



## **2017-18 CANDIDATES FOR FRESHMAN PARENT LEADERSHIP ROLES**

### **PA Executive Board Member-at-Large Candidates (3 open positions)**

#### **Rebecca Barreras**

While I am a freshman parent, I have already been involved at Bronx Science for four years since my daughter just graduated in June. I have enjoyed volunteering at the Open Houses for Prospective Students, and at the dinners the PA generously provides both for our teachers before the evening parent conferences, and for the visiting college representatives before our College Fair. With my son now a freshman, I have more time to donate to the school, and would love to serve on the Executive Board of the Parent's Association. I am a long time Upper West Side resident, and homeschooled both my children through eighth grade. I was very involved in our homeschooling community: organizing field trips; serving as treasurer for our co-op; teaching classes; and, supporting parents. I would love to continue to support parents, by serving on the Executive Board, as we journey together through our children's high school years. Thank you for your consideration.

#### **Lisa Brody**

Hello, my name is Lisa Brody. My son, Scott is in the 9th grade. My older son graduated from Bard High School Early College and is a sophomore at the University of Rochester. We live in Forest Hills, Queens. Professionally, I am a psychologist, with a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. Most of my clinical work has been with children and families. I've worked in psychiatric units, outpatient clinics and private practice with a wide variety of children and teens. I have been involved in the Parents Associations of all the schools my boys attended, as secretary, chairing various committees, serving on the SLT and as Co-President of the PTA at Bard HS. PA's can support their students and schools best when there is parental involvement and I want to be involved at Bronx Science. I believe in working collaboratively with others and having good communication between schools and families (which Bronx Science is impressively good at!). Selfishly, I want to be involved to learn more about this wonderful school. Like many of you, I can't rely on my teenager for lots of details about school. I hope you will vote for me. Thank you.

#### **Jodi Caplan**

Hello, my name is Jodi Caplan and I am so happy and grateful that my freshman son Noah Getz is attending Bronx Science and loving it. I am eager to have the opportunity to serve as a PA Executive Board Member-at-Large. I have worked in education for the past 8 years spending 4 years in a NYC Public 6-12th grade school, East Side Community High School, as Director of Community & Family Partnerships, including the role of Parent Coordinator focusing on increasing parent engagement. Next, I worked with undergraduate students for Macaulay Honors College as a Honors Advisor, at Hunter and City Colleges. In my current role at Columbia University, I work one-on-one as a Career Advisor with graduate students, at the School for International and Public Affairs (SIPA). I also enjoy volunteering as a career coach for a Posse Foundation student and as a mentor for a Year Up graduate. I was an active parent at my son's elementary and middle schools serving on East Side Middle School's Parent Board. I am eager to be engaged and connect with Bronx Science parents and the greater Bronx Science community by offering my time and bringing energy, engagement, experience and ideas.

**Aimee Felton Freedman**

Having been a teacher and school administrator for the past 30 years, and having had 10 years of leadership experience on the Parents Association at my son's former school, I believe I am uniquely qualified for a position on the Bronx High School of Science Parents Association. I played many roles, including serving as Treasurer and Secretary on the Executive Board and Grade Representative. I also chaired the school's Homecoming event and played key roles in several fund raising events, including the Book Fair and the Spring Benefit. I think that the creativity and organization that I brought to bear on these activities and events were major contributors to their great success. My son is a freshman and is already happily immersed in his classes, teams, and clubs. I want to be part of the excitement and energy of the school, and feel that I can contribute to the Bronx Science community.

**Nicole Kaplan**

My son and our entire family are proud and excited to be a part of the Bronx Science community. I am a pastry chef by trade but am most recently a stay at home mom. I also have a seventh grader at Wagner Middle School where I served on the board as co-president for the past two years. I have served on the executive board of my children's PA/PTA since elementary school and would love to be a part of the Bronx Science board in order to help serve the students and faculty in whatever ways are needed. I have experience overseeing many fundraising events from annual appeal and school gear sales to auction.

**Archna Saha**

Hello, all! I'm Archna Saha and I'm running to become one of your PA Executive Board Members. As both a teacher and a parent of two children, I understand firsthand the importance of being involved in students' lives and also actively facilitate this connection. In my teaching capacity, I have gotten parents more involved by assessing their unique strengths and creating situations in the classroom where those qualities could be demonstrated. I have found that reaching out on such a personal level allows them to realize how indispensable they themselves are to the classroom and helps them understand the importance of being involved in student life; I hope to use such techniques to connect with other Bronx Science parents and guardians, and increase participation in the PA. On the other hand, while my daughter was in high school, I wished I could establish more personal connections. Class get-togethers quickly died down after her first year, making it difficult to connect with other parents and teachers. Knowing that children who attend Bronx Science come from all over the city, as did the students at her high school, I will work to maintain these crucial connections. Thank you; please vote for me!

**SLT Parent Member Candidates (1 open position)****Jonathan Freedman**

I am an alumnus of Bronx Science, Class of 1974. While the school was in some ways very different back then, in some ways it seems exactly the same. The energy while walking through the halls blasts forth like a true force of nature. The intellectual curiosity of the students and the faculty dazzle me as much today as back then. Bronx Science was transformative for me. My friends and I came here as youngsters, by subway (no Vallo back then), with no idea about the wider world. We left four years later as participants in the Westinghouse (now Regeneron) science competition, as experts on differential calculus, as avid readers of daily newspapers, and as knowledgeable political actors. Most importantly, we left with a clear sense of what it truly means to live the life of the mind. My Bronx Science education has served me in good stead through college, law school and 36 years of law practice as a corporate lawyer at a Wall Street law firm. I want to be sure that my son, and all of your children, can have the same experiences that I did, and can grow and prosper as much here as I did.

**John Keller**

Please vote for me to join your SLT. I am an NYC Parent Leader, motivated by passionate commitment to our children's education:

- Deep neighborhood roots
- Track record of Citywide engagement
- Worked with two different communities to open new Middle Schools
- Partnered with City Council Members to make DOE leaders add three Pre-K's in overlooked neighborhoods this year, with 200 more seats next year
- Ongoing Advocacy, on the Public Record, for selective Middle and High Schools and in support of Specialized High Schools. I believe the important work of diversifying these schools begins with fixing struggling elementary schools and engaging parents, Principals, students and Elected Officials.

I have relevant experience and credentials:

- Elected three times by PTA leaders from 48 schools to Community Education Council, District 2 (2013—present)
- Appointed by Borough President Brewer to Community Board Six (Current)
- Relationships with Elected Officials: NYC, Albany
- Engage with city-wide Education Council Consortium
- Served on Elementary School SLT (2010—2013)

My commitment to you:

- "I listen, get things done and speak 'Truth to Power' in NYC."
- Always available: 646-220-7196 (m)

Personal:

- Married
- Two children in Specialized High Schools.
- Self-employed Consultant
- Former Adjunct Professor: Georgetown University
- BA, Fordham. MBA, Harvard.

Webpage: [www.jikel.com](http://www.jikel.com)

**Jean Lee Yamner**

Contributing to my children's schools has always been one of my core values and passions. I believe that universal public education, supported by hands-on, active parental involvement, is the optimal system for promoting academic excellence, emotional wellbeing, as well for instilling in our children a commitment to community and an appreciation for diversity. I was a Class Parent for 11 consecutive years, chaired fundraising events, and served on various boards and committees. At Lab Middle School, the student population of which was approximately 50% Asian, I served on the SLT from 2015-17. I brought a rather unique perspective to the SLT: I am Korean, my husband's Jewish, my older son has an IEP, and my younger son is academically gifted. I attended Town Hall meetings with Mayor De Blasio and UTF Parent Meetings to further educate myself on how we could introduce creative ideas/solutions to better our school. Over the past 14 years, I've successfully navigated the complex NYC bureaucracy to secure all the IEP services (and then some!) for my older son. I believe we need to coalesce our collective resources to help all students, whether general, IEP and diversity, achieve their goals and dreams. Thank you very much.

**Junnie Mark-Kobashi**

I respectfully submit my name, as a candidate for the School Leadership Team. We can't be more thrilled that our daughter, Kazue, is a second generation "sciencite" in our family, as this is my husband 35th year BxSci reunion. A brief bio about myself: I grew up in Hong Kong, immigrated to USA as a teenager, attended college and medical school in NY. I speak English, Cantonese, and Japanese; Professionally, I am a Board certified (night shift) Emergency Medicine physician at NY Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital, Cornell Medical College; My flexible work hours allow me to dedicate time to my children's extracurricular activities/ PTAs. I served a decade as Class mom at the International Pre-school, and PS6. I am still currently the Board of Director at the PS6 after-school chess program. During Kazue's 3 years in East Side Middle School, I had the privilege to be the Internal Affairs VP during her 6th grade, and then the PTA President & SLT member during her 7th and 8th grades. I also coChair the ESMS inaugural International Festival. Our son is currently an ESMS 6th grader, and I'm continuing on as the Community Relations VP. Please vote for me. Thank you!

**Catherine Park**

Hi! My name is Catherine Park. Our family lives in Lower Manhattan where my 9th grader Alexandra attended PS234 before moving on to East Side Middle. My son is a 4th grader at PS 234. I've enjoyed being an active volunteer at my children's schools, serving as a longtime ticketing co-chair for one of PS 234's biggest fundraisers, Taste of Tribeca. I volunteer regularly with several community non-profit organizations including various groups that support the tri-state Asian American community, particularly in Queens. Professionally, I've worked for many years as a residential real estate broker, giving me analytics and metrics experience that would be beneficial to the SLT. Previously, I was a buyer and sales analyst for an international jewelry brand and also served that company as their Asia-Pacific region public relations manager. I'm from Miami, FL, and I spent a lot of time in Korea where my family is originally from. After observing the September SLT meeting, I feel confident that I can contribute a broad cultural perspective, along with my business skills, to the school's vibrant community. I would love to offer my enthusiasm and help!

**Ellen Schorr**

I have enjoyed participating in my children's schools since they were in kindergarten. (Isadora is a 9th grader here at Science, and her sister just started college.) I've been a class parent, a PTA committee chair, a volunteer librarian, and an SLT member. Professionally, I work as a public relations and fundraising consultant to non-profit organizations. In both my work and at my kids' schools, I have developed budgets, designed strategic plans, created ways to evaluate success, and collaborated with people from diverse backgrounds. I'm a good listener, a hard worker, and a team player. For the past three years, I served on the SLT at Isadora's middle school. I got to see first-hand how the main task of the SLT – the CEP, or Comprehensive Educational Plan – has a real impact on students' experience. I've looked at Bronx Science's most recent CEPs online, and it's clear how seriously this SLT takes its job. I would be honored to join the Team – to bring parents' perspectives into educational planning, learn more about what makes Science such a successful school, and work to make it even better.

*\*Elections will be held at the PA meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 7pm.\**