

TJ PTSA OFFICER ELECTION – NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATE

First Vice President of Programming & Events, Karen Monaco – Class of 2025 Parent



I am a fifth generation Arlingtonian, mother of two, with a history of educational and civil rights advocacy in Northern Virginia. My daughter, Vivian, is a 10th grader at TJ.

I have a Risk Management background and have served as the Director of Business Systems and Technology for Citibank Community Development. I am a trained facilitator for Challenging Racism: through Stories and Conversations, a nonprofit organization started in 2004 to close the minority student achievement gap in Arlington Public Schools, offering training to inform faculty, staff and parents about race and equity.

I have served on the PTA Executive Board at Drew Model School, and have volunteered for the PTSA at TJ, for appreciation activities, AP Exam proctoring, and organized the African American History Month Celebration in 2022. I am an avid youth sports booster at TJ, and in my community. I am proud to be considered to serve this amazing TJ community as first VP of the PTSA Executive Board.

Vision

The PTSA has done exceptional volunteer service supporting students, families, and teachers during a challenging period in the school's history. My vision for the PTSA is to follow the current roadmap but expand the governance to include more equitable access to all the incredible resources at TJ for all students. I believe that the executive board should strive to keep the perspective of all children and families in mind. Many of us come from various silos in our communities. We should continue to move beyond those silos and model good community behavior and inclusion for our fellow board, the students, the staff, and the larger FCPS community. I believe I have the time and a unique set of skills to commit to this vision.