

## Board of Trustees FAQs

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### Why does a German School need a Board of Trustees?

GISB is a German International School in the USA. In contrast to Germany, it is a common concept in the US to run private schools as corporations as non-profit organizations. This design impacts finances and governance. As opposed to German public schools, private schools in the US are responsible for their financial health governed by the Board of Trustees (BoT). As a non-profit corporation, GISB doesn't distribute profits to its shareholders but re-invests them for the benefit of its members.

GISB has members of the corporation that ideally include every single parent of a current GISB student but also external enthusiastic and supportive individuals or even companies. Board members elected by members of the cooperation – i.e. you – are the governing body of the school.

### What are the Board's responsibilities?

In close partnership with the Head of School and with the support of the Consul General, our School's seven-member Board never loses sight of its mission. Amongst other tasks the Board must:

- provide strategic direction;
- assure financial stability by balancing budgets and monitoring cash flows in a sensible and sustainable way;
- negotiate and sign facility leases and rental agreements;
- lead fundraising efforts;
- act as the employer and make HR-related decisions; e.g. electing the Head of School;
- hold annual membership meetings;
- represent and promote GISB in the greater Boston community;
- build networks to secure long term support for educational and fundraising matters.

### **What is expected of a Board member?**

Our Board members share a great passion for GISB's mission. They volunteer a great part of their personal time for the sake of the School. They spend at least 3 hours every month at Board meetings and additionally participate in committees. Either of those requires the occasional "homework", which adds up to 2 - 4 hours weekly, realistically. The Board also plays a role in the School's fundraising activities. Individuals choose to be involved either directly by donating (no minimum amount specified) or indirectly by building a financially strong network and finding potential supporters.

### **What are the requirements to become a Board member?**

You are eligible to run if you are a regular member of the corporation, i.e. the School, and have paid your membership fee. However, there are a few exceptions: Teachers, employees, members of the Parents Council, and officers of the Parents Association of the School, as well as their spouses and immediate relatives, cannot become a Trustee.

The Board is always eager to reflect the School's community and interests in its composition as well as to maintain a certain pool of expertise and know-how. Ideally, candidates bring experience in governance, on other boards or have shown commitment to the school's mission previously. Candidates do not need to have a professional background, but currently, those skills would best complement the Board's existing fields of expertise:

- HR knowledge
- Legal and business management
- Fundraising and networking
- Real estate, facility, and property management

### **Why should I consider taking on that role?**

Being a Trustee is not for everybody, it requires dedication and real commitment. But it can also be rewarding in a way that is hard to find otherwise. The School seeks to be visionary and yet sustainable in educating today's and tomorrow's young global citizens. By being on the Board you get to make a significant impact on the way this is done.

### **How do I apply?**

We strongly encourage candidates to submit their [application](#) in time before the elections in November, so every member gets the chance to become familiar with the pool of candidates. A late September deadline has proven to be effective. Please go visit our website [www.gisbos.org](http://www.gisbos.org) to find more information. If you have any questions please write an email to [hoa@gisbos.org](mailto:hoa@gisbos.org)