



## 2026 Nominating Committee Candidate Statements

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

### **Hui Chen (Class of 2026 and 2029 Parent)**

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

I want to contribute to building a strong and inclusive PTSA leadership team that supports the TJ community. Serving on the Nominating Committee gives me the opportunity to connect dedicated volunteers with leadership roles, strengthen parent engagement, and ensure the PTSA continues to be of excellence for all students.

#### **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 two students, Classes of 2026 and 2029. I have been actively involved in PTSA-sponsored activities and other volunteer work within the school community. I previously served on the Nominating Committee in 2024 and as Treasurer of the TJ Academic Boosters in 2023. In addition, I have volunteered as a parent proctor for AP exams and supported school events such as Thanksgiving Around the World, Homecoming, and cultural celebrations.

### **Lisu Gu (Class of 2028 Parent)**

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

I am a mom of two TJ students, one who graduated in the class of 2019 and one now in the class of 2028. I am a PTSA member and volunteer in the TJ community. As a non-profit organization, the goal of the PTSA is to support TJ students' educational success and their health and well-being. Each year, the TJ PTSA organizes numerous social events, family-oriented activities, and collaborative projects that bring together our students, our school, teachers, and staff, and our families. My family and I value and benefit from all the work TJ PTSA leaders, members and volunteers do and the efforts they make for the TJ community. Year after year, I have seen TJ PTSA stand strong and work efficiently despite leadership turnover. The key to keeping TJ PTSA strong are the core leaders who serve as officers. This is why I am interested in volunteering my time to help recognize and seek talented and qualified nominees for the elected leadership of the TJ PTSA. I served on the nominating committee last year. We have chosen qualified leaders for the PTSA. I hope I can contribute my experience to the committee again!

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

My name is Lisu Gu. Both of my children are TJ students, one in the Class of 2019 and the other in the Class of 2028. I am a licensed financial advisor with fourteen years of experience working full-time with people from all walks of life. I hold B.S. and M.S. degrees. As for volunteer experience, I am a member of the TJ PTSA and have volunteered for and contributed to numerous TJ events, including AP exam proctoring, teacher appreciation luncheons, Chinese New Year celebrations, ANGP nights, and other community activities. . During the pandemic, I helped TJ PTSA initiate community Zoom meetings. For the past 8 years, I have also hosted annual public educational seminars on college financial aid for TJ parents. Outside of TJ, I have volunteered regularly in a local non-profit Chinese school and its community for the past 15 years. The school relies 100% on parent volunteers. I served as assistant Principal/Dean for 2 years and worked with parents, teachers and students at the school. Upon the end of my term, I identified my successor and successfully handed over my position.

Personal interaction is essential to my daily job. I have experience talking and working with diverse groups of people, identifying and understanding their characters and situations. I am willing to devote my time and to bring my experience to TJ PTSA by nominating myself as a candidate to serve on the Nominating Committee. I served on the nominating committee last year and have worked with the other members to identify the PTSA core leaders. I am familiar with TJ PTSA Bylaws and TJ PTSA Nominating Committee

Instructions. I believe I am a qualified candidate for this position and look forward to contributing to the TJ community.

### **Mayra Hickling (Class of 2027 Parent)**

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

I would like to participate serving in the committee to show my appreciation as a payback to all the hard work all the PTSA parents do for the 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 certified k12 WL teacher taking a sabbatical. I have been participating as a volunteer with the PTSA as soon as my son started his freshmen year at TJ. The last 2 years I have been the TJ PWCS representative during freshmen welcome at our county. I have been supporting with food donations, proctoring AP exams, as a class chaperone with various subjects, chaperone during J days, HOCO, with orchestra as the Viennese ball co-chair. I'm also the Academic boosters co-chair of fundraising.

### **Jane Iyengar (Teacher and former parent)**

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

It's a great privilege to serve the TJPTSA. I've been actively involved with the organization since 2009. As a former TJ parent and a current TJ faculty member, I believe a strong PTSA is essential for the program's success. Our students are gifted and talented, and their needs require a unique partnership with both the school and the community. I have been serving the TJ community with their unique needs.

My recent position as a nominating committee member has enabled me to gain insights into recruiting, screening, and nominating the right candidates through formal processes, as per the TJPTSA bylaws. I'm confident in my ability to lead the nominating committee in the right direction to recruit the right candidates for the open positions in the upcoming

year. Last but not least, I would like to support the current TJPTSA in building a strong team of members who are committed to the organization's mission.

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

My name is Jane Iyengar. I am a licensed teacher with endorsements in Technology Education, Business/IT, and School Administration and Leadership. I have 11 years of teaching experience and 15 years of TJPTSA experience as a former TJ parent.

In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I have been involved in educational professional development, research, and outreach that benefits both the teaching and student communities. I have also served on the equity, innovation, and AI committees at TJ to support the staff and administration.

As a member of the nominating committee, I gained valuable insight into the formal processes for recruiting, screening, and nominating candidates according to TJPTSA bylaws. I am confident in my ability to find and select qualified individuals. Thank you for your consideration.

**Yuping Schellhaas (Class of 2029 Parent)**

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

I want to contribute to building a strong and inclusive PTSA leadership team that supports the TJ community. Serving on the Nominating Committee gives me the opportunity to connect dedicated volunteers with leadership roles, strengthen parent engagement, and ensure the PTSA continues to the excellence for all students.

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

My name is Yuping Schellhaas, and I am the parent of a TJ 2029 student. I work as the Director of Supply Chain for a U.S. company, where I lead international operations, manage cross-cultural teams, and build strong partnerships. I bring more than 15 years of experience in leadership, problem-solving, and collaboration.

I have been an active volunteer in my children's schools and in the community, supporting PTSA initiatives, cultural events, and student activities. I also teach Tai Chi to parents and community members as a way to promote health, balance, and connection. I enjoy connecting people to roles where they can contribute their talents. I look forward to serving the TJ community by helping identify and nominate dedicated leaders for the PTSA.