

## **Trupti Naik Storlie - School Board Candidate Statement**

As a parent who will have spent 12 years at Yinghua Academy by the time my youngest child graduates, I am deeply invested in the success and growth of our school community. My children, Asha, currently in 7th grade, and Priya, who graduated in 2023, have thrived in Yinghua's unique environment, and I am eager to contribute my skills and experience to ensure that future generations of students also benefit.

Throughout my time at Yinghua, I have been actively engaged in various roles, including volunteering in the front office, serving on the development committee, participating in strategic planning, coordinating classroom activities, and helping plan the Yinghua International Festival. These experiences have not only deepened my understanding of the school's operations but also highlighted the critical role that parents play in transforming a great school into an outstanding one. The talent and resources that parents bring to the table are essential in creating the extras that foster a vibrant community that surrounds and supports all our students.

I currently serve as a board director at Keystone Community Services, a St. Paul based nonprofit working to improve the quality of life of individuals, families, seniors, and youth. Previously, I served as a director and the board chair at Lyngblomsten, an organization that provides healthcare, housing, and services for older adults. These experiences help me to be informed about our community and the challenges and needs of families in this current time. At both of these nonprofits and in my faith community I have led and supported annual fundraising, endowment giving, and capital campaigns. I am currently employed at Minnesota Management and Budget, a state government agency responsible for the operations of the state government. In this role, I support interagency strategic planning and implementation, and utilize data and research to drive evidence-based decision. My focus areas include educational opportunity, housing stability, and customer experience.

As a strong advocate for diversity and inclusivity, I believe that my past enables me to considering a wide range of experiences and perspectives. I've experienced the challenges of navigating multiple cultures: first as immigrant child in the United States, then as an U.S expatriate in Japan, and finally a short stint volunteering in Zambia supporting a children's HIV clinic. I appreciated the ways people made space and taught me about their culture. Additionally, I am well-positioned to represent the interests of middle school parents and I feel that having an alumni student also gives me perspective on the longer term outcomes for students.

My focus as a board member will be on increasing parent engagement and support, and fostering effective collaboration between parents and staff. Furthermore, I am committed to addressing the critical issue of school funding, ensuring that Yinghua Academy remains well-resourced to provide an exceptional education for all students, despite the possibility of changes in federal and state funding or policy.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve on the School Board and contribute my skills and experience to support Yinghua Academy's continued excellence and growth.