

Candidate Bios for the 2020 Elysian Board of Trustees Election

(candidates listed in alphabetical order)

ERIN CURTISS

Erin is running for the Board because she is deeply committed to supporting the Elysian community and her background as a corporate lawyer would bring a unique skill set to the Board. Erin will be a strong advocate for the school as Elysian builds on its impressive history to create an even stronger future. She intends to leverage her legal background to support the school's leadership in interactions with local and state governmental institutions as well as its other commercial and community partners. She is committed to be a careful steward of the school's financial resources and an active participant in the on-going efforts of to build the enduring financial stability of the school. Erin would be thrilled to engage with the parents, teachers and administrators to foster the future growth and prosperity of the school.

Erin is the proud mom of Charlie, a first grader in Ashley's class, and Cameron, who is extremely excited to be joining the Elysian family in Kindergarten next fall. She her husband David have lived on Park Avenue in Hoboken for the past 6 years – living in the house that David grew up in. Erin is a Director and Counsel at Credit Suisse in New York providing legal advice to the capital markets division of the investment bank. Prior to joining Credit Suisse, Erin worked for 8 years as an associate at the New York law firm of Skadden Arps and in the Singapore office of Allen & Overy, a major British law firm. She graduated from Duke University School of Law with a joint JD and LLM in International Law. Erin and David met at Gettysburg College and are active in the alumni network for the college.

Erin is very grateful for the positive experience that Charlie is having at Elysian and she and her family are deeply committed to supporting the school and greatly enjoyed co-hosting a successful Friends of Elysian social in the fall. Elysian is a special place, from the incredibly talented teachers, to the engaged parent community and the dedicated administration- and Erin would be honored to serve the school as a member of the Board of Directors.

JORDAN FIRESTEIN

Hello, my name is Jordan Firestein, and I am putting forward my name for consideration as a board member for the upcoming year. I truly appreciate your consideration, and would like to provide a short bio regarding my personal and professional background.

I was raised in Brooklyn, NY, and late, Marlboro, NJ, before attending and graduating from the University of Maryland, College Park. Following that, I started a professional career in business while attending law school as a part time student at Rutgers University, graduating in three years by never taking breaks from my studies. Since that point, I have practiced as an attorney for the last five plus years as a technology, privacy, compliance, and transactional attorney for multiple tech startups and public companies, and am currently employed by LivePerson Inc. as a Corporate Counsel. I have been a Hoboken resident since the fall of 2013, and my wife and I love living in the only community we have ever lived in together. In my private time, I am an avid reader and traveler, and am a devoted member of our local Jewish community here in Hoboken.

I thank you for your consideration, and look forward to your feedback.

MICHAEL GAZALEH

Michael Gazaleh is the proud husband to Courtney, and father to three beautiful daughters. Greta in Emily's 4th Grade class, Addy in Melissa's 2nd Grade class and Piper who will be in kindergarten - class of 2021.

Michael is a chiropractor and partner at Hudson Family Chiropractic & Physical Therapy located in downtown Hoboken. He is also the owner of City Running Tours, an international business that offers personalized, group and corporate guided running tours.

He has been practicing chiropractic for 20 years, the last 12 in Hoboken. Prior to working in Hoboken, he ran a successful practice in midtown Manhattan.

Michael founded City Running Tours in 2005 and has grown the operation to 14 cities across North America engaging with running lovers from all over the globe. City Running Tours also accommodates large corporate events providing unforgettable experiences in popular metropolitan cities.

Michael's focus and passion has always been health and fitness. Playing sports all of his life and choosing a career in healthcare, he understands the importance that physical activity plays and how it provides a positive impact on children's emotional wellbeing.

In the past Michael, led a Historic Running Tour of Hoboken in partnership with the Pilsener Bier Garten as a fundraiser for the Elysian PTSO. Currently, he is helping coach one of the 4th Grade Basketball Teams. Michael is excited for the opportunity to work with the teachers and parents to continue to support and grow the mission that Elysian has been following for the past 20+ years.

CHRIS GIZZI

Chris Gizzi and his wife Jenifer Semenza have been residents of Hoboken since 2003. When it came time to consider schools, Elysian was the top choice for its progressive curriculum, community involvement, and anti-bullying efforts. Their son, Evan, is in Emily's fourth grade class.

Chris has nearly 20 years of financial services strategy and operations management experience and is a consultant to startups serving the industry. His client work includes M&A integration, regulatory compliance, and technology transformation. Prior to consulting, Chris managed North American operations for a fin-tech company, was chief technology officer for an alternative investment fund, and a strategic program manager for a leading commodities exchange. He holds a Bachelor of Science in computer information systems and is a member of the Professional Risk Managers' International Association.

Chris is a committed member of the community. He was an executive board member of the Hoboken Southwest Parks Coalition and co-authored a plan to promote open space in town. He's a dedicated member of iMentor where he coaches underserved students on skills necessary for college and employment. Chris is also an active Elysian volunteer, helping with a number of PTSO and Friends events such as Field Day, Chili Cook-off, Trivia Night, and the annual Party & Auction.

Chris shares in Elysian's commitment to creating lifelong learners and developing a student's emotional intelligence. He believes this approach to education gives every child the opportunity to thrive in an ever-changing world. He is confident that his professional background and community involvement will support the school in delivering on these valued commitments.

BENJAMIN HUBERT

My name is Benjamin Hubert, and I have lived in Hoboken for almost 8 years. With my wife Olivia, we have three wonderful children, Rohi (11yo with Lauren), Lily-Rose (8yo, with Melissa) and Milla (4 yo, joining Elysian in September).

I completed a PhD in Molecular Biology in France in 2010, and came to the United States for the very first time to interview for a post doctoral position at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. We ended up moving with Olivia and Rohi, two years old at that time, to New York City in 2011. I left academic research many years ago to specialize in Genomics and project management and eventually became coordinator of a consortium involving all major cancer centers from New York with the goal to leverage genomics and clinical resources and reduce cancer disparities in the City. Using my background and expertise in genomics to benefit patients became a growing priority that led me to leave my position to join a relatively small healthcare company offering genetic testing for patients with various conditions, from non invasive prenatal testing to cancer screening. I am very lucky to work in an extremely stimulating, interesting and rewarding environment but am even more lucky to have such a beautiful family. Together, we try to enjoy life as much as we can. We all love to travel, hike, adventure ourselves into new landscapes and find ways out of the city as much as we can. I love combat sports, filmmaking and cooking. I helped several not for profit organizations with video production support for online communication and fundraising, including Beat The Street and Face Africa. With Face Africa, I produced a short documentary about their work with isolated communities in Liberia to provide them with access to safe drinking water and awareness workshops to stop the disease.

Elysian Charter School is a school that we discovered as Rohi won the lottery for Kindergarten, and since then, we have always been pleased by the teachers, staff, and curriculum. I would be happy to be more involved with the school and honored to join the board of trustees and serve our community, and make sure our children keep growing in a positive and stimulating environment.

CHRISTINE MANCINI

Christine Mancini and her husband Andrew Gansler have been Hoboken residents for more than 17 years. During that time they have both lived and worked here, starting and growing a business that currently employs more than 50 people. Having followed the challenges, barriers and success of Hoboken's charter schools over the years, they were thrilled when their son Luca was chosen by lottery to join Elysian last year as a Kindergarten.

In the short time that Luca has attended Elysian, Christine's belief in the school's positive potential has been re-affirmed. She would like to help build on the schools strengths and believes that she can be a strong and valuable advocate and contributor to the system as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Christine has over 25 years of experience working in technology Product Management and Operations for companies varying in both size and industry. In large organizations, she is skilled in articulating goals, gaining alignment across teams of diverse individuals, and communicating progress clearly and concisely. In smaller companies, she has successfully tackled large, complex technical and non-technical problems, when only limited resources were available. She is adept at quickly understanding new challenges, mustering the right resources, and collaborating with others to achieve goals.

Over the years, in whatever capacity she has worked in, Christine has always set aside time to act as a mentor to others. As an approachable and empathetic leader, she strives always to provide the feedback, tools and confidence to others to be as successful as possible.

Christine holds an undergraduate degree in Biology from UCLA, and a Master's degree in International Studies from City University of New York. She is currently working as a Group Product Manager at Walmart/Jet in Hoboken, where she oversees a team of Product Managers and Designers.

JAMIE MARCHAND

Jamie Marchand and his wife Ayelet Levy have been Hoboken residents since 2008. They are the proud parents of two boys: Mattan, now in third grade at Elysian, and Liad, who will be joining his older brother in a few short years.

Originally from Montreal, Canada, Jamie is currently a Human Resources executive at a Fortune 500 financial services firm. Prior to that, he worked in the technology and pharmaceutical industries, usually in global HR roles focusing on organization design, talent management and culture change. He has volunteered with organizations like Taproot, which offer pro-bono services to non-profits in HR, Finance and Strategy. He has a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy (Honors) with a minor in Music, and speaks English, French and Hebrew.

Jamie would like to contribute back to the Elysian community because of how incredibly special our school really is. Many for-profit organizations have come to realize what non-profits have known for years: It's our people that matter most, and the culture they create the secret to our success. Nurturing and preserving that at Elysian has become a family priority: Like other schools, we have challenges around funding, engagement & retention, and a challenging political environment. With over 20 years of experience, Jamie would like to contribute his expertise to the board in the areas of governance, compensation, diversity, employee relations and policy issues, or help out in any way he can, to help keep Elysian on a sustainable footing for many years to come.

NICK PASSARELLI

My name is Nick Passarelli and I am running for a seat on the Elysian Charter School Board of Trustees. My wife Jill and I have lived in Hoboken since 2007. We have two children at Elysian- Lea (6th Grade) and Nicholas (2nd Grade).

Since our family joined the Elysian community in 2018, I have been actively involved with the school. Last season, I co-coached one of Elysian's 5th grade basketball teams with Chris DeFilippis. This year, Chris and I are coaching both of Elysian's teams in Hoboken's inaugural 5th and 6th grade girls basketball league.

I'm currently serving on the Board for Friends of Elysian. Recently, I hosted a Hot Yoga fundraiser for the Dads. In addition, I will be Chairing Elysian's First Friends of Elysian golf event at Crystal Springs this June. I was actively involved with various fundraising events at Stevens Cooperative School from 2013-2018. This included being the Chairperson for the Stevens 5K in 2018 and Stevens' Golf Chair on the Swing Fore The Schools golf event from 2014-2018. I have also served on the Board for the Willow Park Condo Association from 2014-2015 and 2018-Present.

My professional career spans 24 years between Corporate Human Resources and Regulatory Compliance. I served as the Chief Compliance Officer of three different companies (Kellogg Partners, Dealerweb and LGO Group) from 2005-2019. Being in a senior leadership role has allowed me to think strategically while planning for both short term and long term needs. I believe this experience will translate well to the Elysian Board.

In terms of my education, I earned a Bachelor's Degree from St. John's University and a MBA from the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College. I have also passed eight securities examinations related to my experience in regulatory compliance.

On a personal level, I ran the NYC Marathon in 2016 on behalf of Army Ranger Lead The Way foundation and raised \$14,000. I participate in various activities, including CrossFit and Hot Yoga. My free time is spent relaxing with my family.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope to serve you on the Elysian Board.