

Barton Community Endorsement for Parent Representatives to the Leadership Council

The Barton Leadership Council, consisting of parents and staff members, is the primary governing body for the school. The Council is responsible for setting school policy, keeping our work aligned with our progressive school mission, identifying yearly goal areas, monitoring school improvement plans, encouraging broad participation from all members of the school community, and guiding Barton Foundation expenditures.

Parent representatives to the Leadership Council need to be endorsed by 30 or more votes from the adult members of the Barton community. **Each adult in a family may vote for up to 10 candidates, but each adult may only vote once for an individual candidate.**

It is our desire to have parent representatives to the Council who reflect our diverse student body. Ideally, we seek a mix of gender, race, and parents of younger and older children. When more perspectives are included in our decision-making, the better is our ability to make good decisions for all children.

PLEASE VOTE! The more ballots that are turned in, the more opportunity people will have to serve.

Please return this ballot to your child's teacher or the front office no later than Friday, May 23, 2014.

REMEMBER: Each adult in the household has ten 10 votes!

* Incumbent

	Adult 1	Adult 2
Jeffrey Bair	_____	_____
Jennifer Bennett*	_____	_____
Andrea Breen*	_____	_____
Sheila Eldred*	_____	_____
Kadhar Elmi	_____	_____
Shamsa Farah	_____	_____
Katherine Harter*	_____	_____
Kori Hennessey	_____	_____
Tom Hockenberry	_____	_____
Patrick Hynes	_____	_____
Kris Johnson*	_____	_____
Amy Kennedy	_____	_____
Kevin Kinneavy*	_____	_____
Kristi Smith Knutson*	_____	_____
Sarah Lahm*	_____	_____
Stephanie Malcy	_____	_____
Mel Muller	_____	_____
Julia Paulsen Mullin*	_____	_____
Fiona Pradhan	_____	_____
Anjula Razdan*	_____	_____
Virajita Singh	_____	_____
Sarah Stenzel	_____	_____
Lori Zook Stanley*	_____	_____



JEFFREY BAIR

I have three kids currently attending Barton: Evalyn (7th Grade), Mary (4th Grade) and Catie (2nd Grade). My wife Karen and I are advocates of the open school philosophy and regularly volunteer for both school and extra-curricular activities. I am interested in being on the Leadership Council because as a media/marketing communications professional I would like to help facilitate a Council that continues to improve to provide transparent leadership to the Barton community at large.



JENNIFER BENNETT*

It's hard for me to believe I've been a Barton parent for 10 years. Bella (grade 6) is my youngest, and I have two Barton graduates in high school. I've especially enjoyed serving on the Leadership Council -- helping to make sure everything we do supports our open school mission. I also have an interest in what's happening beyond the walls of Barton, serving on committees, building relationships with school board members, and trying to keep up with what's going on at the District level, particularly as it relates to magnet schools. One of my goals is to work on ways the school can reach out to newer parents, and I look forward to the opportunity to share my historical perspective with future Council members.



ANDREA BREEN*

I would like to continue on the Council next year. I have two children who have gone through Barton and now attend South HS, and one who will be in 7th grade. I am deeply committed to the Open philosophy at Barton. I have lots of experience working with the Council, have served on the District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC), and feel I can contribute a helpful progressive education perspective.



SHEILA ELDRED*

I have a son in 3rd grade and a daughter is in 1st grade. I hope to continue serving the Barton community as part of the Leadership Council. I love the concept of Open education, and would appreciate the opportunity to help foster the community's understanding and participation in this Open school. I also volunteer in the classroom and helped establish the Barton Spirit Garden. My hopes for Barton include deepening each classroom's Open attributes and ensuring that we're helping every student reach his/her potential, especially through outdoor education.

KADHAR ELM

I am parent of a 1st grader and this is my second year at Barton. Our experience at Barton has been so great that I am interested in serving on the Leadership Council. My hopes and dreams are to support our school any way I can. I am very grateful to be a part of this wonderful community. What inspires me about open education is the educating of the whole child. Barton does not only teach our kids academically but prepares our children to become respectful and caring young adults.

SHAMSA FARAH

I am very proud to say that I have been a Barton parent since 2002. Four of my children have graduated from Barton and I have an 8th grader and soon to be 6th and 5th graders. I have been on the Leadership Council before but took some time off due to my demanding schedule including family, work and school. I want to return my voice to the council now. I have always been an advocate for our school and believe that I am very fortunate to be part of the community. My inspiration about the open/progressive education program is that it prepares our kids to become not only good learners but good people. I am very committed to represent my school and support its value and mission.



KATHERINE HARTER*

Having served for the past three years on the Barton Leadership Council, I hope to continue again as a member of this team. My youngest child is a 6th grader at Barton, and my oldest, a Barton grad, is finishing up her sophomore year at Washburn High School. My current involvement at Barton outside the Leadership Council includes fundraising and leading school tours. Being connected at Washburn has expanded my knowledge of what we are preparing our students for when they leave Barton, and this has affirmed my strong support of our progressive model. Barton is a special environment which has been thoughtfully cultivated over 32 years, and I want to see it continue to thrive as an open magnet in the future.



KORI HENNESSY

I have three children ages 3, 5 and 7. My oldest boy will be in 2nd grade at Barton for the 2014-2015 school year and my younger son will be in kindergarten. My youngest and only daughter will be in preschool. My hope for Barton is that we continue to enjoy the great community feeling that stems from the commitment and involvement of all the families here and value the contributions made by everyone. I'm interested in serving on the Council to help organize more ways for us all to connect as a community and learn about open education. What inspires me about open education is the ability of the community to fit the needs of each individual student, while at the same time valuing the importance of the community as a whole. I love the emphasis on the whole child; their social, emotional and academic needs and strengths. I think that here at Barton we are working very hard to create a community of great leaders. I hope to be able to connect with more

people and share more ideas as a part of the Council!



TOM HOCKENBERRY

I am the parent of a Barton 7th grader (David) and 4th grader (Katie). I served on the Council for several years prior to our family moving overseas four years ago.

We are happy to have returned to Barton last fall and I would love to start to contribute to the school again by serving on the Leadership Council. I am a strong supporter of open education and I am also deeply grateful for all that the Leadership Council does for the school and its students. I would be honored to have the opportunity to join the Council again and to do my part to help carry on the great tradition of open education at Barton.



PATRICK HYNES

My wife Heather and I live in Southwest Minneapolis with our two daughters, Annika (age 3), and Skylar (age 5), who is very excited to begin kindergarten at Barton this fall. Before I visited Barton I did not know what an open school was. I still don't know if I can describe it very well, but after spending a few hours at the school it was clear that it meant something important to the parents, teachers, and students. I appreciate the excitement and sense of responsibility that the student ambassadors displayed, and I think that is a direct reflection of the child-centered philosophy of open education. I was excited to learn about the Barton Leadership Council, and my goal would be to help new parents learn about the school and to quickly become fully involved in a great community.



KRIS JOHNSON*

I am the father of a 5th-grader, 4th-grader and a kindergartner, and have served on the Council for 3 years. I truly believe in Barton's Open Education philosophy and believe our school provides a great education and a nurturing learning environment for all of our students. Barton, like many public schools, continues to face persistent challenges and we parents have a critical role to play in helping our school continue to thrive. I welcome the chance to continue to serve on the Leadership Council and support the work of this exceptional school in the years to come.



AMY KENNEDY

I have two daughters, Gwen and Anja. Gwen will be entering Kindergarten in the Fall, and Anja will be a 1st grader. My hopes for Barton are that it will continue to diversify and strengthen its integration with the community. I would like to participate because I am a teacher in the district, have served on the Area C Parent Advisory Council in the past, and have a desire to advocate for the open/progressive education opportunity that Barton offers.



KEVIN KINNEAVY*

Barton has been a key part of our family's life for the past 10 years as our two boys worked their way through. Over this time I've become increasingly involved in Barton's community by going on field trips, photographing class events, and helping in the classroom. For the past several years I've also been coordinating work on the Barton school and foundation web sites, managing the directory database, tracking the Barton Fund donations, and helping with other projects. Two years ago I joined the Leadership Council and served as the Foundation Treasurer this past year. Our youngest will be in 8th grade this coming year, and I would like to continue my service on the Leadership Council during our final year at Barton and hope to pass on as much of my accumulated knowledge as possible.



KRISTI SMITH KNUTSON*

After spending the last two years on the Leadership Council working alongside thoughtful staff, inquiring parents, and engaged (and inspiring!) students, I'm more excited than ever to be a part of strengthening the open program we have at Barton. I have three kids at Barton: a fifth grader, a third grader, and a kindergartner. When I think of their experiences in the Barton community, I'm grateful they are in a school that values the whole child and learning in its many different forms, whether it's on the playground, in the classroom, during camping, or performing at an All-School meeting. As a Council rep, I hope to work to make the Council's work transparent, accessible, and intentional as we keep open ed alive and well. I'm as proud as ever that we're a Barton family. Thanks for considering me as a Council rep.



SARAH LAHM*

I have four children; one graduated from Barton in 2013 and is now at Washburn, and next year I will have an 8th grader, 4th grader, and kindergartner. My hopes for Barton are to see it continue to grow and flourish as a successful Open school built on progressive education principles. I have been on the Council since 2009, and have learned much about the challenges and opportunities facing our school community. To me, being on the Council is a meaningful way to support and expand what progressive education has to offer, such as: greater student involvement in their own education, and the attention paid to positive social interactions. I look forward to serving Barton for another year!



STEPHANIE MALCY

I have a son in third grade and a 3-year old daughter at home. I am interested in serving on the Council so I can actively participate in decisions that affect the health and welfare of the school and positively impact the children that attend. And because I will have two children moving through Barton, it is my belief that I have a responsibility to play an active role. I feel strongly about open/progressive education because it is an inclusive philosophy that emphasizes sharing, respect as well as self-directed learning. Moreover, an open education provides opportunities for all children to be creative, to grow and to develop a love of learning. It is my hope that Barton continues to be a progressive, thriving environment that encourages learning and personal responsibility for making change.



MEL MULLER

I am a first-year parent at Barton, as my son is finishing kindergarten. I have been an educator practitioner for over 15 years all across the United States and abroad. Currently I am a specialist in Minneapolis Public Schools. I am an advocate for education reform. I believe administrators, teachers and support staff need to be dedicated to current research practices that are documented in the learning environment of today's diverse student population. My hopes for Clara Barton and the school's vision, is that we continue to better serve the needs of K-8th grade students academically, emotionally, linguistically, and economically. I believe it takes a village of many different backgrounds and expertise to create a learning environment that embraces many different styles of learning that are happening in classrooms today.



JULIA PAULSEN MULLIN*

I have three children at Barton this year in grades 8, 6 and 2, and a sophomore at Washburn High School. As a member of the Leadership Council, I want to keep finding ways to reach out and hear from all members of the Barton community as we advise the Barton administration and make funding decisions. I believe strongly in Barton's open philosophy and want to support its active, creative and inspiring atmosphere. I look forward to continuing to make Barton an exceptional place for our kids. Thank you.



FIONA PRADHAN

I am the parent of a 3rd grader and am a communications and public relations consultant. Over the past 4 years I have volunteered at Barton in my child's classrooms, as a classroom web page volunteer, and even baking cakes for a fundraiser. I would love to now use my professional skills to support Barton at the big-picture level by serving on the Leadership Council. My hopes for Barton are that we continue to increase opportunities for parents to get involved in the areas that tug on their heartstrings; that we increase avenues of communication so that everyone in the Barton community feels in the loop, connected, and included; and that we have the funds needed so all Barton's students have access to a wide variety of rich programming that nurtures their creative, growing minds and spirits.



ANJULA RAZDAN*

I am a first-year member of the Barton Leadership Council. My older son, Otto, is a first-grader in Jane's class, and my younger son, Ezra, is an (apprehensive-but-excited!) incoming kindergartner. I currently work as a health-and-nutrition editor at a progressive, whole-health magazine, although the flexible nature of the job allows me to be at home most days. My hopes for Barton are that we foster a sense of community for *all* families and that we continue to adhere to an open-school philosophy that respects both the individual learning styles of children and the idea that cultivating social and emotional growth is critical to academic achievement. I am also fairly obsessed with many health issues, ranging from nutrition to the environment, which I think are critical to whole-child learning. I've enjoyed my first year on the Council and would very much appreciate returning.



VIRAJITA SINGH

My sons are Madhav Singh, 8th grade and Keshav Singh, 3rd grade. My family has been very fortunate to be part of the Barton community since 2005. Along with our boys who have thrived at Barton with outstanding learning experiences and strong relationships with friends and teachers, my husband Arvind Singh and I also have learned a lot about progressive education and its possibilities (as you can imagine, a little different from the education we experienced in India!). We have strong friendships with other Barton families. Over the years, I have volunteered in Barton classrooms at different points. As a researcher and educator at the University level, teaching about design, design thinking, innovation, architecture and sustainability, I am not only thrilled by the value of progressive education for our children but believe that Barton's style of education and methods are an example for higher education to help young people reach their potential. I hope to work to collaborate with other Council members and the Barton community to develop and strengthen the opportunities for Barton to continue and thrive into the future. I also hope to connect Barton to other partners, institutions and funding. My hope for Barton is that it continues to be the shining example of an engaged, loving community of children, teachers and parents developing

whole people, supporting whole families for a world that sorely needs it!



SARAH STENZEL

I have four children at Barton (Eddie-5th, Henry-3rd, Meg & Kate-Kindergarten) and have enjoyed volunteering in their classrooms and the Media Center, going on field trips, and making updates to classroom websites. Our family appreciates how the Barton community values and accepts children for their many different talents and abilities. I value good communication between parents and the staff/school and realize how much it contributes to a strong partnership.



LORI ZOOK-STANLEY*

With children going into 4th & 8th grades, I continue to feel privileged to be a part of this extraordinary learning community called Barton Open School. I am thrilled that my children attend a progressive open-ed school that values social and community learning alongside academics, that sees each child as a unique learner to be respected, and that challenges taken-for-granted ideas. It has been an honor to participate on the Leadership Council for the last seven years, the last two as parent co-chair. I hope to continue serving on the Council in the coming year, bringing passion for our school and its practices; critical thinking and the ability to ask good questions; and the time and energy to get the work done. When I am not parenting or wearing numerous other hats, I work as a clinical social worker.