

2009-2010 TOPS Site Council and BLT Elections

Paper ballots are due in the Office by 3:30 on Monday June 8th

An online ballot is available through the TOPS website: www.topsk8.org/sitecouncil/election.shtml

**Each grade band is represented by three TOPS parents or guardians.
There are two parent representatives on the Building Leadership Team.**

Continuing Representatives are:

Grades K-2:

Barbara Rockey

Grades 3-5

Catherine Staunton

Susan Welch

Grades 6-8:

Dan Hurley

Lawrie Williams:

Building Leadership Team:

Mark Rathbun (Represents K-4)

All TOPS parents/guardians can vote for representatives for all of the grade bands. Representatives are elected for two year terms, and must resign from the Site Council if his or her student(s) stop attending TOPS.

Vote for two Representatives for grades K-2:

Staci Delgado: I am the parent of Curtis Delgado, 6th grade and Camryn Delgado, 1st grade. I have been a member of the TOPS community for the past seven years. I have volunteered as a Room Rep, Coalition for Social Justice member, field trips coordinator, TOPICS for Camp Long, and middle school dance chaperone. I am currently a Lead Juvenile Probation Counselor for King County Superior Court and have been employed by King County for the last fourteen years. My commitment to the youth in this community has been a life's work.

I have an interest in the Inclusion Task Force for the TOPS community as a whole. I envision inclusion as a way to make sure all families have a voice within the TOPS Community. This would include families from various ethnic, culture, and socio-economic backgrounds. We all have a responsibility to help make TOPS a place where all families can feel welcome and experience all the wonderful opportunities that TOPS offers.

Alex Korahais: The reason I want to sit on Site Council, and what I would bring to it, is my firm belief that the parent body of any school or school district is an essential part of its leadership, with a role to play, a voice to be heard, and a vote to cast in the way the school serves our children. TOPS has wonderfully involved parents, who step up regularly with their time, their money, and their diverse skills. We enhance TOPS's offerings, its community, and its ability to serve by our presence and our service. However, we are still occasionally left out of the loop in decisions that deeply affect this community which we love and most importantly, our children.

In the recent struggles we experienced and worked through regarding Kindergarten, I took on a lead role and was complimented on the quality and clarity of my communication. I hope to bring this desire for and skill for clear communication to Site Council and conversations with our new principal, and call for clearer communication of school issues to the parents and of parents' wishes to the administration and faculty. I want to open up those conversations more, in the hope of TOPS's amazing parents being able to offer even more help and support to TOPS's amazing faculty and staff in serving our amazing kids.

Thank you.

Kathy Schmid: I have been a TOPS parent for two years. My daughter, Natalie, is in Sarah Marks' first grade class, and my son, Will, will begin kindergarten here this fall. I have been a stay-at-home mom for 7 years. I am an active volunteer at TOPS, and I have been very involved in my kids' co-op preschools, including co-chairing the boards at two of them. Prior to life as a stay-at-home mom, I worked at Starbucks as an international procurement manager and buyer for more than eight years. While there, I was responsible, both as an individual and as a team member, for finding sources and creating programs and systems to provide all supplies to Starbucks' international retail stores. This required strategic vision, creative problem-solving skills, and strong interpersonal and cross-cultural communication skills. Prior to having kids, I also volunteered as an instructional aide in an adult ESL (English as a Second Language) program and Talk Time programs at two local community colleges. I believe strongly in TOPS' Mission Statement and am passionate about inclusion, communication, and helping to create opportunity and community for all of our kids. Our family loves this school, and I would be honored to put my skills to use representing parents on our Site Council.

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Vote for **one Representative for grades 3-5:**

Janis White: My son, Jonah, will be in third grade next year and my twins, Adin and Miriam, will enter kindergarten in 2010. Jonah loves coming to school every day – TOPS must be doing something right. I want to make sure that all the programs that have so enriched our children's education and that make our school "alternative" continue to grow and strengthen. Next year will be an especially important year for TOPS and for Site Council as we will be working with a new principal. We are also awaiting the outcome of the District's audit of alternative schools and the new student assignment plan, both of which may impact the future of our school.

I work full time as a lawyer and have served on several non-profit boards. This spring I volunteered to serve on the kindergarten task force at TOPS to work on maintaining the PEAK program and to discuss our school's options regarding the new Pay for K requirement. I am prepared to learn about the issues facing our school, work collaboratively with other Site Council members to resolve issues or problems, and, if necessary, advocate for our kids. I hope to have the opportunity to give something back to TOPS by applying my skills and energy to Site Council.

Vote for **one Representative for grades 6-8:**

Elissa Benson: I am the parent of TOPS 6th and 3rd students and a one year old border collie. Professionally, I am Deputy Director of King County Office of Strategic Planning and Performance Management. I have an extensive background in budgeting and fiscal policy in local and state government. I am running for Site Council and am interested in the Site Council Treasurer position because it would allow me to use my professional expertise and experience to contribute to the growth of the TOPS community as a whole.

My name is **Tiffany Davis**, I am a financial planner for Macy's and have been with my company for almost 22 years. I am married with two children, I have a 5th grader (Talon) who attends The New School @ S.S. and a 7th grader (Varinique) who is a student at T.O.P.S. I am very involved in my children's learning. I'm an active participant in their schools, I was a member on the design team committee and was instrumental in the designing of a brand new building which The New School will move into this Fall 2009/10 school year. I was a co-room rep last year for the sixth grade. I also regularly volunteer for school dances and other various functions. What is my contribution to the SC, I bring diversity. I am a strong advocate for not just my children, but for all children. I understand what makes us different, can appreciate many points of view while striving for the common good. I love to work for a worthwhile cause and always try to surround my family around positive things, it's contagious. I would love to work collectively with the Site Council to address the needs of our community, share in the successes and promote a positive relationship that will help to grow and further strengthen the commitment of the SC, staff, and parents. Thank you.

Vote for **one 5th-8th grade representative to the Building Leadership Team:**

Maureen Germani: I am the parent of a TOPS 5th grader and a 2008 graduate. Over the past ten years I have been a room rep, Site Council Board member, Friends of TOPS Finance Committee member and have spent two years as the Volunteer Coordinator. I also follow School District developments closely. This experience has given me a unique perspective of TOPS. I believe that my ability to listen and the institutional memory I have collected will make me a valuable member of the Building Leadership Team. I look forward to working with the new administration and representing your perspective as a member of the TOPS BLT. Thank you.

Vote in the online Ballot and make your voice heard!

 **Click this link to Vote!** http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=G8q7FhoBpmcxH_2b5UMqCePg_3d_3d