisted living, and onsite clinic.
- Ensured compliance with state/federal regulations and promoted resident choice.
- Managed budgets and inspired staff to deliver high-quality, person-centered care.

Associate Executive Director

The Presbyterian Homes Inc., Glenaire (Non-Profit Life Plan Community)

June 2016 – August 2020

- Led \$8M healthcare renovation, instituting a nationally recognized household model.
- Inspired, supported, and developed a team of 300 staff members, promoting staff well-being, recognition, and autonomy.
- Facilitated staff education, team building, and culture change.
- Precepted Administrator-in-Training (AIT) and promoted staff autonomy.

Administrator

Hickory Creek Healthcare Foundation

January 2013 – May 2016

- Supported compassionate care for seniors with physical and intellectual disabilities.
- Led region in staff retention, financial performance, and census development.
- Collaborated with local organizations and community partners to expand outreach and support for residents.

Education

- Master of Non-Profit Administration – University of Notre Dame
- Master of Business Administration – Grace College
- Bachelor of Science in History – Manchester College

Licenses

- Health Facility Administrator License, Indiana (Active)

Leadership, Service & Advocacy

- LeadingAge Education Committee Member (NC, VA, IN)
- CARF Accreditation Surveyor (2020–Current)
- Administrator-in-Training Task Force Member, NC Board of Nursing Home Administrators
- Cary Chamber of Commerce Leadership fellow graduate
- LeadingAge NC Leadership Academy fellow graduate
- Health Facility Preceptor (IN, NC) (*inactive*)
- Assistant Coach for men's varsity soccer team, Cassopolis Ross-Beatty High School
- Published: <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/columns/guest-columns/3-keys-to-selecting-board-members-for-nonprofits/>