

## **Kinhaven School Board of Directors Candidate Statements, 2024-25**

### **President:**

#### **Natalie Schlosser**

My name is Natalie Schlosser, mom to William (Alum), Preston (rising Oak), and Colette (rising Todd-Pod). We have had a wonderful experience over the last four years at Kinhaven. Our children have really thrived in the Kinhaven community thanks to its nurturing environment and commitment to its students. This year, I served as Director at Large for the Board and was an active member on the Auction Committee. I would be honored to serve as Board President and help facilitate a smooth transition with our new Ballston site.

Professionally I am an Event Planner and Designer for large scale social events. I have a lot of experience working with a diverse clientele, creating tailored budgets, managing vendors, negotiating contracts, coordinating complex timelines and implementing detailed plans. I hope my experience will allow me to help shape Kinhaven and cultivate an even greater community for its future.

### **Vice President:**

#### **Danielle Hofmeister**

My name is Danielle Hofmeister, mom to Nico and Lana (rising Oaks) and Luca (alum). Next year will be my fourth year at Kinhaven, and I am hoping to continue to represent the families in this extraordinary community. I am seeking reelection as Vice President.

Until recently, I was a first and third grade teacher at an elementary school in Fairfax County. I have had the pleasure of working closely with students, parents, teachers, and administrators to help build an environment where kids felt safe, happy, and ready to learn. I am passionate about learning and setting our kids up for success as kind friends, problem-solvers, and critical thinkers. I am eager to share my experience while fostering a deeper involvement with this school community. I have previously served on the Board as Vice President and as a Parent Representative.

### **Secretary:**

#### **Sarah Vahora**

I'm Sarah Vahora, mom to Saafia (rising Acorn) and Zayd (graduating Oak). I am grateful to be a part of the Kinhaven family and would be honored to serve on the Board again. In past years, I served as a Parent Representative for the Shoots, and as Secretary for the 2023-2024 school year. I've learned so much from this experience and look forward to supporting as Kinhaven continues to grow.

Professionally, I have a background in international education where I focused on policy and

programmatic work in early childhood development in Africa and Asia. I also remain committed to Kinhaven's approach to anti-bias education and just graduated with a Master's in Early Childhood Education with a concentration in Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) with Erikson Institute. I hope to apply what I've learned in the classroom to service on the Board, helping Kinhaven achieve its long-term goals. Thanks so much for your consideration.

**Director at Large:**

**Lauren Ford**

My name is Lauren Ford, mom to Delaney (rising Kindergartner) and Keira (rising Seed). Laney started at Kinhaven in January 2023, and we have been impressed with all that Kinhaven has to offer and feel very fortunate to have found this community. This year, we look forward to watching Keira join the Kinhaven family, graduating from being the younger sister at drop off to one of the big kids!

Professionally, I've held marketing analytics and business strategy positions across various business sectors including media and advertising, sports and entertainment, and now nonprofit. I'm excited to continue serving as a member of the Kinhaven Board!

**Parent Representatives: (up to five)**

**Hayes Jones**

My name is Hayes Jones, mom to Ward (current Seed, rising Acorn). We have had a wonderful two years at Kinhaven and have enjoyed getting more involved in the community while watching Ward thrive.

Professionally, I have been in the energy efficiency field for over 14 years. I look forward to connecting with parents and the Board.

**Brent Burris**

I have been a parent of a Kinhaven kid for two years now and believe I have a good sense of the general operation and culture of the school. I am well-organized and detail-oriented and interested in supporting the school in a greater capacity next year. I am also interested in learning more about and assisting with Kinhaven governance.

**Gabriel Robertson**

My name is Gabriel Robertson. My daughter is Annabel. She is currently a Seed. In the 2024-25 school year, she will be an Acorn. Due to COVID, Annabel didn't have much interaction with other children prior to starting pre-school. But over the course of this school year, I've been thrilled to see how Kinhaven has helped Annabel improve her confidence and develop her social skills. And I look forward to seeing how Kinhaven helps Annabel continue to grow next year.

I don't have a background in education, administration or board governance. But I am interested in serving to provide the perspective of an engaged parent and help foster the Kinhaven experience for all of its students so that all families have the opportunity for their children to thrive as my daughter has.

**Jen Hanley**

My name is Jen Hanley, mom of Benjamin Kameny (current Acorn, rising Oak) and Sammy (age 1.5) who will be joining Kinhaven in the fall. I have been so grateful for the Kinhaven community since Ben started school in 2022. I see every day the warmth and positive growth from Ben's experience and the dedication of the teachers and Amy to help each of the students explore and learn. My husband Steven and I feel so fortunate for all of the great opportunities we've had to connect with other parents and make new friends through Kinhaven. I am excited to see the school expand and the community grow later this year.

I would love the opportunity to serve as a parent representative and bring my skills and board experience to help continue the great work and environment at Kinhaven and serve fellow parents. I have experience through my current job at Meta where I sit on the Board of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, previous experience in a leadership position at a nonprofit organization, and I spent many years on my old condo board.