

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM 2012-2013

***Note that you will vote for only four (4) LSAT candidates.**

Eden Burgess – Candidate for LSAT Representative

I would like to serve as Lafayette's parent representative on the Local School Advisory Team. My daughter just began her time at Lafayette, entering PK in 2011. I have found several ways to support Lafayette this year, serving as a room parent and helping to organize the annual Wine Party fundraiser in February.

I have lived in DC since 1998, moving with my family to Chevy Chase in 2004. I graduated from GWU Law School in 2000 and have practiced art, cultural heritage and museum law at a DC firm since that time. I also teach an art and cultural heritage law seminar at GWU Law School.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve the Lafayette community by joining LSAT.

Arthur Burriss – Candidate for LSAT Representative (current LSAT Representative)

I'm the father of Lafayette third-grader Andy and Kindergarten student Matt. I've lived in the Lafayette neighborhood since 2002, and have served on the LSAT for the past two years. My professional background includes ten years working for the Budget Committee in the House Representatives, where I began as an analyst for education issues. I currently work as the policy director at Living Cities, a non-profit philanthropic collaborative that makes investments in urban revitalization initiatives. My background also includes experience teaching public sector budgeting in the public policy program at George Mason University. I am interested in working on the issues that come before the LSAT, including how Lafayette's curriculum, staffing, budget, and other pieces fit together.

Celia Byrne - Candidate for LSAT Representative (current LSAT Representative)

I have served on the LSAT for the past year and would like to continue to serve the Lafayette community in this way. I am the mother of two third graders, Linnea and Henry Byrne Kvalsvik, who have been Lafayette students for five years now. During this time, the number of students attending Lafayette has continued to grow. As a University faculty member I teach both graduate and medical students as well as conduct epidemiological research to understand breast cancer etiology. During the past five years I have tried to participate in field trips, class room reading, and art classes as often as possible hoping to better understand and support my children's classroom curriculum activities and goals. While many of the experiences at Lafayette have been outstanding, this is not the reason I hope to continue serving as a parent representative

to the LSAT (Local School Advisory Team - formerly LSRT). The designated role of the LSAT is “to advise the principal on matters that promote high expectations and high achievement for all students”.

This past year the LSAT has begun discussions of a variety of issues from ways to foster a better understanding of the on-going arts integration program at Lafayette to the idea of trying to improve the integration of science into the curriculum at all grade levels. We have just recently met with the DCPS representative to discuss the plans for additional (Temporary) trailers, outlining renovations plans for the existing school, and then looking towards the planning for an addition to Lafayette. Clearly, Lafayette will be changing physically over the next few years, but we need to be prepared to also change and grow in other ways as well. I believe that Lafayette cannot rest on its reputation alone. We need to continue to work to improve things at Lafayette so every child gets the best educational experience possible and school is neither a boring nor frustrating experience. Hopefully, this year we can develop mechanisms where more parents can get involved in the planning for these “changes” to Lafayette.

Jeanne Metzger - Candidate for LSAT Representative

I am a mom of two Lafayette students (currently in 1st and 3rd grade) and have lived in the Lafayette neighborhood since 1999. Being the youngest of three children, I spent much of my childhood attending PTA meetings and school fundraisers with my mom, which taught me first-hand how important it is for parents to be involved in their local schools. I currently work as a marketing and fundraising consultant to the National Venture Capital Association but in my “spare” time I really enjoy volunteering in my children’s classrooms and getting to know other Lafayette parents. I am excited about the prospect of serving on the LSRT and working with the teachers and school administration on ways that can enhance our children’s elementary school experience.

Peaches Scribner – Candidate for LSAT Representative

We are new to the Lafayette community, having moved here almost two years ago. Like many families, we chose this neighborhood specifically for the school. My daughters Hanna Gage and Elinor are in 4th and 1st grades. I am now a stay-home mom, but for the 5 years previous to our move I was a medical writer and editor at The University of Alabama at Birmingham. Before that I worked for an AOL/Time, Inc. publication, Health Magazine.

I have had several of what I consider mini-careers because we have moved often for my husband's job. My original career was in education. I won a fellowship upon graduation from The University of the South (1987) and completed teacher training in this accelerated program at The University of Tennessee, where I continued to work toward a Master's degree even after I started classroom teaching. I taught for 8 years, from grades 5 up to 12, in both private and public schools. In Nashville I taught both regular classes and AP classes at an inner-city public high school; in Harford County, Maryland, I taught middle school history, geography, and a cornucopia of sex education, physical education, and whatever was needed at the time. In a private school in Jacksonville, Florida, I taught 5th grade language arts. I also coached soccer in several of these

positions. I continued earning hours toward a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, but I did not complete that degree, choosing instead to attend graduate school full time at Vanderbilt, where I earned a Master's in History.

Being new to this community, I have been looking for the best way to serve our school. I believe strongly that parents and community members must be vigilant stewards of our educational system and that everyone should contribute their talents and experience in some way to ensure the future success of our children and of our whole community and city.

Dana Kelly Springer – Candidate for LSAT Representative

I have two children, one a rising kindergartener at Lafayette and a two-year-old and future Lafayette student. I've worked in education research and assessment for more than 15 years. I currently work at the U.S. Department of Education, where I manage an international education study that benchmarks U.S. student performance with that of other countries and compares countries' educational policies and practices. I've also worked with other countries' education ministries and conducted evaluations of educational programs. I would like to serve on the LSAT and work with the administration, teachers, and others to provide the best experience for everyone at Lafayette.