

## **MS54 Executive Board Candidates for Vacant Positions 2018-19**

### **SIXTH GRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

#### **Olivier Couronne**

My son is a sixth grader at MS54, and my daughter entered third grade at PS 166. I am manager of my son's WSSL soccer team. Having been teaching middle school science at the Palais de la Decouverte in France I am particularly interested in curriculum and education, and want to help the SLT in its mission to educate our children. I am Executive Director at the Sulzberger Genome Center, at Columbia Medical Center. Having studied the chemistry of the tail of comets during my PhD in Paris, I also studied the chemistry of air pollution during a postdoctoral research at the University of California, Berkeley. I was a computational genomic researcher at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute in Berkeley, where I worked on the Human Genome Project sequencing and analyzing DNA. I am also an alumni of the Columbia Business School. I love to run marathons, (e.g. New York and Boston) and participate in long-distance Ironman triathlons. Sometimes the children bike beside me during my long runs, and it's really fun and challenging for everyone. But my preferred activity with the children is travelling, and we just came back from an amazing trip in France.

#### **Vicky Kahn**

My name is Vicky Kahn. I am a brand-new parent to Booker T. My daughter is Celia Kahn Lambert. We learned about the awesomeness of Booker T through my niece Amanda Kahn, who was a prior student. Since 2005 I have been a parent at Manhattan School for Children, where I was an avid volunteer, having held numerous roles throughout my children's MSC tenures. Among the roles I have proudly and lovingly held are: Class Parent Representative for the school; have been on their SLT; and served as Fundraising co-Chair (three years); Auction co-chair (Art Auction, Ticket sales & Raffle sales over multi years); and I have been class parent since 2005. I have wonderful experience working together with parents for the good of the school and would love to be considered for this role. In my work life, I oversee corporate and international communications for A+E Networks (History channel; Lifetime; A&E and others). Thank you.

### **CO-RECORDING SECRETARY**

#### **Carlotta Ramos**

I formerly served on the executive board of the parent association of CPE2 Elementary School as VP, Parent Services and Secretary. We faced many typical public school challenges such as limited amount of physical space within our shared building. We were actively immersed in decision-making, problem-solving, fundraising and relationship-building. We worked closely with the principal and staff to address issues with everyone from the DOE to school fair vendors. Being a part of such an active PA was a rewarding and educational experience. We were effective but we also tried to have fun. When I joined the PA, I gained an extended family. Booker T is the natural next step for my sixth grader and our family. Being a Co-Recording Secretary parent would allow me to offer my support and become involved, while getting acquainted with our new school community. Thanks for your consideration. Carlotta Ramos Wrolstad...Bruno's Mom.

**Kelly Anson Riess**

I have two sons – Axel, 702 here at Booker T, and Owen, fifth grade at PS 87 – and am interested in getting more involved during this interesting time of district and citywide DOE changes. Co-Recording Secretary is a natural fit, as I always like to digest meetings down to key takeaways and productive actions. Most of my volunteer experience has been in elementary school: a frequent class parent, three years as school-wide auction class-project coordinator, dual-language program advocate (Spanish), and working at most art shows, auctions, and book fairs. At Booker T, I have helped sell school gear on conference days, haul items pre- and post- auction, and assist with the rare classroom project. My B2B marketing career has varied over these school years, from full-time to part-time to on-hold. We've lived on the UWS for over 10 years.

**CO-VP FUNDRAISING (AUCTION)****Melissa Burnazian**

Melissa Burnazian is the mother of two boys, Spencer and Alex. Spencer is in third grade at PS 87 and Alex is in sixth grade at MS 54. Over the years, Melissa has been involved in numerous PS 87 events including Harvest Fest, Broadway Night, and Rock Night, to name a few. She has also been on the PS 87 Executive Board for the past four years, holding multiple positions. Melissa was the Auction Chair for two years, the Membership and Events VP for one year; and currently holds the role of Communications VP. Melissa is excited for the prospect of joining the MS 54 Executive Board as a Co-VP of Fundraising. Melissa is energized and excited to take on this new role and apply her experience from the variety of areas she's been involved in at PS 87. Professionally, Melissa works in advertising sales for FOX, and received a B.A. from the University of Michigan.

**CO-PRESIDENT****Chris Giordano**

I am the proud father of an MS54 seventh grader and Class of 2017 graduate currently in tenth grade. Over these past 5 years, MS54 has become a central part of our family's community and I hope to have the opportunity to contribute to its continued growth and success as co-president. Through my engagement in other community activities I have ongoing working relationships with our community board, local police precincts, and elected officials, which I hope will bring value to the activities I've begun to be a part of, including the 108<sup>th</sup> Street construction, auction and equity team. Professionally, I'm a producer and manager of entertainment projects, through which I'm accustomed to building teams and managing projects, timelines and budgets.