

## LSC Candidate Statement

School: Ravenswood Elementary School

Network: 2

Candidate's Name: Becky Altman

Date: 03/02/2018



As a former teacher and current fundraiser for an innovative education nonprofit, I have strong experience inside and outside the classroom. I know how much our students and educators need resources and support to be successful. My career is dedicated to service and I am deeply committed to advancing the best opportunities for youth and empowering our community.

Teaching was my favorite job. I taught in an urban district at a school where 89% of students qualified for free or reduced lunch. My second and third grade students dreamed of becoming doctors and police officers and ninja wizards. They were smart, excited to learn, and full of potential. I was committed to making our classroom a place that fostered learning and creativity. I was the first in the building every morning and the last to leave. I carefully tracked my students' progress in reading and math throughout the year and I implemented small group instruction to customize their learning. It was frustrating that limited resources made it difficult to give my students what they needed. As a teacher, I searched out funding from external sources to provide the basic supplies the students needed. My experience in the classroom inspired me to commit my career to education reform.

I am currently director of development at an education nonprofit that provides grants and technical assistance to high-impact schools and education programs. I lead fundraising strategies engaging hundreds of donors and prospects and I manage internal development operations. I'm proud that we have driven year-over-year increases in revenue, leading to greater opportunities for Chicago's students. Through my work with some of the best education nonprofits and leading companies in Chicago, I have built a toolkit and understanding of best practices from both the business and nonprofit sectors. I am excited to bring these perspectives and skills to strengthen our school.

Ravenswood Elementary has made significant progress in recent years. I would be honored to contribute to the LSC by listening to teachers and parents about the challenges our school faces and by contributing thoughtful solutions to those challenges. I look forward to helping Ravenswood advance by engaging diverse members of our community and supporting our teachers to drive meaningful instruction. Our students have incredible potential; we must continue to provide them with the best opportunities. My husband and I are committed to this community and we are excited to raise our family here. I am thrilled for the opportunity to bring my experience to continue pushing Ravenswood to be the best it can be.