



Governance Council Candidate Statements 2017-2018 School Year

Candidate <i>(alpha order)</i>	Statement
<p>Jim Becher</p> 	<p>My name is Jim Becher. First and foremost, I strongly believe that the quality of a child’s education requires parent participation, in school and at home. I am an active, engaged parent at Riverside Drive and the local community. I have volunteered with Dad’s for Safety, I currently serve as room parent for my daughter’s second grade class, and volunteer as a youth baseball and basketball coach (studio city rec center).</p> <p>As an involved member of the Riverside Community, I would like to see our school remain the same wonderful collaborative, diverse and inclusive community it was when my daughter first enrolled. My goal as a governance representative would be to help further our school’s successful transition to the Project Based Learning model, support the arts programs along with the newly adopted NGSS Science Standards, that our charter outlines. If elected, my only agenda would be to make sure that above all, we do what’s best for our children and put their needs first.</p>
<p>Jim Coelho</p> 	<p>I’m Jim Coelho a candidate for Riverside Governance. I live down the street from Riverside and I’m the parent of a second grader and two incoming kindergarteners – I have a huge vested interest in Riverside’s success. My wife, Ronya, spearheads fundraising efforts through grant writing, fence banners, sponsorships, and Ralphs.</p> <p>I’ve been active in beautification including fence banners and deep watering to save our trees. As a lawyer, I will bring a useful skill set to governance to make certain Riverside is treated fairly and equitably by the district. I will focus on teacher support with the objective of improving Riverside’s test scores relative to neighboring schools, as well as encourage Riverside’s wonderful existing art, science and after-school programs.</p>
<p>Nicole Harris Johnson</p> 	<p>My name is Nicole Harris Johnson and I am the mother of a 4th grade student (Mrs. Schmitt) and incoming kindergartener (Fall 2017). During my child’s tenure at Riverside, I have admittedly been one of the “bystander parents” – standing on the sidelines while other, more active parents, shape or influence school policies. Recently, I have been spurred to step up and add my voice to the decision making process. As a member of the Council, I would support the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Creating an inclusive learning environment that benefits all students and encourages unity within both the student body and parent network. *Building programs that will improve the school’s academic performance. *Fostering leadership transparency at all levels of the administration. <p>Finally, I strongly believe that the students and families of Riverside are all stakeholders and deserve to know that their voices matter and are heard.</p>

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**Elections to be held the morning of May 19, 2017 before school
and during the Pep-Rally Starting at 8:01am**



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<p>Barbara King-Wilson</p> 	<p>My name is Barbara King-Wilson and I believe I can add a fresh, enthusiastic voice to the Governance Council and the Riverside community. As a kinder parent, I may be new to the Riverside community, but I've been passionate about education my entire life. I have over a decade of teaching/tutoring experience as well as an understanding of governing bodies as I was Vice-President and President of my Student Council at NYU.</p> <p>I am an honest, thoughtful, and positive team player. As a member of this Council, I will be committed to helping make the experience in this school inspirational and worthwhile for each and every student who attends.</p>
<p>George Kommer</p> 	<p>I am George Kommer and I would appreciate your consideration for becoming a member of the RDCS Governance Council. My son, Charles is in the first grade in Ms. Bleier's class. I am both a LAUSD parent, and an LAUSD teacher. I teach 6th grade at Van Nuys Middle School in Sherman Oaks.</p> <p>I know that a learning community works best when all concerned adults work together to meet the needs of every child. I know that learning communities thrive when all stakeholders work together to ensure diverse opportunities to all learners and support the needs and ideals of the families that call Riverside Drive their own.</p>
<p>Robin Lamel-Adler</p> 	<p>My son Jack is in TK at Riverside but he started the year in Kindergarten. We consider ourselves very lucky to have had two wonderful teachers that care very much about the children. My daughter Emma will be starting Kindergarten at Riverside in 2018-2019. Our family also includes three dogs and we live in Valley Village. I am a talent agent, love my job and have been with my company for 17 years. It is very important to both my husband and I that all children at Riverside have a great experience which includes their education, the extra curricular activities that Riverside offers and even beautifying the school grounds. I would like to be involved in my children's education, make a positive difference and help shape the future of Riverside Charter Elementary.</p>

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<p>Joy Morales</p> 	<p>Hello Families of RDCS! My name is Joy Morales-Bartlett and I'm running for Parent Representative of the Governance Council. I feel I'm a good fit for this role as I realize the importance of healthy parental involvement in school affairs in order to ensure a positive, fun and safe school environment for all children. Besides often being called a calm, level-headed voice of reason, I'm a parent of three, including my first-grader Maya, my toddler Charlie, and my 10-year-old stepson, James.</p> <p>I'm NYC-born, SFV-raised and am a product of state schools including Reseda High School, UCSB and CSUN. I've been an educator for 10+ years as a teacher and an assistant principal and would appreciate your vote.</p>
<p>Abigail Nunez</p> 	<p>My name is Abigail Nunez and my sons Edson (Grade 5) and Stephen (Grade 1) have attended the school for two years. I have a deep investment in ensuring the success of the school and high-quality academic and enrichment programming for my children and the children of the Sherman Oaks community.</p> <p>Previous to the children's father relocating to Sherman Oaks in 2014, we lived in North Hollywood for 10 years. During that time, I served Los Angeles schools as a teacher, instructional coach, and school principal. I currently lead a charter high school in Northeast Los Angeles. I hold teacher and administrative certifications for both elementary and secondary levels, a Master's degree in Elementary Education from Loyola Marymount, and a Doctorate of Education degree from UCLA. In addition to my commitment to the school that my children attend, I am also qualified and experienced in the work of operating excellent schools.</p>
<p>Brian Richards</p> 	<p>My name is Brian Richards and I feel I would be a good fit because I have genuine passion for the success of this school. I have two children now enrolled in this school for the next 4-5 years, which brings a long-term commitment to the success of their development, and the larger growth of Riverside Charter School.</p> <p>I would be a good influence to the board because of my 13 + years' experience in the business community. For the last 6 years, I have run a National corporate consulting, and business intelligence company that hosts a wide range of C-level business events around the country. My experience includes, but not limited to, financial projections, event forecasting, talent acquisition, sales management, and client relations, business strategy, corporate consulting, and team building.</p> <p>I enjoy mountain biking, great food, and coaching children's sports. I am a devoted family member, as well as an avid outdoor enthusiast.</p>

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<p>Gabriela Richards</p> 	<p>My name is Gabriela Richards. I am enthusiastic about this role as it provides an opportunity to drive change and take Riverside to the next level. I work as an Underwriting Manager for an insurance company where I manage a team of 7 underwriters. Throughout my 15+ years in the insurance industry, I have had the experience of working with budgets, growing a book of business and more importantly dealing with many different types of personalities.</p> <p>Although I enjoy my job, my pride and joy has always been my family. I am a first year parent at Riverside and I see how much my son loves school. I will have my two sons enrolled this fall and I am looking forward to working with our teachers and staff in making decisions that will provide our children with a safe and rewarding environment.</p>
<p>Nubia Sandoval</p> 	<p>My name is Nubia Sandoval and I am running for the Office of The Parents Representative Government Council. I am running for this office because I believe that I always have the school's best interest at heart in everything thing I do. Our children are the true winners when we support our teachers, staff and administrators. I have been at the school for 10 years. My daughter is in the first grade and my son has already culminated from RDCS.</p> <p>I have spent many hours volunteering in the library and helped at the Science Fair. I have made myself available to volunteer when the teachers need me. I am just like you, a parent who wants to do all she can do for our school. As a Parent Representative, my door will always be open to your hear your ideas and concerns. Together we can be champions for our children.</p>

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