

School Committee Bios 2019-2020

David Bael I am the parent of two current FSMN students. I joined School Committee in 2018 and serve as Treasurer. Prior to joining School Committee, I served on the Finance Committee. I am an environmental economist at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and have previous experience doing financial and strategic planning for non-profit organizations. I bring financial planning and budgeting skills as well as previous non-profit board experience, having served on the Board of a worker-owned cooperative grocery store and a cooperative child care center. I am excited to make a contribution to decisions that affect the lives of my children and this community that I care deeply about. I enjoy running, ultimate frisbee, camping, and crossword puzzles.

Carolyn Carr I am the parent of a 2018 alumus who started at FSMN in kindergarten. I am a long-time attender at the Twin Cities Friends Meeting where I have served on several committees. I joined FSMN's School Committee in 2014, and served on the ISACS Steering Committee (2014-2016), and on two Head Search Committees. I am trained in conservation biology, have previously worked for nonprofits, and have a consulting business. I'm deeply committed to FSMN's mission, to our identity as a progressive Quaker school, and our Quaker decision-making processes, nature-based education, and ongoing work for equity and inclusion. I love that FSMN is always trying to improve itself, to live up to its Quaker mission.

Evelyn Christian Ronning I began serving on the School Committee in 2015 and currently serves as clerk. I am the parent of a 6th grader and a 2018 alumni. I am an attender at the Minneapolis Friends Meeting, and a member of the Reading Monthly Meeting in Reading, PA; I am deeply appreciative of FSMN's educational basis in Quaker values. I currently work as a researcher/evaluator at the Science Museum of Minnesota and as an Instructor at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, with a background in educational anthropology. I strongly identify as an educator, and have taught in contexts from middle school classrooms through alternative education programs for adults, and have taught in places as close as Minneapolis to places as distant as American Samoa. I appreciate and value FSMN's progressive educational focus that empowers young people to be the agents in their journey of lifelong learning. When I'm not working, I love to play music and sing, ride my bike, cook, and attempt to keep alive all the amazing plants I've added to my yard from the Plant Sale.

Peter Demerath I have been a member of School Committee since 2017. I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development, and an affiliated faculty member in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Minnesota. I have conducted ethnographic research projects on local conceptions of the utility of schooling, student identity, and academic engagement in Papua New Guinea and in the suburban and urban United States. My research interests include the role of class culture in the perpetuation of social inequality through education; student acquisition of psychological capital; and the development of improvement-oriented school culture. A former middle school social studies teacher, I now teach

courses in anthropology and education, globalization and education, cultural dimensions of leadership, research methodology, and social scientific foundations of education. With my wife, Ellen, I run a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the sustainable development efforts of the people of Manus, Papua New Guinea. I have been a co-teacher of the high school group at Twin Cities Friends Meeting since 2014.

Julie Eddington I am the parent of two FSMN students. I joined School Committee in 2017, initially served as Treasurer and now serve as Assistant Clerk. Prior to joining the School Committee, I was a member of the Finance Committee. I am a public finance attorney and have served on my firm's executive committee and was the president of the firm for four years. The skills I bring to my work also serve me well as an SC member - skills including organization, listening, synthesizing information, and questioning information in a respectful way. I enjoy working with people with various backgrounds, experiences, and knowledge. As a parent, I volunteer for the school because I care deeply about the mission of the school and have seen first hand the incredible impact the school has on its students.

Gita Ghei I have been an FSMN parent since 2006; I have one current student and one college student alumnus. I began serving on School Committee in 2019. I am the current clerk of the Equity and Justice Committee, and was a member in previous years. I am a self employed sculptor specializing in community engagement with public art and a studio teaching practice. I founded and direct a small non-profit arts organization whose mission is to bring teens of a wide variety of backgrounds together with a shared art form of metal casting. I am not a Quaker, but have attended meetings in the past. I was drawn to the Friends School, both for the high degree of learning around social justice topics, and for the fact that certain of my extended family members were dedicated Quakers and they influenced me as a child. Serving as a School Committee member gives me the opportunity to deepen my understanding of Quaker process and to assist in group consideration of how to best maintain and develop our school. My hobbies include native plants, biking and hiking.

Chuck Gillen-O'Neel I began serving on School Committee in 2019 and am the parent of a current FSMN student. In addition to serving on the School Committee, I also serve on the Finance Committee (since 2017). I currently work as an embedded systems engineer, but my first career was as a math teacher in a public high school. My family first found out about FSMN from the plant sale catalog, and I am so glad that we did! As both a parent and a former teacher, I am continually impressed with the school and how it knows the children as full people and works to help them develop academically and socio-emotionally. I enjoy getting to help however I can to make our school an even better place for kids to learn and grow. My hobbies include running, getting outside with my family, and working on fun STEM projects.

Laura Halferty I am the parent of a 2018 FSMN alumnus. I began serving on School Committee in 2015. I also co-chaired the Development Committee and served on Executive Committee. I enjoy seeing the transformation of the children. As an estate planning attorney, I bring both a legal and financial background; other experience on boards too. I enjoy traveling and anything outside.

Andrea Hasan I began serving on School Committee in 2019 and am the parent of a current FSMN student. I am also a previous FSMN Staff Member as I ran the school's summer camp program during the 2017-2018 school year. I am currently working as an Early Intervention Occupational Therapist with the Robbinsdale Area school district. I bring experience from other boards as well as previous administrative experience. My hobbies include travel, downhill skiing, reading, and attending Minnesota United Soccer games.

Jeanine Holden I began serving on School Committee in 2018; I also serve on the Executive Committee and Development Committee. I am the parent of two current FSMN students, and I am passionate about FSMN's Quaker-progressive education mission, which empowers students to learn with their whole selves while nurturing the character values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality/equity, and stewardship. I am also passionate about the power of philanthropy to transform systems and lives, creating the way the world ought to be. I bring decades of work in the philanthropic sector to strategically support FSMN's mission advancement.

Khamara Pettus I am the parent of a current FSMN student and began serving on the School Committee in 2019. I also serve on the Development Committee. I am a graduate of Westtown School and I am a champion of Quaker education. I work in philanthropy at the Bush Foundation and I am happy to contribute my unique perspective when it comes to development and program design. I bring my strong training in the areas of diversity, equity, inclusion, and systems change to the School Committee and I continue to seek out and attend professional development opportunities on these topics. My child and I enjoy traveling, making art together, and reading and we love being a part of the FSMN community!

Sarah Pradt I am a parent of a college first-year student who attended FSM K-8. I began serving on School Committee in 2017 and am on the Executive Committee and the Equity and Justice Committee. Previously, I was on Friends School's Development Committee, and on a Head Search Committee. I teach English to adult immigrants at Hmong American Partnership. I have also been an administrator at a nonprofit that builds partnerships between higher education and movements for social justice, and a faculty member at the University of Minnesota and Macalester College, where I taught Japanese literature, language, and film. At workplaces and at a Unitarian Universalist church, I have been part of teams working to understand and dismantle structural racism within the organization. I have also served on nonprofit boards, including the board of AdopSource, a nonprofit committed to the integration of culture, identity, and life experience for transracial adoptees.

Andrew Rutledge I am a current FSMN Staff Member. I have been teaching at Friends School since 2012 mostly as third and fourth grade teacher in the Tundra classroom. I began serving on the School Committee in 2019. I find it engaging to understand the business side of the school and think about things from the broad perspective of long term planning vs. day to day work. I have experience of a broad variety of different types of Friends schools, having worked at a large pre-k through 12 school for 17 years, attended a Quaker boarding school for two years and visited schools in Australia and Bolivia. I grew up in Chappaqua Monthly Meeting in New York. My role is to provide staff perspective for others on the committee. I like to be outdoors, biking, canoeing and hiking. My primary hobby is Ultimate Frisbee. I live in Stillwater with my spouse and two sons.

Dawn Zugay I am the parent of two alumni who attended FSMN from kindergarten through eighth grade. I began serving on School Committee in 2018 and am on the Development Committee. I have volunteered in numerous capacities at FSMN over years, including the Development Committee, Gala Committee, at the Plant Sale, and in classrooms and on fieldtrips. I bring my background as a lawyer with experience in non-profit governance, and as a mediator working for the Conflict Resolution Center, a nonprofit community dispute resolution program. I also teach mediation as an adjunct professor in the University of Minnesota Law School's clinical program. I believe FSMN has a unique educational mission in Minnesota - providing a progressive education grounded in the Quaker values, and I'm excited to help support and grow FSMN so this educational opportunity is available for children now and in the future. In my freetime, I enjoy all types of outdoor sports and I'm grateful to live in a city with easy access to so many natural spaces.