

## Anser Board Biographies



### **Heather Bañuelos, Staff Liaison (non-voting)**

[hbanuelos@ansercharterschool.org](mailto:hbanuelos@ansercharterschool.org)

Heather chose to be on the Anser Board of Directors because she has been a teacher at Anser since 2011 and wanted to be involved in learning more about how the Board functions as well as be a positive representative for the Anser Staff. She has been on the Board since 2019 and is finishing up her 2 year term at the end of the 21-22 school year. She currently serves on the CRT+ and is glad to represent teachers in that capacity as well.



### **Leslie S. Brown, Vice President**

[lesliebrown@ansercharterschool.org](mailto:lesliebrown@ansercharterschool.org)

Leslie joined the Anser Board 7 years ago. After serving as president on her undergraduate university alumni council, Leslie recognized that she had a passion for this type of volunteer work, especially in the education setting. She is also an Anser parent. Leslie's family had all three of their daughters go through Anser, the youngest is currently in the 7th grade. Leslie practiced law as a litigator for 20 years, and as a retired lawyer, utilizes those skills as the Chair of the Board Governance Committee and is currently the Vice President.



### **Margaret (Maggie) Chase, Board Member**

[maggiechase@ansercharterschool.org](mailto:maggiechase@ansercharterschool.org)

Maggie has been involved with Anser both personally and professionally since it first opened. Her son was in the first cohort to graduate from Anser and through her role as a teacher educator at Boise State, she has conducted several research studies in partnership with crew leaders and has supervised numerous student teachers who have had the good fortune to be placed at Anser. Many parents may recall the years when your child had a BSU buddy who wrote to them every week – those were Maggie's students. Though recently retired from Boise State, Maggie continues to remain passionate about issues related to education, specifically literacy, and the safety and wellbeing of children. She is honored to be serving her third term on the board as a member of the Continuous Improvement/Education Committee as well as the Covid Response Team.



### **Jay Holmes, Board Member**

[jayholmes@ansercharterschool.org](mailto:jayholmes@ansercharterschool.org)

Service is an important aspect of Jay's family's values. Jay also feels that modeling behavior is much more impactful than directing behavior. Jay wanted to be on the board to serve the Anser Community as well as

model behavior he would like his kiddos to emulate. Jay has two kids (Leo & June) at Anser with their youngest (Isla) expected to join in a couple years. Jay started his accounting career working at a local CPA firm 15 years ago, culminating in running his own firm for 8 years. Throughout those years, he had the joy of supporting our community through tax, accounting and business services. Jay now find himself supporting a local business as their CFO and visionary. Jay feels he adds value to the Board through strengths in leading people, strategic thinking, accounting, and finances. Jay currently serves on the Finance Committee. Jay is serving a 3 year term beginning February 2022.



**AnnMarie Johnson, Board Member**

[annmariejohnson@ansercharterschool.org](mailto:annmariejohnson@ansercharterschool.org)

AnnMarie is in her second term serving on the board. She participates on the resource development committee, CRT+ team, and ad hoc communications committee. Her passion for service on this board is fueled by Anser’s continued leadership in the industry on educating the whole child in an innovative and intentional way. AnnMarie has two daughters that attend Anser and have each found their passion for life-long learning at this school. She grew up in Colorado. A full-ride gymnastics scholarship brought her to Boise where she graduated from BSU with a bachelor and master’s degree. AnnMarie works in athletic administration for BSU doing Title IX compliance and gender equity reviews, but her background is in development and fundraising for non-profit organizations where in her most immediate past I served as interim CEO and then board chair for Make-A-Wish Idaho. Her love for community is her “true north” and she is honored to be part of the Anser Crew.



**Maridee Lemieux, Treasurer**

[marideelemieux@ansercharterschool.org](mailto:marideelemieux@ansercharterschool.org)

Maridee Lemieux received degrees in Accounting and Civil Engineering from the University of Idaho. Maridee began her career working in the accounting field; first as an auditor and then in various roles in corporate accounting. Over the last several years, Maridee has transitioned into project work and is currently the IT Project Manager for Agri Beef. Co. The opportunity to take part in a student exchange program was the catalyst for developing Maridee’s love of travel and community service. She has held leadership positions at both the club and district level for Lions International including serving as the Youth Exchange Coordinator for Lions District 39W. After her son become enrolled in Anser, Maridee shifted her volunteer efforts to supporting the school and is currently serving her third term on the Anser Community Board as Treasurer and member of the Executive and Finance Committees. Maridee enjoys gardening and exploring the great outdoors in Idaho and wherever her travel bug takes her.



**Mike Mann, Board Member**

[mikemann@ansercharterschool.org](mailto:mikemann@ansercharterschool.org)

Mike's daughter is a student who loves learning at Anser. He serves on the board because he appreciates Anser's commitment to teaching young people in a way that contributes to their overall learning, growth, and wellbeing. He also appreciates the Expeditionary Learning approach to education and the school's emphasis on citizenship and service. Mike is an associate professor at Boise State University whose work focuses on the intersection of public education and public health. He is the current editor of the Journal of School Health and a former middle and high school teacher and administrator. He serves on Anser's education, diversity, and COVID response committees. He has been on the board for 2 years.



**Victor McCraw, Board Member**

[vicmccraw@ansercharterschool.org](mailto:vicmccraw@ansercharterschool.org)

Victor (Vic) McCraw (he, him, his) was born and raised in Tacoma, WA, and lived in Arizona before moving to Idaho. Vic joined the Anser Board to contribute to the success of this unique charter school. Two of his children have attended Anser since 2015, and his wife is an Anser employee. Vic retired from Arizona as a State Police Captain after 29 years and served 3.5 years as the Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training Director. Most of his career was spent supervising and managing training and education programs. Vic currently works as an independent consultant and expert in performance improvement and training. He has a BS in Public Safety Administration and a MS in Organizational Performance and Workplace Learning. Vic serves on Anser's Governance and DEIJ subcommittees. In addition to the Anser Board, Vic serves as the Criminal Justice and Legal Redress Committee Chairperson for the Treasure Valley Branch of the NAACP.



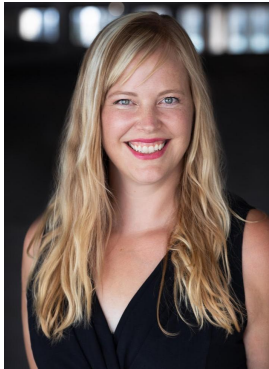
**Doug Metzgar, Board Member**

[dougmetzgar@ansercharterschool.org](mailto:dougmetzgar@ansercharterschool.org)

Doug is passionate about supporting education in Idaho and chose to serve on the Anser Public Charter School board to further the mission of the school in his community. Doug is connected to Anser through his daughters, who attended middle school. While they're in college now, their education at Anser provided them with the skills they possess to succeed today. Doug graduated with an MBA from Boise State in 2010 and has served on and/or led several education-focused boards, from launching a school dedicated to giving Boise refugees a path to be trainee, entry-level developers, to providing opportunity for youth with life-skills and culinary training. Doug was also an adjunct professor for Boise State University's department of business and finance, teaching such topics as consumer behavior, market research, marketing management, principles of management, and leadership skills. Today, Doug is a senior digital strategist for Accenture, a professional services company.



As a member of the Anser board since June 2020, he participates on the resource development committee supporting the school's fundraising efforts.



**Hannah Read Newbill, Parent at Large**

[hannahnewbill@ansercharterschool.org](mailto:hannahnewbill@ansercharterschool.org)

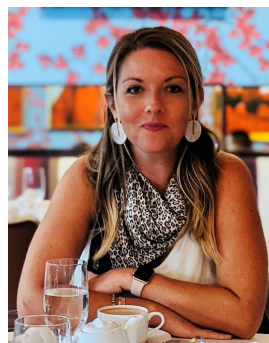
Hannah's son and daughter are early in their education journey and thoroughly adoring the Anser experience. Hannah is delighted to support Anser through board service, utilizing her 25+ years of experience working in non-profit theaters, primarily and currently on the administrative staff of Idaho Shakespeare Festival (ISF) as their director of marketing, and as director of digital and special publications for Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival. She is in charge of all ISF communications, PR, corporate sponsorship, and more, as a "department of one". She is a passionate collaborative creative and loves how Anser empowers students to think creatively, collaboratively, globally, and locally. Hannah serves on the governance committee and joined the board as a parent-at-large in late 2021.



**Sasha Rojas Zaragoza, Family Council Representative**

[sashazaragoza@ansercharterschool.org](mailto:sashazaragoza@ansercharterschool.org)

As a highly involved parent, Sasha finds joy in watching her kids realize their potential and exploring all the great gifts life has to offer. Staying connected to Anser by way of the Anser Board brings the opportunity to contribute to an education model she has trusted and believed in for so long! Anser been her family's school for 13 years! Sasha has had 4 children attend every year since 2009 (one is currently in 7th grade). Managing a household is Sasha's main job but when she does work she is a Montessori teacher. Years of volunteer experience with the refugee community, brought Sasha to her first PTO experience serving on the Hillside JH PTO as their Bridge Program Liaison. Being involved in the Whittier Elementary PTO is another project on her plate! Sasha also serves on Anser's Family Council as the liaison for Junior High. Sasha happily joined the Anser Board in February 2022.



**Caitlyn Scales, President**

[caitlynscales@ansercharterschool.org](mailto:caitlynscales@ansercharterschool.org)

Caitlyn joined the board in 2017 and is Anser's current Board Chair. She has worked with organizations supporting youth for over 15 years as an educator, advocate, and strategist. She has been a teacher in the US and abroad, coached teachers and school leaders nationally, supported strategic visioning focused on systems change in education, launched school choice efforts nationally, and is inspired by the communities she has the privilege to work alongside. Caitlyn serves on the board because she believes it transforms lives and unlocks opportunities for youth beyond the efforts she has seen in her lived experience. Caitlyn is Development Director with a Louisiana-based nonprofit - Three O'clock Project - providing healthy meals and advocacy for

youth in vulnerable communities as well as a strategic consultant with One Stone (where she previously worked) in Boise, ID. Caitlyn is a Chicago native who received her B.S. and M.S. from Indiana University, and received her Ph.D. from Washington State University.



**Brian Whitney, Parent at Large**

[brianwhitney@ansercharterschool.org](mailto:brianwhitney@ansercharterschool.org)

Brian serves on the Anser board as a parent-at-large board member because it is an opportunity to engage as Crew, proactively supporting the Vision, Mission, and goals of the school. He has watched Anser evolve over the years, consistently inspired by the school's commitment to engaging children in authentic, relevant, and meaningful learning. In 2020, his own children began attending Anser and he now has the privilege to see the EL model and Anser's work through the eyes of his own children. Brian's career has been dedicated to education and he has worked in a variety of roles including teaching, consulting, and leadership. Brian currently works for the National Institute for STEM Education, collaborating with teachers, schools, and districts across the country. Brian serves on Anser's Finance and DEI committees. He joined the board in the fall of 2020.



**Brandy Wiggins, Board Member**

[brandywiggins@ansercharterschool.org](mailto:brandywiggins@ansercharterschool.org)

Brandy chose to serve on the Anser board because she believes that equity, diversity, and inclusion are critical pillars to fair education. Her connection to Anser is through a passion for expeditionary learning as well as PNW roots. Brandy is mother to three small children, in a interfaith and multilingual household, and understands the early connections children benefit from through navigating a diverse community. Her professional work is based in Technology, while leading Inclusion & Diversity for thier Portland, Oregon office, heading up an anti racist book club, and co-leading a number of I&D programs for Accenture. Brandy also serves as a PNW I&D ambassador, volunteers with the Afghan Resettlement Project, co-leads the Black Founders Development program, and sits on the Neveh Shalom Foundation School parent committee. She joined the board in November 2021.