**Margaret Lidstone:**

Thank you for considering me to join the Lafayette HSA board as co-president. As members of the Lafayette community since our kids started pre-K, we feel fortunate to be part of such a dynamic and supportive school environment – it was, like for many of you, the reason we moved to the neighborhood. Our daughter, Maisie, is a third grader in Mrs. Campbell’s class and our son, Jasper, is in Ms. Mesghenna’s 2nd grade class. Over the past few years, I have had the privilege of volunteering in a variety of capacities at school and am eager to become more involved in helping the board in their mission to bring parents and the school together in cooperative ways. As a new HSA board member, I hope to further our community, based in vibrant parent involvement, by adding my voice, perspective and skills to the rich experience already around the HSA board table and in the staff at the school.

I have lived in Washington, DC off and on for nearly 20 years, with time spent in India, Kosovo, Nepal, and Switzerland. A lawyer by training, I have worked in numerous roles for the likes of the United Nations, Booz Allen, Department of State, and presently a global non-profit leading strategic planning, fundraising, advocacy campaigns, and stakeholder management. I have also been engaged with numerous boards, including managing the board of a multilateral organization. I strive to work with others by keeping focused on our shared goals while adding a sense of humor and flexibility when things might (do) not go as planned. Also, I often work from home which provides me with some flexibility to dedicate the time needed to support our school.

Thank you again for this opportunity. I look forward to working with the Lafayette parent community in support of our amazing school, its staff and, above all, our students.

**Shannon Behm:**Hi, my name is Shannon Behm, my husband Michael and I have lived in the neighborhood for 16 years.  We have 3 boys, Ryan - rising 6th grader, Andrew - rising 3rd grader and Matthew - rising 1st grader.  Our family feels very fortunate for our boys to attend an amazing DCPS elementary school, within walking distance of our home.  We support the the Administration and Staff who take great care of our boys and provide a strong education for them within a beautiful new learning environment.    I have served on the HSA Board for the past three years.  I would like to continue my service for SY 2017-18 by supporting the financial management of the funds raised by the HSA and serve as 1st Vice President.  I believe my tenure on Board allows me to provide the support needed.  I would greatly appreciate your vote, thank you.

**Colleen Lyster:**Hello Lafayette Families. My name is Colleen Lyster and I am running for the 2nd Vice President position on the HSA board. I have two children at Lafayette, my son is in 3rd grade and my daughter is in 1st.

For the past two school years, I have served as the 2nd VP on the HSA Board. I would like to continue in that role, to provide continuity for all compliance and oversight activities for the HSA. During my time as 2nd VP, I have worked to update all of the contracts for the HSA, including the contract that covers our valuable Peace Program. I have also completed a comprehensive review of our insurance requirements, to ensure that our policies are up to date, and led the HSA’s oversight function for our afterschool enrichment program.

I have been a practicing employment attorney for the last 15 years. During that time, I have also worked on budget formulations and operating plans, to ensure that budget priorities align with actual spending. Given my professional experience, as well as my past 2 years serving on the Board, I think I will be able to contribute a lot to the position of 2nd Vice President. Thank you for your consideration.

**Kavita Chambery:**

My name is Kavita Chambery, my daughter starts second grade this fall. I currently serve on the HSA in the treasurer capacity and would like to continue to serving in this role to support our students, staff, and teachers. I recently co-chaired the auction and am looking forward to building on my experience of being on the board for the next two years.  My professional background is international development where I manage large complex programs in challenging environments across the world. I look forward to my continued engagement as a member of the Lafayette community.

**Tonya Esposito:**My name is Tonya M. Esposito (f/k/a Tonya Esposito Oliver) and I am the proud parent of two lovely little ladies: Madeline (1/Mr Martin), and Emma (rising pre-K 4 student at Lafayette, currently attending Appletree's Columbia Heights campus). I served as the HSA Membership Chair during the 2015-16 school year, as well as a room parent during the 2014-2015 school year.  I look forward to being an active Lafayette community member for years to come, and would like to continue to serve on the HSA board in one of the two the Treasurer positions for the 2017-18 school year (I'm in the process of finishing the first year of my term as Treasurer).

I have practiced law for 16 years and also serve as a member of my alma matter's alumnae board for the past seven years as both a Regional Director and a Treasurer.  I believe I am well positioned to serve in the Treasurer role given my experience, and I look forward to a working with the Board during what I know will be another successful year!

**Astrid Ruggeri:**I am writing today to express my interest in re-election for the Ways and Means co-chair position.

This school year was a successful one for Ways and Means as we set record levels for annual sponsorships.  I look forward to the 2017-18 school year to continue to maximize the funds raised by events and sponsors that help support the many activities and programs funded by the HSA.  As a parent of 2 children within Lafayette, 3rd and 2nd graders, being part of their school community is key.  I enjoy assisting the HSA and this additional integration.   With an extensive background in event planning and managing large project budgets, I feel that this experience along with strong organizational skills, the Ways and Means Committee is a perfect fit!

I thank you for your consideration.

**Sean Maloney:**

To the HSA Board and all members of this great Lafayette community, I would like to introduce myself as a candidate for the Board.

My family and I joined Lafayette in the fall of 2014 when our eldest son Rhys began Pre-K with Mr. Johnson. We have loved and appreciated the school ever since. Our youngest son Hugo is now in Pre-K with Ms. Martinez, and Rhys is a thriving first grader with Ms. DeJonckheere.

This school year, I have been fortunate enough to spend a lot of time volunteering in both pre-k and first grade. The extra time with the kids and teachers has really inspired me to become more involved with the school community. We are incredibly fortunate to have such amazing teachers, parents and administrators in this school. We also have a great HSA. Most importantly, we have great kids!

I have spent my career in management and operations roles in big institutions. My graduate degree is in Non-Profit Management, with a focus on International Development. I have lived and worked overseas on numerous occasions and possess an extremely acute ability to navigate in multicultural environments.

I currently run my own consulting practice focused on building public-private partnerships in emerging markets.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have and I look forward to supporting the HSA in any way I can.

**Carrie Willimann:**

My name is Carrie Willimann.  I am running for the position of Volunteer Coordinator on the HSA Board.  I am a former DC Public School (DCPS) teacher, former DCPS student (Janney and Deal), current DCPS parent and fourth generation Washingtonian. My family and I take great pride in being part of our school community.  I understand the important role that volunteers have in ensuring that Lafayette is a special place for all our children.

I have experienced this first-hand over the past five years as a parent (daughter, Lillie, is in 3rd grade), and through my volunteer roles as a Room Parent, Girl Scout Troop leader for the past four years, and as an elected member of the Lafayette’s Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) for the past two years.

Professionally, I have over 15 years of experience working in the international development education sector, which requires a deep understanding of what it takes to create a positive school environment that supports teachers and staff, and engages families.

I would be honored to have the opportunity to continue to contribute my time, enthusiasm and ideas to Lafayette and this wonderful community of families by serving as Volunteer Coordinator on the HSA Board.

**Laura Nelms**:
My name is Laura Nelms, and I am the proud parent of Chloe (2nd grade) and Leyla (Pre-K).  My husband, Jonathan, and I moved to the neighborhood four years ago and have enjoyed being part of the Lafayette community.  I am excited about working to improve the sustainability of Lafayette’s facilities and grounds, and I would be thrilled to serve again as the Environment Chair of the HSA.

I am co-chair and founder of Lafayette’s GROW (Greening, Recreation, Outdoor Learning and Wellness) Committee, which promotes environmental and nutrition initiatives at Lafayette.  These include securing a grant to support gardening and cooking programs, organizing Healthy Schools Month and helping grow the school garden and outdoor classroom.

My professional experience includes working as an Environmental Specialist at the DC Department of Environment. I managed grants related to low impact development and led the DC Schoolyard Greening Consortium, which brought together organizations to work with DCPS schools to create gardens and outdoor learning spaces.  I have also worked at several environmental non-profits, with a focus on professional training and education.

I would be honored to serve again on the HSA as the Environment Chair.  Thank you for your consideration.

**Clare Sant/Zentay:**

Hi! My name is Clare Sant/Zentay and my husband Charles and I are the happy parents of Finn (2nd Grade), Emory (1st Grade) and Grace (2nd yr of Casa at Auguste Montessori).  We joined the Lafayette community in 2015 and look forward to being active Lafayette parents for many years to come.  Since joining Lafayette I’ve served as room parent 3 times, and enjoy lending my support as a volunteer anyway I can across a range of events, including most recently as a Silent Auction 'Greeter' at our 1928 Auction!

This year I’ve been invited to run as a Hospitality co-chair for 2017-18 and am delighted by the opportunity to participate more formally on our school’s HSA, and in such a fun role!  I love being part of the Lafayette community and welcome the opportunity to make new friends, continue to help host welcoming (and nourishing!) events at the school, as well as show our appreciation and support to all the staff at Lafayette who make it such a special place for us to be.

My background is in Finance, and after a lifetime on Wall Street I hope I’ve got the creativity, problem solving and planning skills to help the HSA and Hospitality Committee in its roles supporting – and on special occasions feeding and watering – this lively community of ours.

**Edith Rankin:**
Hello, My Name is Edith Rankin, Marc and I are proud parents of Anthony (3rd grade), Olivia (2nd) grade, and Emma (Kindergarten) at our wonderful Lafayette ES. We have been happily living in the area for past 12 years and I feel fortunate to be part of the amazing Lafayette community. I have enjoyed volunteering at many levels at Lafayette, for example, co-chair of the 2016 Fall Festival, event helper, auction decorations committee, and currently as a room parent for Ms. Ivy’s class. I dawned on me last year after the fall festival that it takes a huge village of parents to maintain our wonderful school and I want to be part our village serving as Hospitality Co-Chair. Being part of a large family and active with my church I have served in this capacity on numerous occasions. Organizing a team to arrange both food and decorations to display festive and welcoming scenery. Currently I work part-time at Virginia Hospital Center, as mammography technologist. I have worked well with a diverse group of people, both fellow employees and patients. I enjoy challenging opportunities and I thrive on team work atmosphere. Not new to this area of work, prior to entering the healthcare field, while attending college, I served in the Hospitality industry for 5 years with the Holiday Inn Corporation. I would be happy to serve as hospitality co-chair and I want thank you for consideration.

**Nedra Pickler:**

My name is Nedra Pickler, and I'm running for re-election for a third year on the HSA board. I've spent the past two years as a hospitality co-chair and now am interested in serving as outreach coordinator to help welcome new families to our community. I love being on the board because it allows me to help contribute to Lafayette's proud tradition as a school of hard-working staff backed by involved families. I moved to this neighborhood seven years ago when my oldest son, Will, was an infant because of Lafayette's great reputation. Next year Will is going to be in 2nd grade and my younger son Quinn in kindergarten. I believe a key part of Lafayette's success is the role parents play supporting the school, and a strong and financially sound HSA is at the heart of that advocacy. I would love to continue serving on the board next year and look forward to being an active part of our lively community for a long time to come.

**Sophie Hanrahan:**

My name is Sophie Hanrahan, and I am running for one of the two communications co-chair positions. I moved to the neighborhood four years ago with my husband, Tim. We are proud parents of twins, Clementine and John, who are in first grade.

I’ve been a communications co-chair since October, working with the HSA to keep families informed about Lafayette news and events.

Recently, I helped spearhead an effort to redesign our school website and streamline our communications tools. The new website will be unveiled in a few weeks—stay tuned! I am also a Tuesday Bulletin editor and a two-time room parent.

My background is a good match for this position—I am a recovering newspaper reporter who now works in marketing and communications for a management consultancy. I hope to continue my work helping to connect our engaged and vibrant Lafayette community in 2017-18.

**Carroll Vulcannon:**

Hello, Lafayette community!  My name is Carroll Vuncannon, and I am running to serve on the HSA as a Communications co-chair.  Next year will be my third at the school as the mom of Louella, a rising second grader, and Hazel, an enthusiastic Bear at heart who will officially join the Lafayette community in 2018.  I am currently wrapping up a four-year term on the Board at my daughters' preschool (CCBC) and am excited to get similarly involved here.  This past year at Lafayette, I've volunteered as a room parent, enjoyed helping out at various events, and served as a co-leader for the first grade girl scout Daisy troop.  As I look to get more involved in the HSA, I believe my skill set as a former high school English teacher is especially well-suited to the Communications role. I look forward to working with my co-chair to ensure articulate, timely, and efficient communication to and throughout the Lafayette community, whether promoting school functions, celebrating student achievements, or raising community awareness of important issues.  Moreover, my background gives me an especial appreciation for the partnership between parents, teachers, and administrators that is both essential for students and schools to thrive and a hallmark of Lafayette.  I hope that by serving in the Communications role, I will be able to help ensure that our community continues to benefit from clear information and open discourse as well as to foster that spirit of community that makes Lafayette such a special place.

**Eve Bennet:**My name is Eve Bennet, and I am running for the Early Childhood Representative on the HSA Board for a fourth term. I have been a proud Lafayette parent for 10 years. I have 3 kids; 2 are Lafayette graduates - a daughter now in 8th grade at Alice Deal Middle School and a son now in 9th grade at Woodrow Wilson High School, as well as my 7-year-old daughter, Charlotte, who is in her third year at Lafayette, currently in first grade. I have had 3 kids go through the early childhood years at Lafayette and have served on the board in this position for the past 3 years. In terms of other school volunteer experience, I have served as a room parent at least 10 times, 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!

**Erinn Walsh:**My name is Erinn Walsh and I am running for Early Childhood Liaison. My husband Tim and I have lived in the neighborhood for the last 10 years and it has been a very special place to start a family. I spent the last seven years teaching just down the street at the Episcopal Center for Children and at the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center prior to that. Currently, I am busy at home with our four young children. Three will be at Lafayette next year in 3rd, 2nd, and PreK. We have truly enjoyed being part of the Lafayette community and I would love to help welcome our new PreK and K families and introduce them to all that Lafayette has to offer. Before our first was old enough to attend Lafayette, I served as the HSA Community Representative for two years. It was a wonderful way to see the ways in which the board engages the parents and community to enhance our children's experience at Lafayette. I would be honored to be a part of that again having had two and now a third child transition from preschool to elementary through the early childhood program.

My family loves Lafayette and I would be honored to serve in this role for a fourth term. Thank you for your consideration.