

# CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

## HSA BOARD 2012-2013

**\*Note that you will vote for only 1 co-president candidate.**

### **Michael Koppenheffer – Candidate for Co-President\***

I have two daughters at Lafayette: one in third grade and one in first. I'm running for HSA co-president because I believe that it's critical that the HSA become a stronger advocate for all families at Lafayette, and that a more vocal and more involved parent body will help Lafayette become a better place academically and socially for everyone.

Over the past year, I've had many discussions with parents, teachers, and administrators, at Lafayette and elsewhere in DCPS, about areas where we could improve and how parent involvement can help support positive change. I've also visited several other DCPS elementary schools for our superintendent's Cluster Parent Meetings to find out firsthand what other schools are doing well and to bring ideas back to discussions at Lafayette.

As co-president, I would focus on getting more parents participating with the HSA, at meetings and outside of them, bringing more voices to the table. In addition, I would work on strengthening communication between the administration, teachers, and parents—making it more transparent and more effective.

### **Gayle Moseley – Candidate for Co-President\***

I have been involved in the Lafayette community since 2006 when our oldest daughter, Iris, started Pre-K here. Next year, Iris will be a 5th grader and our youngest daughter, Peyton, will be in the first grade having also started at Lafayette as a Pre-Ker. As such, I will have children at virtually both ends of the age spectrum at the school, giving me unique perspective and interaction with a variety of parents, teachers and kids.

I have enjoyed participating on the HSA Board this past year as Hospitality Co-Chair and am looking forward to the possibility of working alongside Jenny Murray as her Co-President. With each year, I have discovered more ways to become involved at Lafayette. Besides serving on the Board this year, I am a Room Parent, a member of the Nutrition Committee and I assist with the Gardening Chefs club each Monday after school. I served as Co-Chair of the 2009 Fall Festival and have helped with the pre-K Class Creations for the past three auctions. I was also in charge of coordinating the school pictures fundraiser this year and plan to do so again next year. Like many other parents, I enjoy participating in the classroom and attending field trips with my children.

My interest in becoming Co-President of Lafayette does not stem from a specific platform or agenda, but merely from an interest in working with others to help the HSA communicate its purpose and ideas to all parents at Lafayette so that we can maximize interest and participation from as many parents as possible at any level throughout the school year. I believe I bring a strong sense of responsibility, practicality, objectiveness

and communication to the Board and would look forward to the opportunity to help lead the HSA in the 2012-2013 school year. In addition to the teachers and administrators at Lafayette, I truly believe it would not be the wonderful school it is without the help of the parents and the role the HSA plays in facilitating that parent/school relationship.

**Kate Mazza - Candidate for 1st Vice President (current Co-Treasurer)**

I am honored to be running for 1st Vice President this year. My son is currently in 3rd grade in Mrs. Jensen's class. I currently work in the field of financial risk modeling and management, which can be a rather chaotic profession. This year, I have a flexible work schedule and have been able to volunteer in the classroom during Writer's Workshop. I continue to be amazed at the incredibly creative stories our children invent. I have had the opportunity to serve on the Lafayette HSA board as a co-Treasurer for the past four years. I feel fortunate for the opportunity I had to work with very dedicated board members and look forward to the prospect of continuing to volunteer for the Lafayette school community and to help mentor our new co-Treasurer.

**Marek Gootman – Candidate for 2nd Vice President**

With three children in Lafayette – currently grades K, 2, and 4 – my wife Jennifer and I have been involved with HSA and school-related efforts for the past five years, from fundraising and room parent activities to coaching student teams in external sports leagues. I was motivated to run for the Board because of the challenges this past year in maintaining and expanding parental involvement, collecting dues, and securing new leaders to manage annual events, recognizing the need to replace prior active parents whose children are aging out of Lafayette. Specific to the 2nd Vice President role overseeing legal compliance issues, I am an attorney with 12+ years of experience; however, I also bring a background with other relevant budget / contract, management, and board experience. My professional work at a think tank and law firm entails responsibility for overseeing large budgets, contracts, and teams of professionals in collaborative decision-making environments, as well as strategic planning and negotiation functions. I also currently serve on three organizational boards (two national, one local), previously served on three other boards for entities with notable capital assets and operating budgets, and participated in training on board governance and membership issues. Therefore, in addition to handling the 2nd Vice President functions, I can help in other areas of Board activity and outreach.

**Kristin Willsey – Candidate for Co-Treasurer**

Our family has been at Lafayette since 2004 and we are grateful to have found such a wonderful community in which to raise our three children. My eldest daughter went through Lafayette and is now a 6th grader at Alice Deal and my other two children are in 4th grade and 2nd grade here at Lafayette. In my years at Lafayette I have been active in a variety of ways. I served on the renovation committee during the planning and renovation of the cafetorium. I co-chaired the Spring Auction in 2010 and again this year in 2012. In 2011 I served on the HSA Nominating Committee and co-chaired the wine committee for the auction. I've also served as a room parent a number of times. I am a lawyer by education but "retired" from my part-time practice a couple of years ago.

I look forward to bringing my experiences outside the HSA Board to the position of co-treasurer.

**Sue Wright - Candidate for Volunteer Chair (current Volunteer Chair)**

This is my 6th year at Lafayette. I have one daughter, Avery in 3rd grade. I have been the Volunteer Coordinator for the past 3 years and would love to continue in this capacity. I have done a variety of volunteering during my time at Lafayette, for instance, co-chaired the Spring Fair, co-chaired the Auction Getaway category, I am currently chairing the T-shirt sales for the Spring Fair. I hope to serve another year as Volunteer Coordinator.

**Rita Brickman - Candidate for Early Childhood Liaison (current Early Childhood Liaison)**

I have had the honor of serving as the HSA's Early Childhood Liaison this past year, and would welcome the opportunity to continue to serve in this capacity. I have always found the strength of commitment of our teachers and parents inspiring, and would enthusiastically represent our vibrant early childhood wing. Formerly a practicing attorney, I am now home with my three daughters, Hannah, Abby, and Eva. Hannah will be in Kindergarten at Lafayette next year, Abby will be in fifth grade, and Eva has since graduated, and has moved on to Deal. Over the past nine years as a member of the Lafayette community, I have also served several years as the HSA Secretary and as a room parent, and have participated in many classroom activities and fundraising events.

**Marilyn Kitzes – Candidate for Communications Chair (current Communications Chair)**

Our family is now in its third year at Lafayette. We have one son, Gabriel Satin, who started Lafayette in the Pre-K, and will be entering 2nd grade next year. During the past year, I have held the HSA Board's communications position. The year before I served as the Board's co-chair of Hospitality. In addition, I have served for the past two years as co-chair of the Lafayette Spring Fair. I have also served as a room parent during my son's Pre-K and Kindergarten years. Professionally, I'm a senior copywriter at Hirshorn Zuckerman Design Group, an integrated marketing firm. Before my time in Washington, I worked as a writer in the advertising departments of several women's magazines in New York. I enjoy leveraging my writing and communications experience to help create excitement around Lafayette's special events and activities.

**Julie Maner – Candidate for Dues Chair (current Dues Chair)**

I am a stay-at-home mom with three boys. Charlie is in 1st grade at Lafayette. Previously I worked in finance and strategy with my last "official" position at United Airlines in E-commerce. I've been a room parent for several of my children's classes, have co-chaired the Lafayette auction (2009), and the live auction the year before. I was the Dues HSA board member last year and am excited to take what I learned last year to make the position more efficient and fruitful for the school.

### **Candidate for Ways and Means Co-Chair**

[to be added]

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[to be added]

### **Jenny Backus – Candidate for Hospitality Co-Chair**

I am the proud mom of a kindergartner and a huge fan of Lafayette. We have a tremendous group of parents, teachers, students and staff at Lafayette who have taught me so much. I would love to have the opportunity to help connect new parents and community members to the people who make our school so great. Right now I own my own strategic consulting company and have worked in policy, politics, event management and communications here in DC for the past ten years. One of the best things I like about my job is that it allows me time to volunteer in the school and spend time with my son. For the past two years I have worked on the Communications Committee for the Auction and this year we volunteered as a group of kindergarten parents to host a parents party. I am also a member of the Nutrition Committee and have loved working with the other parents on projects like our School Salad bar, Gardening Chefs, the new Lafayette gardening and cooking club, and Strawberry and Greens day. I have also volunteered on the Book Fair, the Spring Fair and our family loves baking pies for the Fall Festival.

### **Janine Finck-Boyle – Candidate for Hospitality Co-Chair**

Last year I became a Lafayette parent as my son, Finn entered Pre –K. I was excited to be part of a community that not only gives back to the school in many ways, but also supports the teachers, parents and children as they navigate elementary school. As a Pre-K parent, I joined the Auction committee and co chaired the For the Adults category. It was a rewarding experience that introduced me to the importance of volunteering at Lafayette. This year I am an assistant room parent for Finn's Kindergarten class and enjoy being part of the inner workings of the classroom, planning events and supporting his teacher, Ms. Haigler. As this year comes to a close, I would be honored to serve on the HSA and take what I have learned and help other parents both new and current be part of all the things that make Lafayette special.

I have lived in the District since 1999, working as a health care executive throughout the city. Currently, I am operating a facility here in northwest where customer service and the first impression are the keys to our success. I would like to use those skills on the Hospitality committee to open the doors to our parents and community, as we together support Lafayette.

### **Kimberly Cestari – Candidate for Environmental Chair (current Environmental Chair)**

I'm the mom of Anna, a 5th grader, and Gabrielle (aka Gigi), a 3rd-grader and we have been part of the Lafayette community since 2005 when Anna began Pre-K. In the past, I

have had the honor of serving on the HSA board as the Hospitality co-chair and have served as the Environmental Chair for the past 4 years. As a neighborhood Realtor, my negotiating and follow up skills as well as my knowledge of repairs from oh so many home inspections, has served me well in this position. With the help and support of the other talented members of the HSA board, I have enjoyed coordinating the many projects around the school such as overseeing the installation of the new Cafetorium floor and the new Teacher's Lounge. I look forward to addressing numerous other repair projects as they arise and working with the HSA on the next capital improvement project.

**Jen Lanoff – Candidate for Outreach/Tours Chair (Current Outreach/Tours Chair)**

This is my fifth 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 fourth grade, Natalie, who is in second grade, and Lilah, who will be starting pre-k next year. 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 several of Alex's and Natalie's 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.

**Candidate for Community Representative (forthcoming)**

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**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.

**Arthur Burris – 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.

**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 LSAT and working with the teachers and school administration on ways that can enhance our children’s elementary school experience.