

# Ebulletin May 19, 2014

School of the Future Parents Association

BIOS

of

2014-2015 Nominees

## PA Executive Board

President: Helen Levine, 8th Grade

or

Co-Presidents: Rosemary Shmavonian, 10th Grade, and  
Cynthia Rietscha, 7th Grade and 10th Grade

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Recording Secretary: Lucie Kouta-Lopatey, 7th Grade

\*

Treasurer:

Scott Fintz, 8th Grade

or

Kim Mullings, 7th Grade

\*

Corresponding Secretary: Susannah Driver-Barstow, 11th Grade

Parent Representatives to the School Leadership Team (SLT)

Eun Hee Chun, 11th Grade

John Coleman, 10th Grade

Lisa Davis, 7th Grade

Dorene Smith, 11th Grade

**Voting will take place at the PA meeting on June 10.** You must be present to vote.

**President**

Helen Levine, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent

Helen likes to work and play really hard. She has the most fun helping people collaborate to accomplish things they have not done before, making new footprints in the sand, and keeping the promises she makes. Family and friends are important to Helen and she is the single mom of Julia in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade at SOF, daughter caregiver to an wonderful Mom, aunt mom to the menagerie of grown up children she homeschooled and sent off to find their places in the world, and human to a very sweet Shih Tzu named Jasmine.

Helen works professionally as a management consultant in the healthcare and technology industries as an interim executive (COO, CIO, CFO), project manager for mega technology and healthcare initiatives, and change agent. She also does lots of coaching to help other single parents complete international adoptions, fundraising to bring ballet and opera education to public schools, and mentoring graduate students. Helen has an MBA and teaches organizational development and change management in graduate business, law, and medical schools programs.

Helen has enjoyed serving the SOF community since arriving two years ago. She was the PA Treasurer last year and has continued to do a significant amount of the accounting and fundraising this year. As the PA Co-President this year she has launched and operated a very successful After School Program, helped us all realize fantastic fundraising results, started a Grade Council to allow for more grassroots PA activities from our diverse community, and prototyped Hot Topics@SOF with Social Media. Last summer she worked on the team that built the website.

Helen is running again to be the President of the SOF PA to continue to build teams of people and grassroots activities. If you allow her to serve you, she wants to make the Grade Council stronger so that new and diverse faces become ready to run the PA Executive Board. She is committed to keeping After School strong, finding ways to fundraise where every family gives what they can, find new ways to celebrate the cultures that blend at SOF, and continue to give our wonderful SOF

administration and faculty the resources they need.

*or*

### **Co-Presidents**

Rosemary Shmavonian, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent  
and Cynthia Rietscha, 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent

Rosemary has been at SOF for four years. She has a son in ninth grade, who attended middle school at SOF. Ro has been Chair of the SLT for the past two years and involved with event planning and fund raising at SOF for the past four. Ro is a Vice President in Technology at Goldman Sachs with responsibilities for relationship management, project management and training.

Cynthia has also been involved with SOF for four years. She has a daughter in sixth grade and a son in ninth (who also moved up from middle school). Cynthia has previously served as Co-President of the PA. Cynthia is currently Director of Finance at New Visions for Public Schools, with experience in not-for-profit and for-profit financial management.

Ro and Cynthia hope to build upon the success of the Parents Association, focusing on parent involvement and fundraising. We want to find lots of different ways for parents to get involved with SOF in a meaningful way, whether it be taking a leadership role in an event, volunteering at a fundraising campaign, or attending PA meetings. SOF is a community, and we know that the more parents who are involved, the stronger that community will be. We also know how rewarding it is to volunteer at SOF and have the opportunity to be part of our kids' school in the process.

### **Recording Secretary**

Lucie Kouta-Lopatey, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent

My name is Lucie Kouta-Lopatey. My daughter Crystal is in 6th grade.

I would like to nominate myself for the position of Recording Secretary. I am glad to be part of the SOF community. I got on board like I have always done since my daughter started school to do our part. I volunteer for most events and at afterschool as much as I can. I have also had the chance to serve as a class parent in the past. I feel ready to do more and take on the role of Recording Secretary. I am ready to work collaboratively with all the members of the PA, the teachers and school administrators.

I work in customer service spanning across various fields and will apply the same listening, communication, record keeping, organization and collaborating skills to the position of Recording

Secretary.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve for the good of our kids.

**Treasurer**

Scott Fintz, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent

I believe in the vital and important missions of SOF. I believe in SOF's administration, staff, and teachers. Most importantly, I believe in our children. I wish to serve on the PA based on these beliefs.

I intend to contribute in any way possible to assist families of our students to become more involved in our children's education, share ideas, and enhance our school community; all of which contribute to school success.

I am most interested in the PA's stated mission of attempting to fund those programs etc. that the DOE does not; allowing the teachers, administration, and staff to focus on their mandate.

Professionally and voluntarily, I have served as a fiduciary and respect this important aspect of PA service.

*or*

**Treasurer**

Kim Mullings, 7th Grade Parent

Hi My name is Kim Mullings, my daughter Millie is in the 6th Grade. I would like to nominate myself for the role of Treasurer. I am prepared to dedicate the necessary amount of time each week to the accounting needs of the Parents Association, including working collaboratively with the other members of the PA Board to achieve fundraising goals and create community building events. I am excited about the prospect of working with the Grade Council to help build a grassroots PA that includes everyone. I am currently employed part time as the Finance and Operations Director for a marketing agency in soho and I manage the cash operations for major music festivals on a per diem basis. I have the flexibility and time to dedicate to this role and will continue to volunteer with the After School program every week

**Corresponding Secretary**

Susannah Driver-Barstow, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent

This year I served as SOF PA Corresponding Secretary and, with Celia Vimont, as co-chair of the Communications Committee. In addition to fulfilling the core duties of communication – updating the grade directories; creating the 6th-grade directory; and keeping the ebulletins coming – we were able to create a new text-alert program, shepherd the translation of the Family Handbook into Spanish and Chinese so it is available to more of the families of our community, and begin to use invitations in addition to ebulletins for certain events. I hope to have the opportunity to continue this work for our great school next year.

My professional background is in editing and I currently work for a professional association of editors and writers.

### **SOF PA Representatives to the SLT**

Eun Hee Chun, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent

I am Eun Hee Chun, parent of a tenth grader. It is my privilege to serve as an SLT Parent Representative. Attending SLT and PA meetings since becoming a new SOF parent 2 years ago has been a great benefit for me to get to know the SOF community. I have witnessed great care, commitment, and honesty among school administrators, teachers, students and parents and seen a great potential for growth. I was an active participant in my son's previous schools and have always felt responsible and obligated to contribute to school as a parent. I hope that my voice can be a help for making SOF a better environment for our students to thrive.

John Coleman, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent

John Coleman has a daughter in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. This year, John served as a Parent Representative to the School Leadership Team.

Lisa Davis, 7th Grade Parent

My name is Lisa Davis and I have twin daughters in the 6th grade at SOF. I am the 6th grade representative and have enjoyed this role for the past year. In wanting to contribute in some way as well as get a better understanding of SOF, I decided starting out as a representative for my grade would be a good way to accomplish both. It has also allowed me to meet several of the parents in

my grade and work with members of the PA and school faculty.

At our previous elementary school, I was very involved and active in both the Executive PTA Board (serving for three years as a vice president) and also on the SLT (serving two years). So I understand the responsibilities of both roles. I enjoyed my role on the SLT and think I can apply my past experience and commitment to SOF. As a project manager by nature (and in work), I understand deadlines, managing budgets, working with a team, outlining tasks, getting them done and communicating them. I have also held other roles at our prior school including, Editor-in-Chief of the school newsletter, class parent and chairing fundraising events. I am excited and look forward to having the opportunity to serve on the SLT board.

Dorene Smith, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent

Currently employed by the Port Authority of NY & NJ. Received an Associate Degree in Administration from LaGuardia Community College, as well as certificates in management, public speaking, supervision and other related skills. When my daughter Chloe entered 6<sup>th</sup> grade at SOF, I felt that in order to stay current with SOF, I had to be involved with the PA. I think the more parents are involved in their child's school, the more the child will excel. By attending SLT meetings, I really got to know what the Middle School and High School directors do to set SOF apart from other schools. I have been the Parent Representative from the 6th through 10th grades, am currently the Co-Chair of Special Events, and am one of the first parents to be a chaperone at school parties and on field trips. I am a survivor of 9/11 and became a volunteer for the Tribute Center.

*Please donate to the SOF PA to support our school's great programs:*  
[www.sof.edu/families/support](http://www.sof.edu/families/support)