



## 2021 Board Applicant

**Lori Willis-Richards**

**Email:** lori.willislr@gmail.com

**Resident:** Roebuck

**Occupation:** High School Media Specialist

**Education:** Masters



**1. Please describe any non-profit Board experience that you have.**

None

**2. Why do you want to serve on the High Point Academy Board of Directors, and how will you help advance the mission of the school?**

As the spouse of an Administrator at High Point Academy and as someone who lives in the upstate of South Carolina I have a vested interest in the continued success of High Point. High Point draws students from all over Spartanburg County and beyond. The education of our students and the creation of contributing members to our society affects the entire county and not just a single school district. I would like to ensure that High Point Academy continues down a path that always puts students first and makes sure that we recruit/maintain a top quality faculty.

**3. Describe your work and volunteer background and how it prepares you to be a member of the Board.**

I have worked/volunteered in education for well over a decade. I have 8 years of experience working in schools as the Media Specialist from kindergarten to 12th grade. Before moving into public education I had the chance to work at the college level at USC union and Spartanburg Community College. During my time at Wofford College I was able to volunteer with my husband for four years with an after school program through the Spartanburg Housing Authority. For the last 6 years I have overseen a large budget for technology/books with Union County High School, limiting waste and providing for the needs of my student population .

My time working in various school districts across the upstate/midlands have provided me with a variety of experiences that I will use to be a successful board member of High Point Academy.

**4. What do you see as the differences between the responsibilities of a Board member and the responsibilities of the school's administration?**

I see the school board as developing the big picture for the school as a whole. The board decides the where (with input from stakeholders) while the school administration develops the how.

**5. What do you consider to be the most important issue for the school and the Board to focus on in the upcoming years?**

The most important issues going forward for High Point Academy is to work on teacher retention through providing a continued great environment for our teachers to teach but also through providing competitive salaries compared to our surrounding school districts. While High point should continue to grow it should not be growing simply for the sake of growing. We should work to limit spending that does not directly affect our students and their academic success.