

2022-2023 TJ PTSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Thank you to all the candidates who self-nominated for the 2022-2023 TJ PTSA Executive Committee slate. The pool and caliber of the self-nominations was very strong. Our candidate selection process included a review of each candidate's self-nomination form and a panel interview. And, based upon majority vote, we are pleased to announce the following slate of 2022-2023 TJ PTSA Executive Committee candidates:

- **President:** Yvette Rivers
- **1st Vice President of Programming and Events:** Pratyush Nutalapati
- **2nd Vice President of Membership and Fundraising:** Yehong Zhou
- **3rd Vice President of Communications:** Laura Marschoun
- **Treasurer:** Neelam "Nell" Janardhan
- **Secretary:** Qingying "Ally" Lu

The candidate bios are below. We support these candidates for the 2022-2023 TJ PTSA Executive Committee.

CANDIDATE BIOS

President, Yvette Rivers – Class of 2023 Parent



Yvette Soliz Rivers is a proud parent of a TJ Class of 2023 student. Since her boys started kindergarten, she has actively volunteered in a variety of ways to ensure an excellent school experience for all. From serving as PTA Board Secretary at Lake Anne Elementary, leading major fundraisers, being "Room Parent", and organizing numerous school events, she learned what it takes for a PTSA to successfully create a positive, supportive, and enriching environment for students. Mrs. Rivers has served as President of the TJ PTSA since November 2021. Mrs. Rivers served on the Board of the Yale Club of Washington, DC for three years—first as Vice President of Programming, and for two years as Club President. Mrs. Rivers' is currently serving on the Yale Alumni Association's Board of Governors and is Co-Producer for the Board's Career Reflections Channel.

Professionally, Mrs. Rivers is a Senior IT Program Management Consultant possessing more than 25 years of experience in information technology management consulting for 25+ government and commercial clients. She is currently an independent consultant providing program management services for a \$30 million IT program at the U.S. Treasury's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. Her professional expertise is in IT program and project management, strategic planning, and IT performance optimization. Mrs. Rivers graduated from Yale University with a bachelor's degree in Sociology with Psychology and from George Washington University with a Master of Business Administration.

Vision

I am nominating myself to continue to serve on the Board, because I believe that my continued leadership will help to maintain stability of our PTSA. I care about our community having a positive and impactful PTSA--a PTSA that always strives to support our students, appreciate school staff and teachers, and bring parents together. With the help of my fellow officers, I have worked hard to get PTSA activities going again and to build trust in our organization and leadership. Given that I just

started in November, I would like more time to ensure that our PTSA continues to head in the right direction.

1st Vice President of Programming and Events, Pratyush Nutalapati – Class of 2025 Parent



I am a dad of three lovely kids who go to Fairfax County Public Schools. My oldest kid is a Freshman at TJ who navigated the new admission process. I have been a resident of Fairfax County for the last 17 years. I have led and mentored many people/teams including college graduates as part of my day-to-day work to become team players and successful individuals fostering an inclusive environment. I help organizations to transform and navigate change as a Managing Director for a major Consulting firm with 20+ years of experience. I have a STEM/engineering background and an MBA from University of Maryland which helped me define bold ambitions for the firms to thrive in disruptive markets. I strongly believe in identifying talent and enabling human potential in each and every human to enable them to reach their full potential. I believe that PTSA needs to be a powerful voice for all students, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a passionate advocate of kids' education and well-being. I have been a Scout during my school days and believe in doing a good turn daily. I request your support as the First VP to learn the ropes as a parent of a 9th grader from others, to gain experience while I work with everyone, and to improve the ways of working of PTSA.

Vision

Help PTSA to define the north stars that will be core to our culture and use those to ground all our actions around it. Identify friction points across the students journey during the time they spend at TJ and assist them starting from onboarding, learning, event participation, safety and well-being while fostering a diverse environment where equity and inclusion of all are at its core. We thrive together as a community.

2nd Vice President of Membership and Fundraising, Yehong Zhou – Class of 2024 Parent



I am a wife, a mother of two children and a previous and current TJ parent. My family lived in Indiana in the past and moved to Fairfax County in 2007. My daughter is a sophomore at TJ and my son graduated from TJ in 2012 and went to MIT. TJ is like a family to me. I am very proud of my son's work at the TJ Biology Olympiad team club as the captain. Since he made the USABO finalist, he had shared his success and since then the strong Biology tradition had been passed on until now. I have more than ten years of full-time professional working experience in leading project teams serving financial needs of military, veterans, and their families. I also worked for many years as a volunteer at a local classic ballet studio to support my daughter's interest in pursuing performing arts. It was an amazing experience to work with a group of dedicated moms with different heritages to put up several great shows in Hilton performing arts center. I received my bachelor's degree of engineering abroad and a master's degree of science in the US. I believe love and compassion is the only path to bridge us all and to answer many challenges faced in our lives.

Vision Statement

TJPTSA's work should center around the educators and students to support TJ achieving its mission as a STEM oriented school. TJPTSA should serve as a bridge to help support a nurturing learning environment for all students; to help them overcome challenges; to help provide a platform to practice; to be the cheerleaders for hard work and passionate learning and to celebrate together. TJ students deserve family-like support, and we are here to provide that. I believe in the power of love and mutual understanding. By listening to others, by embracing the difference, by respecting the uniqueness of each life, we can march together toward the goal of making TJ a great place to teach and learn, a great life experience for all students.

3rd Vice President of Communications, Laura Marschoun – Class of 2024 Parent



I'm a proud mother of two boys, one a sophomore at UIUC Computer Engineering and the younger one a sophomore at JHSST. I have been actively involved in all of my boys' academics as well as extracurricular activities. Currently, I am serving as TJ PTSA Secretary, an officer liaison for the Diversity Committee, and a parent rep for Class 2024 Council. I also have been volunteering my time for events such as HackTJ, Botball and Science Olympiad competitions, and SGA Winter Bash, Talent Show, and HackTJ.

The previous year I was a Treasurer for TJ Academic Booster. I was also a co-head coach for Cooper MS Science Olympiad teams. Even though I did not have any students at Cooper Middle anymore, I volunteered my time because I believed in the mission of the Science Olympiad and science in general. I was trying to do my part so as to minimize the adverse effect on students during the pandemic.

Over the years, I have assumed many other roles, including being a 'room parent', organizing numerous PTO events, serving as a head coach for the Colvin Run ES Science Olympiad teams, and serving as Cooper MS PTO Parliamentarian. Additionally, I have been active in my boys' Boy Scout troop for the last 10 years, holding several positions, often simultaneously, on the troop committee. These include webmaster, outings and transportation coordinator, scout support committee chair, recording secretary backup, adult leadership for monthly outings and summer camps, and the popcorn and mulch fundraising teams. I was one of the three executive adult leaders for the troop's Scotland backpacking and UK trip scheduled in August 2021.

Vision Statement

I would like to serve on the TJ PTSA Executive Committee because I strongly believe in working towards building a more positive, welcoming and collaborative PTSA. The TJ community (parents, students, teachers and staff) deserve a conflict-free, cohesive and task-oriented PTSA. If elected, I would be highly motivated to work with all stakeholders, with differing opinions, to reach consensus on how best to benefit the TJ community, through PTSA programming and outreach.

Treasurer, Neelam “Nell” Janardhan – Class of 2025 Parent



I'm the parent of a freshman and a part of the current EC at TJPTSA. I started as Treasurer in January 2022 since the previous treasurer resigned. We've come a long way and I've enjoyed being part of the board. If given an opportunity to serve again, I believe I can help and add value to the team with my background and experience.

I have an engineering background and an MBA in finance. My professional experience is in engineering, risk management, financial planning, financial analysis, and operations. Over the past 6 years, I have held several positions with PTA and PTSA boards across Loudoun County schools. For 3 of these years, I served as the Treasurer. In 2021, I was an advisor to the Academies of Loudoun PTSA board during the transition covid year. During this time, I coached the Treasurer and provided guidance through the Audit process. From 2018-2020, I was the Treasurer at the Academies of Loudoun PTSA and oversaw the transition from PTO to PTSA. Other relevant positions I held were at Belmont Station Elementary PTA, including Treasurer (2017-2018), VP of Operations and Fundraising (2016--2017) and VP of Afterschool activities (2015--16).

Vision Statement

I have learned a lot as Treasurer on the current TJ PTSA Executive committee. We are lucky to have several dedicated volunteers, committee chairs, board, and EC members. The current TJPTSA has its focus on students, teachers, community building and unity. I would like to continue to support this vision and would like to increase student and teacher participation.

Secretary, Qingying “Ally” Lu – Class of 2025 Parent



I'm a project executive at IBM Consulting, overseeing a portfolio of projects. I have developed strong strategic planning, management, and business development skills by working in this role. These skills will allow me to work effectively as a member on the TJPTSA Executive Committee. In addition, I used to serve as the president of the Fairfax County Association for the Gifted (FCAG) between 2017 and 2019. The experiences I gained through running the FCAG, including building the community for academically advanced kids and organizing events, will help me successfully fulfill my responsibilities as an EC member.

Vision Statement

My vision for the TJPTSA is to promote the well-being of all TJ students and to connect and unite everyone in the TJ community, including students, parents, teachers, and administrators at TJ, to work effectively towards achieving common goals. If I'm selected to be an EC member, I will work closely with the PTSA president and other EC members to promote close school parent communication, to advocate for meeting every student's needs, and to make the TJ community a caring environment for all.

We hope that all candidates will continue to volunteer with the TJ PTSA and participate in leadership positions.

Please note, the Nominating Committee process is not the only way to be considered for a role on the Executive Committee. Most importantly, we wholeheartedly encourage candidates who did not make this slate to consider running from the floor. Therefore, in addition to this slate of candidates, TJ PTSA members can self-nominate for the 2022-2023 TJ PTSA Executive Committee. Details on this self-nomination process are forthcoming, so keep an eye on the website and your email. Additionally, we encourage you to be apprised of the following next steps:

- **Sunday, April 24th through May 8th** - Floor Candidate Self-Nomination Submission Period – Use this [submission form to submit your nomination](#).
- **Tuesday, May 10th** - Notice will be sent to all members with information about all candidates including those recommended by the Nominating Committee and those who intend to run from the floor.
- **Thursday, May 26th at 7 PM in Cafeteria** - Conduct election of officers at the in person General Membership meeting, allowing all candidates to speak up to two minutes.
- To vote in the election, an individual must sign up to be a member before the May 26th General Membership meeting starts.

In closing, again, we thank all the stellar candidates who raised their hands to volunteer their time for our community.

TJ PTSA Nominating Committee