



## Spring 2018 Collaborative School Committee Election

The Collaborative School Committee (CSC) is a DPS-mandated board consisting of the principal, elected parent representatives, teachers, support staff and community members. Throughout the year, the CSC provides guidance and recommendations to improve academic performance; as well as advice on achieving the goals of Cory’s strategic plans, budget and staffing priorities, increasing parent engagement, and enhancing school culture.

We are holding elections for the two open parent CSC positions beginning in the 2018/2019 school year.

**INSTRUCTIONS: Please review the nominees below and select TWO candidates. One vote per family. Return this ballot by Friday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2018.**

<input data-bbox="159 680 209 745" type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Eric Anderson</b> First Grade (Elin), Third Grade (Elsa)</p> <p>I am interested in becoming deeply involved with the CSC because both of my two children will be Cory kids this year and I have a desire to give of myself as much as possible for the benefit of Cory Elementary. My wife and I moved our family from the Harvard Gulch neighborhood after residing there for 13 years specifically to get into the Cory-Merrill neighborhood. We volunteer and donate as generously as our schedules and budgets allow and believe strongly that a school's success is directly impacted by its level of parent involvement. I would be honored to be nominated to the CSC and would certainly dedicate my time and energy to the role. Thank you, Eric Anderson - Director Product Management, Pearson Higher Education</p> <p>I have worked in the Education Technology industry for nearly twenty years. I received my Bachelor’s degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder and my M.B.A. from the University of Denver. I am a strong advocate for students, am deeply involved in EdTech and have a solid understanding of basic pedagogy and learning design principles. Most importantly, I have the desire and passion to invest my time and energy to the CSC cause.</p>
<input data-bbox="159 1194 209 1260" type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Carrie Bernstein</b> First Grade (Maya Csajaghy), Fourth Grade (Tessa Csajaghy)</p> <p>I would like to become a CSC member to ensure the ongoing success of Cory. As a member of the Principal Selection Committee this winter, I collaborated with other parents, teachers and Liz TenCate, to assist in choosing the new principal, Joan Wieser. In doing so, I participated in thoughtful discussions about the direction that Cory should be heading and focused on what Cory really needs and wants as a school. I envision that that experience on the Principal Selection Committee will transition well to the CSC. I want to continue to have input into the direction Cory is going, especially since I will have a 1<sup>st</sup> grader and 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Cory next year. I have seen firsthand how important a role the CSC plays to make Cory the great school it is and an even better one in near future.</p> <p>I am first and foremost a mother to my 2 daughters and am actively engaged in their lives, their classrooms and school. have served as a room parent several times, have volunteered my time for several of Cory's school wide activities and am engaged in the Cory-Merrill neighborhood and Cory community. Professionally, I am a lawyer at my small law firm, Alderman Bernstein, focusing on real estate litigation and real estate transactional law. I am a native of Colorado, having grown up in Vail and Denver, and have always been active in the outdoors - skiing, hiking, and playing tennis. I have also traveled extensively throughout my life.</p>
<input data-bbox="159 1816 209 1881" type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Christopher Campbell</b> Third Grade, (Nicholas), Kindergarten at Knight (Benjamin)</p> <p>I would like to assist the incoming administration with keeping Cory performing as one of the top elementary schools in the City, and providing unique, enriching experiences for our children and those who come after us. I</p>

	<p>have a good business and legal thought process to help the school with its direction, budgeting, and leadership. My goal would be to continue the progress that has started under Liz Tencate pertaining to Cory’s new vision, compacted math program as related to our HGT/GT magnet status, teacher retention, and continued professional development.</p> <p>I have been looking for a way to get involved with Cory and its leadership. My wife and I support the school financially and through the parent teacher association, but I have been wanting to be more involved in the high-level direction and planning for the school’s future. I am a big believer that with strong parental support and involvement, any school can thrive and prosper.</p> <p>I am originally from Denver and a product of the Denver Public School system. I attended Steck Elementary, Hill Middle School, and Manual High School. After graduation, I spent two years at USC in Los Angeles, and two years at University of Colorado at Boulder, where I earned a B.A. in Political Science. I attended law school at Loyola in Los Angeles.</p> <p>I am an attorney specializing in transactional real estate. I have also formed Blue Spruce Equity LLC – a real estate investment company that aims to improve multifamily properties throughout the Denver area.</p> <p>I am a big believe in the public school system and in giving back to the community. When my wife and I relocated back to Denver from LA we specifically targeted this neighborhood because of the reputation that Cory Elementary had within the Denver Public School system and in the neighborhood as a whole. I want to keep that reputation going, and build upon it.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Kristine Hawthorne</b> Second Grade (Joey), Third Grade (Abby)</p> <p>My son, Joey, and daughter, Abby, will be in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade next year. Ensuring that they and their classmates have the best elementary school education and experience is of paramount importance to my husband and me. I recently had the opportunity to serve on Cory's Principal Selection Committee. The collaboration between the administration, staff and parents got me excited about the opportunity to join CSC and have an ongoing impact on the Cory community.</p> <p>I have almost 20 years (yikes!) of professional experience as Marketing Manager at Fortune 500 companies including General Mills and Nestle. I am currently the VP of Business Development and am on the Senior Leadership Team for ClearVoice, a Denver based market research firm. My experiences interviewing/hiring, accounting/budgeting and leading teams will allow me to become an impactful member of the CSC.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Shahla Hebets</b> Third Grade (Devyn), Fifth Grade (Cameron)</p> <p>Based on my past experience, I would like to apply my knowledge and passion for improving public education through the CSC. I would like to work collaboratively with the committee to seek out innovative solutions for Cory Elementary which keep the school on a path to excellence while championing new opportunities. In my work as a digital marketing consultant, I often advise clients on the latest tactics for growth, and I believe some of these principles can also be applied to Cory. At times, it takes an out-of-the- box approach and a steadfast focus on potential solutions to advance. In my professional role, I also advise clients on setting and achieving budgets, managing costs, determining effective strategies and delivering results. Prior to starting my own business, I oversaw and managed large corporate teams so I understand the importance of collaborative leadership.</p> <p>I am an advocate of Cory Elementary, the teachers, staff and administration. It would be my pleasure to help the CSC implement Cory's new vision and to work toward addressing the needs of all Cory students.</p> <p>I have lived in the Cory neighborhood for close to 12 years and have been part of the school for the past 5 years.</p>

	<p>Since 2016, I have been an active member of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). In 2017, I joined the PTA Board as a Co-Vice President. In addition to my involvement with the PTA, I have also been a Co-Chairperson of the Buy-A-Share fundraiser for the Cory Auction Committee beginning in 2016 through this year. In addition to these efforts, I am a regular volunteer at the school in both of my children's classrooms as well as at community events such as the annual School Dance. I have also attended CSC meetings and assisted in resolving the previous year's budget shortfalls. I have been an advocate of the school within the neighborhood community as well. I recently hosted a meeting with Denver Public School Board President, Anne Rowe, where we discussed public education and how we can improve performance, enhance school culture, and more fully support funding efforts for DPS. Moreover, I host a bi-monthly community advocacy meeting centered on strengthening funding for education and other local legislative initiatives. As a result, I am well-versed in the school district budget challenges and other difficulties facing the state.</p> <p>I have two children at Cory Elementary. My daughter, Devyn, is in Ms. Miller's class and my son, Cameron, is in Dr. Laughlin's class. I am a proponent of public education and ensuring that all children regardless of learning level are challenged and encouraged to grow. I believe teaching children about a growth mindset is imperative to their success. I believe that strong schools start with a strong principal who empowers teachers to do what they do best - teach. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
	<p><b>Josh Spraker</b> Third Grade (Mason)</p> <p>I believe this would be a tremendous opportunity to become more involved with my child's education. I have truly enjoyed having Mason at Cory. The atmosphere, education, students and parents are fantastic. I would like to help carry on this tradition and grow upon what has been created at this great institution. I have been involved with strategic planning throughout the Denver community during my time at the children's foundation that I am a part of, as well throughout my career.</p> <p>We have been in the Cory Merrill neighborhood since 2007. We love the neighborhood, community and of course being a part of Cory. I work with building budgets, strategic planning, staffing, motivating my employees and setting goals for our sales teams. I have been able to work with the Cory Auction Team this year to help raise as much as we can in 2018. I have been a member of The Denver Active 2030 Children's Foundation for 10 years. During this time, we have done some tremendous things for children in our local communities and I feel that I can take this experience and knowledge and apply this to Cory functions to help benefit our school and children.</p>
	<p><b>Christopher L. Valdez</b> Second grade (Thea), Kindergarten at Knight (Raina)</p> <p>I'm an advocate for public schools and believe that that all children should have access to a quality education regardless of their socio-economic background. In the past, my family has supported DPS through passive giving. However, I feel that participation in Cory 's CSC will be an opportunity to provide more direct influence in maintaining and improving the quality of our community elementary school. I would also like to offer my track record of championing and developing new leaders in support of Cory's new principal. Ultimately, I want to ensure that my daughters, and all children in the Cory community, receive a quality education and have access to the academic advantages available to compete and prosper in the career of their choosing.</p> <p>I'm the product of Denver Public Schools. I started my educational journey at Edison Elementary, continued at Skinner Middle School and graduated from North High School. My time spent in the DPS system prepared me to earn a degree in engineering from the Colorado School of Mines, and ultimately, an MBA from the University of Denver. I'm currently an entrepreneur that founded a private equity backed energy company. I feel that I can provide the Cory CSC with a unique perspective due to my personal experience as a former DPS student and my executive experience where I'm accountable for inspiring a shared vision, executing on multi-million-dollar budgets, and building and maintaining high performing teams.</p>