



## **2024 Nominating Committee Candidate Statements**

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

### **Dunia Pardo (Class of 2027 Parent)**

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

I understand the importance of working with responsible and reliable people, and I aim to help you find the best fit to the best of my ability using the experience I have.

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

I have been an active PTSA volunteer across various committees this year. Back in college, I had the opportunity to learn and strengthen different skills. Besides studies, I worked in teams and explored different abilities with my peers. As an Honor Society member and President, I work with committee officers to develop different opportunities for leadership and volunteer opportunities for other students to help them succeed. Organizing voluntary programs involving professors as mentors and students who desire STEM educational experience and assisting students to navigate the scholarship system. As a member and President of a Rotaract Club, I had the opportunity to reinforce the importance of giving and helping others, organizing different events and activities in and out of campus, such as serving lunch to local community shelters, running food drives to support the food pantry and provide food for students in need, and organizing Blood Drive events with the local hospitals.

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

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

It's a good opportunity to contribute to the school community and support its activities.

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

I am a 2026 parent. I have been volunteering in various TJ Academic Boosters events such as merchandise sales, phon-a-thon, TJ academic club fundraising etc. I also participated in TJ PTSA sponsored events such as Lunar New Year celebrations and helping with TJ AP exams. I was also a member of PTSA nominating committees for the 2023 PTSA election.

**Elizabeth Das (Class of 2025 Parent)**

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

I have so appreciated those willing to give of their time to the PTSA and want to make sure we continue to have the leadership that cares so much about the students and the school.

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

I have a daughter who is a junior and a son who is a freshman at Herndon and have been involved in their PTAs/PTSAs since they were in Kindergarten. I have a Masters in Social Work and worked with children and families at risk before moving into training and technical assistance with a focus on family development, parent involvement, and supporting children who've experienced violence. At TJ, I've been the chair of the Health and Wellness Committee and this gave me the opportunity to see the PTSA executive board in action.

**Shiwei Luo (Class of 2026 Parent)**

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

Help with building up an efficient and thoughtful PTSA.

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

I currently work as a project manager and supervising structural engineer at a bridge design firm. With a background in reviewing resumes and conducting interviews for new hires in my department, I bring valuable experience to the role. I had the privilege of serving on the nominating committee last year and actively participated in PTSA activities.

**Vaishnavi (Vinnie) Sawant (Class of 2025 Parent)**

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

I feel it is very important to have the right candidates to serve on the PTSA as it is an integral part of the school community that connects parents, students and school.

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

I am a parent of the class of 2025. I have been involved in my kids school since they were in Kindergarten may it be as needed volunteering or being the Carson Middle school PTA Vice President for 2 years. I have volunteered at TJ PTSA prior as a member of PTSA Nominating Committee.