

Candidate Statement  
Melissa Shillinglaw

I am a veterinarian, small business owner, and mother of three children at Carolina Classical Academy with experience in leadership, budgeting, staffing, operations, and policy development. I am the owner of Dogwood Veterinary Clinic in Richburg and previously served as a partner at Catawba Animal Clinic from 2011–2022. In those roles, I led teams, managed finances, built systems, and made difficult decisions with a strong focus on accountability, stewardship, and long-term organizational health. I earned my DVM from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine in 2005 after graduating from Clemson University in 2001.

I want to serve on the Board because I care about the future of Carolina Classical Academy and the families it serves. As a parent at this school since the beginning, I have experienced firsthand how much strong leadership, clear communication, and responsible governance shape the health of a school community. I believe the school has an important opportunity to move forward with renewed trust, strong oversight, and a clear commitment to its classical mission, and I would be honored to help support that work.

I would bring practical strengths in personnel management, policy development, operations, accountability, and mission-focused decision-making. I have also served on my church's pastor search committee and nominating committee and have volunteered in children's ministry. I would bring a calm, steady, and practical parent perspective to the Board.