

Candidate Statement: Maryellen McQuade

First, let me thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to run for a trustee. I recognize that all of us have an enormous amount invested in PCS and being able to show my commitment to this community is exciting no matter the outcome.

Let me give you a bit of background about myself and my family. My two daughters, Grace and Kate, have both attended the school since kindergarten. We were very lucky to get in via the lottery. Grace is now in fourth and Kate is in second grade. Over the past five years we have experienced a number of ups and downs, as any parents do, and have very much appreciated the support we have received through the PCS community.

Like many other parents at the school, I would like to see the school continue to evolve and grow to meet not only the changing times of education, but also to embrace where the school is in its life cycle. PCS is no longer sustained by the high contribution of the original founders, we need to broaden and deepen our support across the parent base and the Princeton community. This past year, I worked with the Gala committee to help raise donations for the silent auction. I truly have a new found respect on how much time and dedication that event takes and could not be more appreciative of that committee! I would like to continue to pursue other opportunities for the school to bring funds in, as there are so many exciting options when we have these incremental funds.

Additionally, we need to continue to embrace technology and how that will impact the way our children learn. The current board has done a phenomenal job of evolving this over the past five years that I have been at the school and I look forward to contributing to that continued growth. I do believe that a key enabler to the technology platform are the teachers – getting the best and brightest staff who also look forward to understand how technology is shaping the way our children learn and what they need to learn.

Perhaps the thing that I admire most about this school is the diversity amongst the students. As a mom of bi-racial children, this is inherently important to me. But it's also something that I want to see evolve in the school – specifically, ensuring that the student body is diverse on many levels, including socio-economic. The curriculum also needs to reflect the diversity of the world in which our children live in. There is always an opportunity to do more in this space and I am interested in pursuing them as a member of the board.

Professionally, I work in Human Resources at Glaxo Consumer Health which makes many products that you likely have in your homes. My current role is leading the HR function for North America. In that capacity, I work on projects such as talent strategies – how to retain and engage talent; compensation structures – how to track what competitive pay looks like in the external market; and cultural initiatives – what type of environment do we want to create in the

office and how do we want people to work together. I also spend a good deal of time working through employee relations issues – coaching managers on how to give feedback to employees and coaching employees on how to improve their own performance. These more individual needs often lead to bigger discussions on how to improve the overall performance of the organization.

At the PCS board request, I consulted with the school over the past few years on best practices in HR, specifically evaluation and compensation, and how to deploy those at the school. It was this work that got me interested in running for the board. As we all know, this is a small institution that does not have the infrastructure of a regional school district. The administration relies on the board and other volunteers to help them fill in the areas that they do not have the expertise or resources. Due to my professional background, I believe that I can add value to the board and build some of the capabilities in the community. At work I am often called in to help organizations optimize performance. As a trustee, I can provide guidance and counsel to ensure this organization thrives and in turn our children benefit.

Please feel free to reach out with additional questions: maryellenmcquade@gmail.com

Education: B.A. Pomona College; M.A. Georgetown University