



Job Description

Title:	Chief Financial Officer
Division:	Making Waves Academy (Central Office)
Location:	Richmond, CA
Supervises:	Director of Finance, Controller, Accounts Payable/Payroll Specialist
Reports To:	Chief Executive Officer (& Board of Directors)
Status:	Full-time, Exempt

Our Story

Making Waves Foundation was founded in 1989 as a mentoring program to address the disparity in educational opportunities for low-income students in Richmond, CA. For decades, through comprehensive programming and services, Making Waves has helped prepare and support first-generation college students to graduate from competitive institutions across the country.

In 2007, the foundation opened the Making Waves Academy Middle School, a charter school offering a rigorous fifth to eighth grade academic program and comprehensive services for students and families. The Making Waves Academy Upper School was launched in 2011 and provides rich academic course offerings, career exploration and extensive college advisement.

Position Summary

The **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** leads and is responsible for the finance function for Making Waves Academy (MWA). The CFO's position rests within Making Waves Academy Schools (MWAS or "Central Services Office", a division within MWA that is organized to support its campuses. Finance is one of several areas MWAS supports for its existing and new schools including human resources, talent, technology, etc.

The CFO will work with the CEO, board, finance committee, and key leadership to allocate resources aligned with meeting programmatic, strategic, and financial goals. The CFO insures proper accounting systems are being followed to meet federal, state, and local financial compliance regulations. The CFO manages a staff to follow and practice GAAP, internal controls, and other approaches to insure the integrity of and accuracy of our financial records so that MWA is able to meet regulatory and audit standards. The CFO is part of an executive leadership team, under the CEO, that informs and consults on key strategic goals, challenges, and approaches.

The CFO reports directly to the CEO (as well as to the MWA Board of Directors in some instances). The CFO is responsible for establishing a strong line of communication and collaboration with internal stakeholders and leaders as well as one of our key funding entities, Making Waves Foundation (particularly their CFO). He/she partners with the CEO, the finance committee, the audit committee, and other key internal and external stakeholders to address and solve for daily operational challenges, growth/expansion challenges, and other finance-related challenges as they arise. Finally, the CFO communicates regularly and effectively with the CEO, the MWAS Executive Team, internal stakeholders, external constituent groups, the Board of Directors, and the finance and audit committees of the Board.

Primary Responsibilities

Executive Leadership & Strategy

1. Maintain financial best practices, utilize standard operating procedures, and generally serve as a point of reference for MWA financial systems and planning – for both short and long-term goals;
2. Serve on the MWAS Executive Team and serve as an internal consultant to the CEO, COO, Board, and other key stakeholders on MWA financial matters, making recommendations and suggesting pro-active strategies to keep MWA aligned with its financial targets, programmatic growth, and organizational strategic plans;
3. Participate in high-level internal planning regarding MWA's expansion, to ensure alignment of program with financial projections;

Financial Management

4. Support accounting, general ledger and operations functions, ensuring that systems are in place to guarantee timeliness, accuracy, and controls;
5. Provide oversight for and manage all budgets, audits, internal financial plans and processes, and work with key stakeholders to collaborate on financial forecasting for MWA;
6. Work closely and collaboratively with the Finance Committee and Audit Committee to insure MWA is meeting external compliance expectations as well as meeting fiscal oversight expectations;
7. Utilize technology to optimize all reporting, budgeting, forecasting, and analytical functions;

Reporting & Compliance

8. Establish annual priorities and benchmarks, measuring projections against actual performance, and conduct regular reporting to both internal and appropriate external stakeholders;
9. Generate weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports as needed to monitor, evaluate and optimize cash-flow and liquidity, and keep the senior leadership team, Board, staff, and key external stakeholders up-to-date on MWA's financial status;
10. Ensure that MWA meets critical legal compliance benchmarks and annual audit reviews pertaining to public school finance laws and regulations for charter schools, including applied knowledge of the California public education funding system – the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and the annual and Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) process;

General

11. Partner with CEO, COO, and other senior leaders to execute MWA's expansion plans ensuring the organization is operationally prepared, spreading best practices and efficiencies across the organization;
12. Build relationships with key internal and external stakeholders including banks, donors, vendors, outside consultants and others as needed to keep close to and understand MWA's major expenditures and sources of revenue;

13. Keep up with new trends in the education finance, and the financial industry in general, by attending conferences, participating in professional development, and sharing this information with the senior leadership team; and
14. Maintain a top-tier internal finance team by actively recruiting, training and developing talented accountants, clerks, consultants, auditors, and payroll staff, as needed;
15. As MWA grows, participate in updating medium and long-term financial projection models, doing pro-formas, and participating in bond reporting and related activities

Qualifications

Experience

- At least 8 years' senior financial leadership experience in a charter school or traditional public school preferred
- More than 12 years' experience total accounting/finance experience
- Must have knowledge of, and experience with California public school accounting, finance, budget, and audit procedures as well as federally-funded program procedures
- Experience with using Standard Account Code Structures (SACS) for public school fund accounting and experience with the California School Accounting Manual
- Experience at integrating IT/Systems to improve accounting productivity and accuracy
- Experience at working with external auditors, compliance and regulatory oversight
- Commitment to results; 'can-do' mindset; outstanding problem-solving ability
- Experience at change leadership and change management
- Strong motivational and staff leadership abilities
- Excellent analytical, communication and presentation skills
- Integrity and personal sense of accountability
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite (particularly Excel) and familiarity with online software like Intacct, Concur, and Kronos

Skills

- Excellent organization and analytical skills; strong and effective problem-solving skills, ability to implement programs, procedures and systems, manage details, and work independently; ability to develop and revise; and ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously
- Ability to communicate effectively: raising critical issues in a timely way, communicating with and involving stakeholders effectively, and managing up effectively in sharing potential issues and challenges in a timely and appropriate way
- Ability to prioritize tasks and consistently demonstrate strong decision making and judgment skills
- Ability to be flexible, patient, resilient, and adaptable to changing priorities

Additional Responsibilities and Expectations

Mission Alignment

- Demonstrate knowledge of, and support, Making Waves Academy's mission, core values, standards, competencies, and code of conduct outlined in the Employee Handbook
- Participate in the school community – attending school competitions, performances, assemblies, and extracurricular activities

Other

- Perform additional duties as assigned

Education

- Master's in Business Administration (MBA) and a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or Management

Preferred

- CPA & Top Accounting Firm experience preferred
- Chief Business Officer (CBO) Certificate preferred
- Spanish language proficiency preferred but not required