

# WHS School Council Parent Representative Election

## Statements of Candidates

(in alphabetical order)

### **Rick Cleary**

Hello! I'm Rick Cleary, chair of the Mathematics and Science division at Babson College and father of Eddie Trenk (grade 10 at WHS) and Tommy Trenk (grade 7 at WMS). I would enjoy serving on the school council with an eye toward helping students and parents recognize that there are many paths to success. I am an experienced teacher of mathematics and statistics at every level of post-secondary education, from community college pre-calculus through Ivy League graduate courses. I have seen students discover their talents and interests at different times in their lives. I would like to see our WHS students have the opportunity to explore multiple activities; scholastic, artistic and athletic; without necessarily committing to just one area. I would like to help Principal Chisum and the staff as they encourage our students to find a balance where they can be successful without excessive stress.

My wife Ann Trenk teaches mathematics at Wellesley College. We are both engaged in Mathematics Education initiatives at the national level and we are happy to see how the Wellesley schools are using many of the best practices from our discipline. Locally I have been very active with kids in the Wellesley community. I have served on the Hardy School Council and as a youth team sports coach in soccer, basketball and baseball. I have also been on the Wellesley Little League Board for six years, serving five seasons as umpire coordinator and meeting many of our students in the process.

### **Jason Kim**

As a professor at UMass Medical School, previously at Yale and Penn State, conducting diabetes research and serving on the MD/PhD admissions committee, I have been involved in academia and education for more than 20 years. Closer to home, I have served on the Wellesley Middle School Council for 2 years (2015~17) and worked closely with Principal Ito and other council members to provide the best learning environment for our middle school students. For our community, I have participated in the inaugural Wellesley Science & Technology EXPO in 2014 as well as in 2015 and 2017 hosting an interactive booth on "Understanding Diabetes & Obesity," and served as a STEM Expo panelist to discuss college and career readiness in 2017 and the Meet the STEM Professional in 2015. As the current President of the Wellesley Swimming Association, I work with our Board of Directors to bring the best swimming experience for our kids and parents. I have also volunteered as a parent coach and coordinator for the Wellesley United Soccer and the Wellesley Youth Basketball (CYO & Metrowest) for 7 years. In all, I have been an active member of our community because I believe that we can work together to make our community better. To that end, I hope to bring my experience, expertise, and network to the WHS School Council and work with fellow parents, community members, teachers, students, and Dr. Chisum to support the important mission of our high school.

### **Melissa Mack**

I am pleased to place my name in the running for the WHS School Council Representative. I have four children in the Wellesley Public School system; a 9th and 11th grader at WHS, a 6th grader at WMS and a 5th grader at Schofield. I, myself, was raised in Wellesley and went to Warren Elementary School, WMS and WHS. I have served as the Schofield PTO President for several years, and currently serve as the Vice-President, the 5th grade committee chair, the weekly PTO update person as well as several other positions on the PTO. I have been a part of Central Council for many years and have taken an active role in our community. Personally, I am a professor at two local colleges teaching Sociology and Criminal Justice classes. As I will be a high school parent for the next 8 years, I believe that the School Council is an excellent opportunity to become involved in the high school community. Thank you for your consideration.

### **Nina Ferrari Villalba**

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for a position on the WHS School Council. Our family relocated to Wellesley from Portola Valley, CA in January of this year and after spending the last few months settling in, I am eager to jump into the world of Wellesley. The high school is an important new factor in our family's lives as my daughter, Nathalie started there in August as a freshman. So far we have been impressed and pleased!

Although new to Wellesley, I am not new to working hard for my children's schools. Most recently, I served as co-chair of the hot lunch program at Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park, CA. In this position, I organized 70 parents to serve daily lunches to 300 plus students. Last year, I served as Secretary of the Mothers' Club at the St. Raymond School, in Menlo Park, CA. My responsibilities included organizing the parent volunteers for the 40 different activities and events during the school year. Additionally, for the past seven years, I served as room parent or class representative for one or more of my children's classrooms/grades. I enjoy working on big and small projects, from classroom parties to school-wide fundraisers and auctions. I would appreciate and be honored by the opportunity to serve on the Council! I hope to be an active volunteer within the high school and I think serving on the Council would be an excellent way to get involved in our new community.

### **Chris West**

I'm interested in being a part of the School Council to be more involved in my son's new school. I have two boys, my oldest, Nick, graduated from WHS last year and my younger son, Ben, is a new junior this year. I have just moved to Wellesley to be closer by for Ben and I'm very keen to be more involved in WHS to learn more about the school and to be more actively involved. I run a Software Company, Sea Street Technologies, and I've been in the computer industry for 40 years and travel quite a bit on business. I'm an avid sportsman, having sailed around the world several times and spend a lot of my free time enjoying sporting activities. I'm a firm believer in teens needing guidance and like the idea of getting them more exposure to new things however possible. It would be a pleasure to join into a team to help find new ways to bring expanded ideas in to the WHS system.

### **Jean Wu**

My family (Jianwei, Allen, and Allison) and I have been residents of Wellesley for the last eight years. We chose Wellesley as our home after moving back from an international assignment in Hong Kong because of Wellesley's strong reputation on education and community values. My son, Allen, is a ninth grader at Wellesley High while my daughter, Allison, is a third grader at Hardy. In this increasingly digitized world, my personal belief on education is that we need to encourage and enable our kids to have more direct interactions with their peers and the society as a whole so that they can better develop their EQ, and live integrated and fulfilling lives when they become adults. I hope I will be able to bring my perspectives to the WHS Council and I am ready to contribute.

I have a strong track record on volunteer works and previously served on the boards of the Wellesley Community Children's Center (WCCC) and the Skating Club of Boston (SCOB). Professionally, I have over 20 years of experience working in the financial service industry in both the US and Hong Kong. Currently, I work for State Street Global Advisors as a VP in its Boston office. I am a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA). I got my MBA from Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota and my Bachelor's degree in English from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China.