

Candidates for Lafayette HSA Board – school year: 2014 – 2015

Co – President: Laura Lindsley



Over the past three years, I have had the opportunity to work as a substitute teacher, coordinate the Mad Science after school program and volunteer on numerous occasions for classroom and school events. In all these settings, I am continually amazed with how well this school runs. A large part of that success comes from the involvement of our HSA - supporting the Lafayette Enrichment Program (LEP), orchestrating annual fund raising events and organizing volunteers to help make Lafayette one of the best elementary schools in Washington. The HSA is in a unique position to ensure that these efforts are effective, inclusive and well constructed. I saw first hand how the HSA can solve problems and advocate for the needs of the Lafayette community with the development of the Lafayette Enrichment Program. During my tenure as the Mad Science coordinator, managing after school programs became increasingly challenging. The HSA recognized that these important programs were being jeopardized by burdensome and expensive requirements from the DC government. I enjoyed working with the HSA to develop a solution to keep these popular programs at our school. As a result, I would like to play a more active role in the HSA and become a member of the board. With a new principal, construction of a new school and the prospect of redistricting, Lafayette needs a strong HSA. I would look forward to the opportunity to offer my ideas and service in addressing these challenges. With my experience interacting on a daily basis with the faculty at Lafayette, and my experience in navigating intergovernmental agencies, I feel I would be a strong candidate for the HSA board. I sincerely appreciate your consideration.

1st Vice – President: Kristin Willsey

My name is Kristin Willsey and I am running for 1st VP. I have been a Lafayette parent for nine years. I currently have a son in 4th grade and I have two daughters at Alice Deal Middle School. While my professional background is in commercial real estate law, I have spent much of the past nine years volunteering in a various capacities for Lafayette. The first large project I worked on was the renovation of the cafetorium. After seeing the fundraising necessary to accomplish a project like the cafetorium renovation, I moved to the fundraising side and co-chaired the spring auction twice. I have also served as a room parent a number of times and I am currently in the second year of my term as co-treasurer on the HSA Board. When I came on to the Board as treasurer, it became clear to me that the book keeping could use some cleaning up. I have worked with my co-treasurer and the current 1st VP to streamline the accounting program used by the HSA Board to make it easier for the books to be passed on from year to year as board members change. If elected 1st VP I will work with the treasurers to make sure the

process we have put into place works seamlessly for future generations of HSA treasurers - my Lafayette swan song!

2nd Vice – President: Nadia Gold-Moritz, Marek Gootman

Nadia Gold-Moritz



I am interested in joining the HSA Board because I have two children, Sasha (3rd grade) and Elijah (1st grade) who are at Lafayette. I've benefitted greatly from the hard work of the HSA and the vibrant and full educational community that you help create every year. I would like to do my part to give back to this group and lend my skills and energy in whatever way I can. Professionally, I am the Executive Director of the Young Women's Project (YWP), a DC-based nonprofit organization that builds the leadership and power of young women so that they can shape DC policies and institutions to expand rights and opportunities for DC youth. Based in Washington, DC, YWP programs engage under-resourced youth with a focus on teen women and youth in the foster care system and directs their leadership and work through two campaigns: one focused on improving the lives of youth in foster care, the other on expanding youth access to comprehensive sexual health education and services. YWP has worked closely with teen women and policy makers on health, education, and child welfare issues for the past 20 years – working on the ground in several DCPS high schools teaching comprehensive sexual health, with staff at the Department of Health, DCPS, and the Child and Family Services Agency to develop and implement several policies expanding youth rights and opportunities.

Marek Gootman



Over the past two school years, my focus as 2nd Vice President has been executing the position's primary responsibility for handling legal, insurance, and compliance issues; as well as supporting Board reforms to enact tighter budget processes with more clear spending justifications and performance metrics that demonstrate links between fundraising efforts meeting scholastic needs. I also served as HSA co-liaison to

and on a core working group of Lafayette parents addressing DCPS school boundary revision proposals. My relevant professional experience includes 14 years as a practicing attorney; work roles managing budget, contracting, negotiation, and strategic planning functions; and service on several boards of national and local organizations with assets and operating budgets larger than the HSA.

Some specific VP accomplishments included helping to launch the pilot Lafayette Enrichment Program by analyzing liability and building use issues, finalizing draft provider contract language, and contributing to overall project definition / policies; completing a shift of HSA-funded employees over to independent contractor status, negotiating and drafting agreements which reduced HSA costs and liability; inserting accountability and performance standards into contracts; supporting the successful resolution of an IRS inquiry; responding to insurance questions; and researching or preparing other legal documents.

I am running for reelection because it is important to offer continuity and stability in addressing legal and compliance matters during a complex year when the HSA will formalize and expand the Lafayette Enrichment Program with management of building use, consider investments integrated with school renovations, and work with a new principal. I also want to help complete the operational and budget changes that the Board has started. I originally ran for the Board because I saw challenges in maintaining the level of parent HSA involvement and resource commitments that are critical to Lafayette's academic success, and the need to bridge a gap replacing a core group of long-time active parents whose children were aging out. With two children still at Lafayette – grades 2 and 4 (plus an alumna now at Deal) – I believe that need remains through the ongoing HSA transition, and having been through the learning curve on legal and administrative issues, I can make a particular contribution by continuing in this position.

Co- Treasurer: Josh Gordon



I am the father of two second graders: Natalie and Samantha Gordon. My family feels so fortunate to be part of the Lafayette family. Volunteering for the HSA over the last few years has allowed me to give back to the community that has been so welcoming and nurturing.

This year, I have had the pleasure of being on the HSA board as a hospitality co-chair. Spending time preparing food and refreshments for the many different Lafayette events, I have been amazed at the extra time and energy so many parents and staff put in to the school.

I am also currently on the SIT committee helping DCPS design a new, modern building in the upcoming renovation -- which can't start soon enough.

Election as one of the HSA's Treasurers would put me in a position for which I am well prepared. As a senior staff member of a small non-profit, I have organizational experience dealing with budgetary and accounting issues. Since my organization researches the federal budget, I also have analyzed such issues on a much larger scale!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the HSA board and hope to continue that service next year.

Ways and Means: Shannon Behm, Chris Lisi

Shannon Behm



Hello Lafayette Families!

My name is Shannon Behm – mom to Ryan (2nd grade) and Andrew (Pre-K), my third son Matthew (3yrs) will attend Lafayette in the Fall of 2015 – so we will be part of the Lafayette Community for quite some time!

For the past two and a half years, I have supported the HSA Board by helping with the fundraising efforts by being part of the Ways and Means Committee. This committee is special to me, since it generates important dollars that fund various, exciting and special programs at Lafayette. The HSA is very generous to the Lafayette School Community through various fundraising events and vehicles that take place throughout the year. I feel it's very important to continue to raise this money and maintain the momentum that has been built over the past years. The teachers and students rely on the contributions from our community sponsors, parents and other donors.

I have many years of fundraising and event experience and enjoy putting it to good use at Lafayette. I hope you will allow me to serve again for the upcoming school year. Thank you for your continued and generous support of Lafayette.

Chris Lisi



Thank you for considering me for the position of Ways and Means. I am a first year Lafayette parent - my daughter, Willa, is a kindergartner in Ms. Haigler's class. Our family could not be happier so far with our experience at this wonderful school and volunteering for the board is a small way we can give back to the community. For the last two years I have served on a private preschool board where I was part of a very involved parent cohort that recently completed a new head of school search; relaunched their website bringing their application process online; drafted and began executing the school's inaugural communications and marketing plan, as well as served as part of their annual auction team. I would like to bring learnings from my board experience to our community.

Additionally, for the last nearly 20 years I have lived in Washington working in public affairs. I run my own consulting firm which provides me with the opportunity to work for a group of diverse clients who need assistance with their DC profiles. You can find out more about me professionally by visiting LisiCommunications.com.

Thank you again for this opportunity. I look forward to continuing to be an active part of the Lafayette parent community.

Membership: Jenny Backus



My husband Ed Pagano and I have lived in the neighborhood since 2001 and we are the proud parents of a second grader. I work for Google in their DC office as a Senior Policy Advisor and Head of Strategic Partnerships.

For the past two years, I have served as a member of the HSA Hospitality Committee, designing and managing events like Teacher Appreciation Week, the Welcome Back Brunch on the First Day of School, the Teacher Luncheon at the beginning of the year and the Thank You Cocktail Party at the end of the year. In addition to my work on the HSA, I work with Lafayette United,

the informal group of parents monitoring the school boundary revision process currently being considered by DCPS and the Mayor.

During these past years volunteering as part of the Lafayette family, I have gotten the opportunity to see how the HSA can really help contribute to the success of our school through their support of academic, athletic, and cultural enrichment programs. I want to help other parents understand the value of being a member of HSA and that's why I am running this year for the HSA Membership and Dues position.

I have spent the bulk of my career running strategic campaigns in both the public and private sector. I want to use my communication, organization and advocacy skills to help to get more families signed up as members of the HSA and to streamline our dues collection process.

I have appreciated the opportunity to be a part of the HSA and I ask for your support in this new position.

Volunteers: Eileen Dombo



I have been a part of the Lafayette community since 2009 when my daughter Katie started Pre-K. I quickly learned that parent volunteers are an important component of the support system of the school. For the past three years I have served as a room parent and am always amazed at the willingness of parents to step in and help in any way they can. In my professional life, I am a clinical social worker and have worked in non-profit agencies that rely heavily on volunteer support to provide services. I would like to become a board member to help facilitate the link between the HSA and parent volunteers.

Early Childhood: Eve Bennet



My name is Eve Bennet, and I am running for the Early Childhood Representative on the HSA Board. I have 3 kids, my son who is a Lafayette graduate now in 6th grade at Deal, my daughter who is in 5th grade and completing her final year at Lafayette and my 4 year old daughter who will be starting Pre-K in the fall at Lafayette. I think I am a great candidate for this position

both because I have been a Lafayette parent for 7 years and have had 2 kids go through the early childhood years at Lafayette so I know the ropes, and because I will be starting the process all over again with my third child, I have a vested interest in the community. In terms of school volunteer experience, I have served as a room parent almost every year, co-ran the Bears Den store early on, volunteered on auctions, fall festivals, spring fairs, field trips, parties and in the classroom. In my professional life, I have a Masters in Social Work which never hurts when dealing with people! My family loves Lafayette and I would love to serve in this role. Thank you for your consideration.

Hospitality: Sarah Rabasco, Lisa Mitchell

Sarah Rabasco



My daughter, Lexi, is in second grade and my husband and I are so grateful to be members of the Lafayette community. Impressed by the dedication of the teachers, staff, and parents of Lafayette, I am hoping to become a member of the HSA to give back to the community and help maintain excellence at our school as we head into a key period of leadership transition.

I have been involved at Lafayette through work on the auction, volunteering in the classroom, and participation at the Fall Festival and Spring Fair. I am running for co-chair of the hospitality committee in order to be an active member of next year's board and to help convey a sense of community and inclusiveness to everyone interested in working for the good of Lafayette.

Prior to moving to Chevy Chase in 2008, I served for many years as the president of our condo association board in Kalorama, during which time I led action on many key issues that improved the lifestyle of the residents and staff of our former community. I currently work for the government running a large and dynamic analytic unit with a sizable budget. As such, I am adept at strategic planning, problem solving, and working with others to achieve common goals. I am excited about the prospect of serving on the HSA and look forward to interacting with many Lafayette families over the next year

Lisa Mitchell

My family and I moved to Washington, DC almost two years ago. I feel very lucky to be a part of such a welcoming and active community. I have two children who currently attend Lafayette Elementary School. It is an incredible experience to see them thriving in the nurturing atmosphere of Lafayette.

Before moving to the area I was an elementary school teacher for twenty years. My experience as a teacher has contributed to my knowledge of the needs of both parents and teachers. I have enjoyed volunteering for school events and in the classroom. I would like to give back to the dedicated parents and teachers of Lafayette by volunteering to be a member of the HSA.

Environment: Keith Jones



My name is Keith Jones and I am running for the Environment HSA Board position. Our two seven-year olds are in 1st grade at Lafayette. I have served this last year on the HSA board as the 1st Vice President, and with the coming renovation I want to bring that experience to supporting HSA projects that will make our schools and grounds an ideal setting for all our children's learning and development. I live across the street from the school, which is a great vantage point to see how the building and grounds get used and to monitor progress of any projects the HSA sponsors. In my professional life I am the Deputy CFO for a Department of Homeland Security component.

Outreach/Tours: Jennifer Lanoff

This is my seventh year as a Lafayette parent and I am looking forward to continuing to be involved in this amazing community. I have three children: Alex, who is in sixth grade, Natalie, who is in fourth grade, and Lilah, who is in kindergarten. I would be honored to serve again as the outreach/ tours chair for LHSA and share my experiences with and welcome prospective parents to our school. I have been a room parent for many of my childrens' classes and have also been an editor for the Tuesday Bulletin. Currently, I work as an attorney at the Public Defender Service in the District. I also grew up in this neighborhood and attended Murch Elementary School.

Communications: Stacy Beck



My name is Stacy Beck & I'm running for the Communications position on the HSA Board. I have two children at Lafayette (Hadley in K and William in 2nd), with a third (Jack) due to start in Fall 2015. After two years of serving as a room parent, I am eager to contribute more to the HSA. I am a former Capitol Hill press secretary and currently operate my

own writing and editing firm, so the Communications slot is a good match with my experience and skill set. Thank you for your consideration

Community Representatives: Joe Nelson, Mark Friedman

Joe Nelson



I'm Joe Nelson,

My wife (Jack) and I have lived in the Lafayette school district since 2005. We don't have children in Lafayette, but we are incredibly supportive of the school. I welcome an opportunity to participate in working with parents, teachers, and the community to ensure that Lafayette elementary continues to be the draw and center of the Chevy Chase area community. My background is military, engineering, and hard sciences and I have previously volunteered as a tutor and teacher for middle school/ high school engineering prep programs. This would be my second year as a community member and I have been active participant on the board and also involved in the selection committee for the new principal. As a member of the community, issues of school security, renovations, boundaries, and after school program are among the interests and concerns I share with the HSA. If selected for the HSA, I feel my leadership, work, and educational background will continue to be of great value to the Lafayette community.

Mark Friedman



My neighbor, Kristin Willsey mentioned that members of the Lafayette Community who do not have children currently attending the school can still be members of the HSA. My Wife and I plan on sending our young boys to Lafayette once they are old enough, but I am interested in being involved with the school now if you need some more assistance.

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> My Wife and I have lived in D.C. since 2008, but moved to Chevy Chase last July before the birth of our second son. The close proximity to the school was the most important factor when

choosing our home. We go to the park often and can't wait to send both of our boys there (our older son turns 3 next month). I grew up in Potomac, MD and we lived in New York for a while after college before returning to DC so we could start our family. I am happy to answer any questions you may have and hopefully I can help out the Lafayette community.

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