

LSC CANDIDATE STATEMENT

School: John C. Coonley Elementary Network: 2

Candidate's Name: Kelly Lish Date: 2/24/2020

My name is Kelly Lish and I am the parent of three children in the neighborhood program here at Coonley; a fifth grader (Aidan), a third grader (Dillon) and a first grader (Molly). Our family has lived in the North Center neighborhood for 15 years and I have served as a parent representative on Coonley's LSC for the past four years. I have been actively invested and involved in Coonley for the past eight years and with a third grader, I have five more years ahead to help our school continue to provide our children with the highest quality education possible.

In my role as parent representative over the past four years, I have taken on the responsibility of reviewing the monthly school financials and internal accounts. I work closely with our principal to resolve questions about the account or its transactions and I provide monthly reporting to the LSC so they can perform one of their critical functions to approve the school internal accounts. I am a CPA with a masters of taxation and have 20 years of accounting and project management experience. I also served for 11 years as treasurer of a nonprofit organization. I am very organized as well as thoughtful and deliberate in my decision making. With the ongoing discussions about space planning and potential budget impacts of changing the programming at Coonley, I believe my skills are critical in helping to analyze an plan for our school's financial future.

In addition to reviewing the school budget, books and records to ensure transparency for the community, I work hard at fundraising efforts to ensure we can supplement the CPS given budget to provide additional programming and support for our Coonley students. I am an honorary board member of Friends of Coonley (FOC) and have volunteered countless hours chairing both the Pride Stride walk-a-thon, and the donations committee for the annual Spring Fling Fundraiser to help raise funds for technology, the arts, athletics, library, language, and other academic programming for all Coonley students. I also chair and have significantly grown the school's corporate sponsorship program, Coonley Core. For the past eight years, I have regularly attended the LSC meetings even when I was not serving on it. I will continue to attend regardless of whether I am re-elected because I think parental involvement is key to our school's effectiveness.

I feel so fortunate to be part of the Coonley community and I cannot say enough about the parents, teachers, administration and community that make our school so great. I would like the opportunity to serve another term on the LSC to help continue to improve Coonley for the benefit of all our children.

Parent Representative LSC Candidate Statement - Brooke Roark

As a parent of four children, I have been an active member of the school community spanning various grades. My children are currently in sixth grade, third grade, first grade and preschool. This range of grades allows me insight into the various successes and challenges of a middle school parent through primary grade parent.

I have been an active participant at LSC meetings since 2013. This includes attending CIWP, technology and facilities meetings throughout my years as Coonley a parent. These experiences have given me a knowledge base to serve on the Local School Council.

Additionally, as a Friends of Coonley board member I worked to enrich the school community throughout various events and projects. I worked purposefully to help meet the needs of the community from various perspectives.

As my Friends of Coonley terms ends, I would be honored to continue working with the Coonley community in a different position. If elected to the LSC, I would continue to be open-minded, reliable, and sincere in a parent representative position.

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Esther Storrie - Coonley Elementary

My name is Esther Storrie and I am seeking reelection to a final term as a parent representative to Coonley's LSC. My daughter is a Coonley graduate and my son is in the 5th grade. I am finishing my third term on the LSC, and I have been LSC Chairperson since 2017.

Coonley has changed so much since my daughter began kindergarten. In the last decade the student population has tripled, the addition was constructed, and programs have evolved. What remains the same though, is the high quality of students' experiences. Coonley has excellent administrators, teachers, and staff along with a committed parent population, which ensures the school continues to thrive, even in the difficult environment of CPS.

I look to this last term as a parent representative as an opportunity to support a smooth transition to the next group of LSC leaders. The Local School Council has important responsibilities for principal evaluation and financial oversight, while also being a powerful place for collaboration between the school and the community. My goal is to maintain the productive systems we have in place, while also encouraging new ideas that continue to move us forward.

As I have proven in the last six years, you can count on me to be a hardworking and thoughtful LSC member who puts kids' needs first. I hope to earn your vote one last time.

**Attachment to Form 4-16
LSC Candidate Statement**

Michael Negron for Parent Representative

As a former community representative, I am running for parent representative to the Coonley Local School Council so I can continue contributing to this great school community. My daughter Julianna is currently a 1st grader in Ms. Turner's class and my son Jeremiah will be starting kindergarten in the fall.

During my time as a community representative, I tried to put my background in policymaking and politics to support my colleagues in the important discussions we have had about Coonley's budget during times of CPS instability and dealing with overcrowding at Coonley. If elected as parent representative, I will focus on helping the LSC and school administration get the most out of our budget and solve our overcrowding challenges in a sensitive and inclusive way.

I have been in public service for more than 15 years and have experiences that can help me serve our school community. I am currently serving in state government working on economic development. Prior to that, I had spent more than six years in the city government working on a broad range of policy issues, including education, social services, business regulations, and affordable housing. Before returning to Chicago, I worked in Washington DC as a staffer in the Obama Administration and as counselor to Elizabeth Warren during her tenure as chair of a congressional watchdog overseeing the federal bailout of the financial industry. And I also spent time in the United States Navy after college.

Chicago is only as strong as its neighborhood schools. Coonley is an example of why more families are choosing to remain in the city and in the Chicago Public Schools. I have been honored to serve as a member of the Coonley LSC in the past and hope to do so as a parent representative.

Marla Commons

LSC Parent Representative Statement 2020

I am a long standing member of our community and am a parent of two Coonley students (Parker in 7th Grade and Rowan in 3rd Grade). I have been an active volunteer for Coonley for several years, most notably co-chairing Coonley's Pride Stride for 5 years.

I have served as a Parent Representative on Coonley's LSC for the last 2 years and am running for a second term. I have enjoyed learning about how our school works and have developed an even deeper appreciation for the work that goes into running our school, including budgetary matters, Principal evaluation and the work the LSC does that helps to ensure our school continues to succeed. As a Parent Representative, I have also had the opportunity to get to know many more teachers, staff, parents and community members and have an even deeper respect for those who work tirelessly to make our school so special. I currently sit on the Continuous Work Improvement Plan Committee and pledge to continue this work and to represent all parents, if given the opportunity to serve again.

In my professional life, I am the Vice President of Research for The Americas at Mintel Group, a global marketing research agency. This type of work means I am often required to objectively form strategic recommendations based on large and sometimes disparaging data sources, not unlike some of the work required of the LSC. I am also the first woman in my family to graduate college, receiving a Ph.D. in Psychology – as a result, I place an incredible value on public education and the opportunities it brings to our kids.

FORM 4-20

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CANDIDATES MAY USE THE FRONT SIDE OF THIS FORM OR ONE (1) SIDE OF ANOTHER SHEET OF THE SAME SIZE (8.5 IN. X 11 IN.) TO STATE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS AND PLANS IF ELECTED OR APPOINTED TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL. THE STATEMENT MAY BE COMPLETED IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH. CANDIDATES MAY INCLUDE A PHOTO OR PHOTOS ON THE FORM.



SCHOOL: JOHN C COONLEY ELEMENTARY NETWORK: _____

CANDIDATE'S NAME: LINDSEY CHRISTEN

DATE: 02-17-2020

My name is Lindsay Christen and our son is finishing his first year as a Coonley Cougar Kindergartener. We moved to North Center two years ago because of Coonley's outstanding reputation. As an LSC Parent Representative and working mom to two young children, I believe their education to nurture their empathy towards others, their curiosity for the world, and for learning. As such, I would be dedicated to advancing two key areas of the Coonley mission: 1) involved family and community partnerships, and 2) comprehensive student development supports. I look forward to serving your children and your families in this important responsibility.