



## 2023 Nominating Committee Candidate Statements

Thank you to the following self-nominated candidates for volunteering to be on the Nominating Committee!

### **Deborah Bagocius (Class of 2025 Parent)**

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#### **Why do you want to serve on the Nominating Committee?**

I am interested in serving on the Nominating Committee because of its role in helping select the next TJPTSA leadership team. The TJPTSA has powerful and influential responsibilities that need to be managed, led, and implemented by individuals who share a love, commitment, and vision for TJ's entire school community. Helping to select these individuals to make up an entire slate is a responsibility I respect and take seriously.

#### **Brief Bio (tell us who you are, what experience you have if any with PTSA's or other volunteer or related experience)**

I have a variety of experiences with volunteer activities and positions within the PTSA and TJCAB. For the PTSA I serve as the co-chair for the Wellness Committee and am a member of the Mental Health Coalition. I have also helped with graphic designs for various sub-committees. In the Summer, I hosted one of the regional welcome parties for New Students. For TJCAB, I serve as a member representing boys basketball and baseball. Earlier this year, I started a Sports Yard Sign fundraiser by conceiving of, designing, and implementing the sale of all the signs for each seasonal sport. I volunteer in the concession stands for games and take on other roles as needed. Last season and this season, I serve as a co-parent liaison for the Varsity Baseball Team.

## **Trina Bilal (Class of 2025 Parent)**

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### **Why do you want to serve on the Nominating Committee?**

I would like to help TJHSST recruit and select a passionate, dedicated, and dynamic slate of PTSA candidates who are focused on cultivating enriching and engaging activities/programs that further enhance the educational and cultural experiences of TJ students, parents, and teachers.

### **Brief Bio (tell us who you are, what experience you have if any with PTSAs or other volunteer or related experience)**

My name is Trina Bilal. My son is a sophomore at TJHSST. I served as the Chair of TJHSST's 2021-2022 PTSA Nominating Committee. I am an active TJHSST PTSA member. Similarly, I collaborate with my younger son's elementary school PTSA to implement activities that enrich the students' academic experience and help cultivate a dynamic and inclusive community that enables the students, teachers, and parents to thrive. Additionally, I support a plethora of volunteer organizations focused on advancing STEM education and collegiate research and development initiatives targeted towards underrepresented communities via professional and personal affiliations.

## **Hui Chen (Class of 2026 Parent)**

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### **Why do you want to serve on the Nominating Committee?**

As a parent of class 2026, serving on the nominating committee allows me to take an active role in the decision-making process of PTSA Executive Committee selection to ensure candidate selected possess the necessary skills and expertise to lead PTSA to fulfil its missions.

### **Brief Bio (tell us who you are, what experience you have if any with PTSAs or other volunteer or related experience)**

I'm a CPA and work for a Fairfax County agency as a financial specialist/fund manager. At work, I took part in several screening and interviewing processes to choose qualified candidates to fill open positions in the agency. Being a parent of two sons, one of whom is a freshman at TJHSST and the other one is a sixth-grader, I actively volunteered at various school events at both of their schools. I participated in the Lunar New Year celebration and served as chaperon of club competition field trips at TJHSST and organized Stem Night and International Night, and worked as room parents in their middle and elementary school. I also volunteered at various locations of the Red Cross to meet community needs.

## **Tony Depew (Class of 2026 Parent)**

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### **Why do you want to serve on the Nominating Committee?**

The committee serves an important role to evaluate candidates who fit the culture and spirit of the TJ community. In my professional role as an alliance director with a major global software company (Workiva), I have the responsibility of collaborating with senior leaders of technology, consulting and distribution firms to identify and execute on opportunities to grow our mutual business interests. Evaluating partner candidates, defining and prioritizing candidate objectives and building bridges to execute mutually beneficial growth opportunities is what I do every week in my professional role as an alliance director. The role requires effective collaboration, communication, and an ability to evaluate and forge alignment among partnering organizations.

The skills that I have developed in my professional career would serve very well as a member of the TJ PTSA nominating committee which is charged with identifying PTSA leaders who will work in the spirit of TJHSST PTSA - prioritizing collaboration, diversity and respect in an effort to promote continued growth of the entire TJ community (faculty, staff, parent community and students alike). I have developed a deep appreciation and admiration for the opportunities that TJHSST represents and the role of the PTSA and I would like to leverage my strengths to support them. I believe that I provide an objective and balanced perspective to help identify and nominate PTSA leaders.

### **Brief Bio (tell us who you are, what experience you have if any with PTSAs or other volunteer or related experience)**

I am sub-committee concession chair at TJ for CAB and have volunteered to support CAB this year. I regularly maintain concession stock, am creating a new method to track receipts and improve financial transparency and am collaborating with the CAB Committees and the Athletic Director to develop a new web-site to support CAB merchandise sales. I perform these duties collaboratively with the entire CAB committee and school athletic leadership; we, together, make decisions to improve the resources that provide an enjoyable experience for the student athletes and attending community. I am also currently volunteering as a sub-committee chair supporting TJ PTSA ANGP; duties involve coordination of the resources and volunteers to host the casino event to provide for a safe and fun celebration for the graduating senior class. I am also volunteering with the TJ Varsity Baseball team to support their live stream video feeds of Varsity baseball games.

**Why do you want to serve on the Nominating Committee?**

I am interested in serving on the nominating committee for PTSA as I am passionate about contributing to the educational experience of all students. By utilizing my skills and expertise, I would like to assist in identifying and recruiting qualified individuals to serve on the PTSA board, and work towards building an efficient and thoughtful PTSA. Additionally, I see this as a valuable opportunity to connect with other parents, teachers, and students in the community and work towards making a positive impact on the education system at TJ.

**Brief Bio (tell us who you are, what experience you have if any with PTSAs or other volunteer or related experience)**

As a project manager and supervising structural engineer at a bridge design firm, I have extensive experience in reviewing resumes and conducting interviews for new hires within my department. My involvement in PTSAs dates back to 2007 when my oldest daughter, who graduated from TJ in 2020, was in kindergarten. Currently, my second daughter is attending TJ, and I am eager to contribute my knowledge and expertise to help with the formation process of PTSA as an experienced parent.