

Head of School Search Committee Member Biographies

Dan Abelson is the parent of a 4th grader and a 1st grader and the spouse of Alissa (1st-2nd grade teacher in 2016-17). Dan is an attorney at the Metropolitan Council who practices in a variety of areas including environmental law, construction law, and data privacy and security. He is also a board member of the public law section of the Minnesota State Bar Association. Dan looks forward to the head search process, including working with the FSM community.

Melissa Andersen is a middle school humanities teacher with eight years of experience at FSM, including service on several committees. Melissa is a first-generation college graduate from the University of Minnesota in Duluth. Before coming to FSM, she gained experience searching for school leadership at the startup charter school where she taught and served for three years on that school's board. She believes strongly in FSM's mission and Quaker decision making process and seeks new perspectives and ideas. She cares deeply about FSM and knows the school and this community well. These qualities and her passion for progressive education and commitment to access and equity guide her as she serves the school in this head search.

Marshall Anderson is the Kindergarten teacher at FSM with eighteen years of experience at FSM. He is the parent of an FSM graduate from the class of 2011. Marshall is a graduate of Bethel University, where he focused on Native American Studies. He received his teaching training at Augsburg College a few years later. Marshall is passionate about environmental education, and has been a long-standing member of FSM's Environmental Education Committee, where he helped to write the curriculum for FSM's model EE program. In his years at FSM, he has served on numerous search committees for hiring teachers. He has worked with each of FSM's former heads and has extensive understanding and connection to progressive Quaker education.

Carolyn Carr (co-clerk) is the parent of a 6th grader (2016-17) who has been at FSM since kindergarten. Carolyn is a long-time attender at the Twin Cities Friends Meeting, where she has served on several committees. Carolyn is trained in conservation biology and has a consulting business. She joined FSM's School Committee in June 2014 and served on the 2014 Head Search Committee and the ISACS Steering Committee (2014-2016). Carolyn is deeply committed to FSM's mission, identity as a progressive Quaker school, Quaker decision-making processes, and to the importance of equity and inclusion. She is grateful to be able to serve school on this committee, and hopes the process and result of the search will strengthen the FSM community.

Fred Dulles (co-clerk) is the parent of two children who are FSM alumni (from the classes of 2008 and 2012). He is a former School Committee member and served two years as Clerk. He has served FSM in a number of other capacities over the years including on the 2006 FSM head search committee and the Plant Sale organizing committee. Fred has a PhD in chemistry, and works at the University of Minnesota Informatics Institute. He has also been a supervisor, and worked on hiring and served on search committees at UMn. He feels the value of being a member of the school community goes well beyond the substantial good it has done for his children. He is grateful for the chance to serve in a process that he hopes will be successful both in its main goal but also in strengthening our community as a whole.

Cindy García is the parent of a 1st grader and a 3 year old. Cindy is a Dance and Performance Studies scholar at the University of Minnesota. Her Chicana feminist research focuses on the politics of white supremacy, racialization, and migration in social spaces, and she is the author of the ethnography *Salsa Crossings: Dancing Latinidad in Los Angeles*. She taught for six years as a classroom teacher at a Spanish/English bilingual experiential elementary school in Boulder, Colorado and is a former board member for Academia César Chávez Elementary in St. Paul. She brings the lens of racial equity and social justice to her vision of a vibrant progressive education.

Guillermo Narváez is the parent of a 6th grader (2016-17). He has been active with the school on a number of activities including the Annual Plant Sale. Guillermo has a PhD in sociocultural anthropology and is a researcher at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. His research spans work with American Indian transportation policy, agroecology of coffee and other tropical commodities. He is involved in Diversity and Inclusion committees at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Previously he worked as an electronic engineer in the computer, telecommunications and medical instrumentation industries where he supervised engineering and production teams.

Tatiana Rosario Polovenko has been working in FSM's front office since February 2016. She is a graduate of Beloit College with a double-major in Russian and Sociology. Her coursework in Sociology concentrated primarily on race and gender. At Beloit, she served as the Event Coordinator at the Office of International Affairs and created programming to help educate the college community on various social identities. Tatiana was a student voice at Beloit College in the hiring process for the college's director of the McNair TRIO program (a federal outreach and student services program for academic institutions designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds). Tatiana served on the 2016 Interim Head Search Committee at FSM. She believes that her commitment to equity and diversity will be an important voice on the Head Search Committee.

Sarah Pradt is the parent of a high school sophomore (2016-17) who attended FSM from kindergarten through 8th grade. Sarah has taught Japanese literature, language, and film. She is an administrator at a nonprofit that builds partnerships between higher education and movements for social justice. At both her workplace and at her Unitarian Universalist church where she serves on the board of trustees, Sarah has served on teams working to understand and dismantle structural racism within each organization. In addition, Sarah has also served on the board of two nonprofits, including the board of AdopSource, a nonprofit committed to the integration of culture, identity, and life experience for transracial adoptees. At FSM, Sarah has served on the development committee and begins a term on School Committee in the 2017-2018 school year.

Patti Tetta has been an FSM parent since 2006, when her older son entered 1st grade. Her younger son is now in 7th grade at FSM (2016-17). Pati is a consultant with expertise in strategic planning, resource development, and evaluation. She works extensively with pre-K through post-secondary institutions as well as with other not-for-profit organizations, including social service organizations. In this work, she provides guidance for program and project development, conducts research into best practices, develops grant applications, and designs and implements outcome / impact evaluations. Much of her work centers on her area of passion: education equity and inclusion of students who are typically inadequately served by and/or underrepresented in educational institutions. Pati has a Master's degree in Scientific and Technical Communication / Human Centered Design. She has served on several boards of directors, including the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation.

Christine Salomon (ex officio) is the parent of 4th and 6th grade students who have been at FSM since kindergarten. She is in her fourth year as a member of the School Committee and is serving her first year as clerk. Christine is a member of the Committee on Trustees and has volunteered with the Plant Sale for many years. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota in the Center for Drug Design where she leads a research program focused on natural product chemistry and development of treatments for infectious disease in animals and humans, including White Nose Bat Syndrome. Christine is especially interested in increasing the presence of underrepresented groups in research and higher education opportunities. She has provided leadership on her professional society boards, served on several faculty search committees and was a member of the FSM 2014 Head Search Committee. She is grateful for the opportunity to listen to and serve our FSM community.