

## Riverwood Candidate Statements (Spring 2017)

### **Parent Candidates – Alphabetical Order**

#### **Elissa Fladell**

I am excited for the opportunity to make a difference at Riverwood ICS. I have been a volunteer for many years around our community. I enjoy giving back in different ways. Most recently I was President of Congregation B'nai Torah, an 800 family synagogue in Sandy Springs. During my term, I oversaw the strategic planning process, rewrote and implemented the bylaws of the congregation as well as oversaw a \$6,000,000 renovation to the facility. Also, I volunteer weekly at the Ben Massell Dental Clinic, an indigent dental clinic in midtown Atlanta and sit on the board of a local big brother/big sister program. At Riverwood ICS, I am a regular parent volunteer in the front office, which I will continue to do throughout my term on the Governance Council. I enjoy being an active part of our school's community and the community at large.

#### **Kenya Graham**

I am a mother of 3, ages 22, 15 and 9. Growing up in a small town (Brookline, MA) where the public school system is one of the strongest in the US my passion for education is deeply rooted. I believe every child should be expected to work at their very best and the adults in their life should push them to it.

I will also bring a level of understanding and patience to the council pertaining to special ed students as two of my boys have learning differences.

#### **Bryan Lewis**

Hello,

My name is Bryan Lewis. I have served the Riverwood International Charter School (RICS) as a member of the Governance Council (GC) for the last year and a half. During that time, I have learned so much about the great school that we have. In the last year and a half the GC has recommended and approved a number of beneficial changes to RICS. In addition to serving on the GC, I have also served RICS as a member of the Building Committee. The Building Committee has worked with RICS and Fulton County to come up with ideas that will shape the layout and the plans of RICS future. I am a supporter of the Riverwood Foundation and the PTSA. My family and I love being a part of the Riverwood Community and we always speak highly of it. I currently have a Sophomore at RICS and will have a Freshman in August of 2017.

It would be an honor to serve another term on the Governance Council.

Thank You.

#### **Veronica Shaughnessy**

My name is Veronica Carabajal Shaughnessy. I am originally from Argentina. I have maintained Sandy Springs as my primary residence for the past 40+years. I am bilingual (Spanish/English). I graduated from the University of Vermont with a BS in Business and Georgia State University with an MBA. My husband, Dan and I have 3 children, graduating in the Riverwood classes of 2020, 2021 & 2022. Our children attended Heard's Ferry and Ridgeview. I also graduated from Riverwood, Class of 88. Wow, have I seen this school

change and evolve throughout the years! I have worked in corporate America for most of my life and most recently, in the last 15 years, as a Realtor in the Sandy Springs community. It is so exciting that we are getting a new building and new technology, a super plus to the value of all of our properties. But most importantly, we cannot lose the focus on maintaining the high quality of education being provided at our neighborhood high school. Our 3 children are very different learners, from IEP to IB so I fully understand the challenges facing parents with teachers and administrators. Please know that whether the decisions being made these next two years revolve around the construction of our new school or around changes in processes affecting education, I will be there to support our children's needs as well as the value in our community. You can feel confident voting for me. Thank you! See you around Riverwood!

### **Teacher Candidate**

#### **Patricia Lawrimore**

I am a current member of the governance board. I have been teaching in Fulton county for 22 years (the last 2 at Riverwood). During my tenure with Fulton County I have sat on the Heard's Ferry and North Springs governance council. While serving on those councils I have served as chair, vice chair, parliamentarian and finance committee chair. I am currently a science teacher (AP Environmental and Earth systems) but I have also held teaching positions with special ed and TAG departments. I am a former Athletic Director, coach (Milton and North Springs), I have been a department chair and magnet coordinator (STEM). I have a son a Ridgeview who will be attending Riverwood in 2019 and I live in Riverside. I have an interest in making sure this school has the best in mind for students, parents and teachers!