

PTA Executive Board Nominations 2015–2016 Candidate Information

President

Erica Ashe



Erica Ashe is the mother of Baila and Gavin (currently in 3rd grade & Kindergarten). She has served on the PTA executive board as the Treasurer and as Co-President. She has also been a class parent for several years. She is in her 4th year of study at Rutgers University as a PhD Candidate in Statistics and thinks that her prior business background, mathematical mind and teaching experience has helped her lead a passionate PTA. She is hoping to return to her role as Co-President this year and is looking forward to serving with her co-partner, an enthusiastic and focused new addition to the PTA Board. Her priorities for 2015–2016 include opening the lines of communication among the entire parent body and increasing parent interest and connection with the school. Aligning the Parent Association’s programs and activities with our school’s mission is her primary goal.

Erin Kiernon



Erin Kiernon is mom to Savannah, a Kindergartner in Mrs. Hannan's class. Erin and her family have lived in Park Slope for nearly a decade, where they are active community members. In her family’s first year at PS39, Erin has baked for bake sales, helped organize a successful fundraiser for children affected by the Nepal earthquake, and become involved in advocacy around the impact of testing on our kids and schools. Erin hopes to join the executive board as co-president to get more involved in supporting the wonderful community and teachers who make PS39 so special. In her professional life, Erin oversees communications and marketing efforts for a global nonprofit research institution. In this role, Erin leads international and national advocacy and media campaigns and manages a team of professionals and a multi-million dollar budget. Previously, Erin was Vice President at a communications firm, where she provided strategic counsel to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She hopes to put her management and communications expertise to work for the PS 39 community to foster strong relationships between families and the school and to support and improve the opportunities and education our kids receive.

Vice President

Kristen Robb



Kristen Robb is a mom to Billy, currently in 3rd grade, and Ben, currently in 1st. She works as the librarian at Poly Prep Lower School and is involved in fundraising and event planning for the school. Previously she taught second grade for nine years. Kristen has been an involved parent at PS39 since her children starting attending the school, serving on the SLT for two years as well as being class parent for both of her sons. She has served on the executive board for two years as Co-Secretary and most recently as co-Vice President. She also co-chairs the book fair and the read-a-thon. Kristen is interested in continuing to serve on the executive board, returning as Co-Vice President, because she feels strongly about the importance of the partnership between home and school.

Jennifer Norman



Jennifer Norman is the proud mother of Samantha, currently in 2nd grade, and Jack, currently in Pre-K. She has been an active member of the procurement team for the Spring Auction since Samantha was in Kindergarten, using her connections as an art book publisher to bring in many museum related items and books. As a Member-at-Large on the Executive Board this year, she was a co-organizer and procurement coordinator for the successful Spring Auction. Her love of books and the arts have led her to take on the coordination of the winter and spring Barnes & Noble book fairs and the school's new day out to see the Nutcracker at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts. In her role as liaison to PS39 CBE afterschool program, she helps to shape further enrichment opportunities for our kids. She would like to continue her work on these events and programs as a Co-Vice President of the executive board next year, and hopefully help make them even more successful.

Secretary

Simone Hannah-Clark



Simone Hannah-Clark is the mother of Gabriel, a 1st grader, and Sylvie, an incoming Pre-K-er. In the 2014–2015 school year, Simone served as co-class parent, and loved how that assignment increased her connection to the PS39 community. Simone hails originally from New Zealand and has lived in NYC since 2004. In her professional life, Simone is a registered nurse, with work experience in New Zealand, Australia, and the United States. She currently works in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at The Mount Sinai Hospital. She believes it's an honor for one to serve on the PTA Executive Board and is running for Co-Secretary for the 2015–2016 school year. She relishes the challenge and opportunity to increase her involvement at PS39.

Jessica Hooberman




Jessica Hooberman is mom to Nat (a 1st grader with Ms. Stark), Sebby (soon to be in Pre-K) and Teddy (16 months). This past year she was a class parent and had the opportunity to learn a bit more about the inner-workings of PS39 and would like to contribute further as PTA Co-Secretary. Jessica is from Ann Arbor, MI, and lived in Chicago and Minneapolis before abandoning flyover country for Brooklyn. Professionally, Jessica has worked in the public health field in various capacities for the past 16 years. For the past six years, Jessica and her husband, Aaron Eads, have operated a consulting business together, providing grant-writing and other services to health and human service non-profits across the country.

Treasurer


Mary Walsh-Fitzpatrick





Mary Fitzpatrick is mom to Maeve (3rd grade) and Eamon (Kindergarten). She has been a member of the PS39 community for five years and has enjoyed volunteering during various events and fundraisers. Mary served as Co-Treasurer during the 2014–2015 school year, during which time she learned a great deal about the generosity of our community and the important ways in which parents support a vibrant learning environment at PS39. Professionally, Mary is an attorney and works in higher education. She is hoping to continue her position of Co-Treasurer for the 2015–2016 school year.


<p>Adam Becker</p> 	<p>Adam Becker is dad to Benny, a 1st grader, and Zach, a preschooler. Not only does Adam know what an Excel pivot table is, he actually enjoys making them, looking at them, and creating PowerPoint to explain them. He's done so professionally for over a dozen years, as a consultant for Accenture and IBM, and most recently as the leader of a team of Professional Services consultants for MicroEdge: a software company that helps charitable foundations manage their grantmaking. Adam also served as Treasurer of his Park Slope co-op for the last seven years, with responsibilities similar to that of the PTA Treasurer: managing and reporting on cash flow, making payments, and working with accountants on tax preparation. Adam hopes to return to the PTA executive board next year as Co-Treasurer.</p>
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Member at Large

<p>Matt Polacheck</p> 	<p>Matt Polacheck is dad to Lillia, a 2nd grader in Mrs. Calhoun's class, and Theo, a Kindergartener in Mrs. Hannan's class. He has been the Creative Director for Shmaltz Brewing Company, Clifton Park, NY, for 12 years. He was a Member-at-Large on the PS39 PTA executive board in 2014–2015. He also co-chairs the Spooktacular and chairs the Spring Carnival. Matt looks forward to returning to the executive board next year as a Member-at-Large to help support our wonderful staff and all the kids at PS39.</p>
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<p>Jenn Kantor</p> 	<p>Jennifer Kantor has been part of the PS39 community for almost eight years. She is mom to Lila, a 1st grader, and Jesse (a PS39 alum now at MS 51). She currently serves on the PTA executive board as Co-Vice President and is running for the position of Member-at-Large for the 2015–2016 school year. Over the past two years, she's advocated for our families, worked with the class parents, launched and managed numerous fundraisers, procured oodles of items for the school auction, sold a lot of stuff, and baked a ton of brownies. In her professional life, she's a freelance writer and copywriter.</p>
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<p>Allison Micarelli-Sokoloff</p> 	<p>Allison Sokoloff has been a part of the PS39 community since 2013 when her son entered Pre-K. She is mom to Paul, a Kindergartener in Miss Imperiale's class, and Ava, an incoming Pre-K-er. Allison first got involved with the PTA as a Class Parent in 2013–2014 and was a Member-at-Large and Class Parent Coordinator on the PTA executive board in 2014–2015. Allison is running for a second term as Member-at-Large to continue to play an essential role in Communications. Professionally, Allison has worked in media as an editor for over 15 years. Allison is looking forward to continuing her involvement with the passionate PS39 community and getting to know each and every family along the way!</p>
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<p>Christiania Cobean-Vitrano</p> 	<p>Christiania Cobean-Vitrano is mom to Matthew, a Kindergartener, and Gillian, who is queuing up for Pre-K next year. Hailing from Boulder, CO, Christiania moved to New York City in 1994 with a BFA in Musical Theatre and a Minor in waiting tables! After working in the theatre for several years, she joined Russell Investments in 2000 and is currently a Senior Project Coordinator for their Private Client Services group. Christiania served as co-chair for the 2014 and 2015 Spring Auctions and will co-chair the event again in 2016. She feels the PS39 Parent Association is a wonderfully active organization with vigorous program and fundraising goals. She would like to join the executive board in a Member-at-Large capacity to learn more about our terrific school, and to help continue and grow the many activities and programs offered at PS39.</p>
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<p>Madge Koch</p> 	<p>Madge Koch is the mother of Jackson, a Kindergartner in Miss Imperiale's class, and Ashton, a future 39er. From serving on the Auction's procurement team and helping run the event's first wine pull to finding new ways to engage with our Grandparents/VIPs with our school's inaugural Grandparent email, Madge has quickly learned how rewarding it is to help support PS39. After earning her MBA, Madge did Marketing for American Express for many years and more recently is pursuing more flexible business interests so she can stay at home with her very active boys. Over the years, Madge has also served on multiple fundraising committees and executive boards, including Treasurer of University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School Board, which required advocating and funding initiatives for 10,000 students across 12 diverse grad schools. Madge looks forward to bringing that expertise and her passion for PS39 to her role as an executive board Member-at-Large.</p>
<p>Fanny Chiari Gotschall</p> 	<p>Fanny Gotschall is mom to Sophie, who is graduating from 5th grade this year, and Elliot, who is in Ms. Flaherty and Reyes' Kindergarten class. Fanny was born and raised in Panama until the age of 17, when she moved to the U.S. to attend college. She lived in the Midwest where she met her husband, Ken. They moved together to NYC over 16 years ago, and landed here in the heart of Park Slope. She is an Art Director with an extensive background in design management and photo direction. She is now a freelance art director after working for 12 years in the music and entertainment industry. She hopes her role on the PTA executive board as a Member-at-Large will bring new perspectives while embracing the wonderful spirit of the community and our school.</p>
<p>Stefanie Wood</p> 	<p>Stefanie Wood is mom to Kindergartner Chloe Savage, and is a class parent for K106. She is thrilled to be considered for a spot on the executive board in 2015–2016 as Member-at-Large. Stefanie is a Creative Director of copy in the crazy world of advertising, managing campaigns for a pediatric vaccine as well as a dermatology/beauty account. She is mad for <i>Mad Men</i> (and very grateful to Peggy Olson for paving the way for other female copywriters). Stefanie has a degree in English from the University of Connecticut, and has also completed some graduate coursework in International Relations at the University of Oslo in Norway. If elected, Stefanie plans to bring her writing/marketing skills to the PS39 Weekly Bulletin as well as to the school's social media pages. When not doing something kid-related in Park Slope, you can find her singing karaoke somewhere in the East Village.</p>
<p>Janna Turoff</p> 	<p>Janna Turoff is the mother of Kate, a 3rd grader, and Emma, who graduated from PS39 last year. Janna has served on the Community School Board for School District 15 (CEC) for two years and has volunteered for numerous PS39 events over the last eight years. Before having children, Janna worked in education and community development for 10 years. During that time she worked as a head teacher for the Head Start program, as a counselor to "at risk" adolescents in a public junior high school, and as a consultant in conflict resolution to elementary, middle and high school administrators, teachers and students. Janna hopes to use her skills in community development and her background in education to make a positive contribution to the PS39 community as Member-at-Large.</p>
<p>JD Roberto</p>	<p>JD Roberto is dad to Enzo, a 3rd grader, and Finn Marie, a Kindergartner. He is running for a second term as Member-at-Large. As a past member of the PTA executive board, he believes that parental involvement in all aspects of the academic community and educational process is the key to a great school. He also believes that the toilet paper should always hang over, not under. Always.</p>

