

What does the future look like? That is what the the Mark Day School Board thinks about constantly: securing the school for success 5, 20, and many years hence....

Research shows the education and demographic landscape [changing](#). We as a board must consider all angles to ensure a dynamic and vibrant learning community for future students and families. The Board is always focused on securing the institution's future, whether that means reaching financial sustainability, investing in talent, responding to enrollment demand, or evolving our strategic plan to ensure Mark Day is a great place to learn.

Read on to learn more about the Board and our plans for 2018-2019...

Who is on the Mark Day School Board?

The board is largely made up of parent trustees who serve in support of the school and contribute wisdom based on their expertise and personal experience. Members are nominated and elected by the current board membership. No parent or member represents any particular constituency, but rather the institution as a whole. The board also includes a faculty trustee, an alumni trustee, and the Parents' Association president. The board often includes at least one outside member who comes from an educational background. Trustees generally serve two, three-year terms.

What are desirable qualities of a new board member?

The criteria for electing new trustees include strategic expertise, diversity in perspectives and experience, and time to serve. Depending on the need, we may look for special skills like personnel management, finance, marketing, leadership, real estate, or law. These criteria enable the board to be truly effective in furthering the work of the board, the strategic plan, and the school's mission.

Does the board get involved in classroom issues?

No way! Trustees do not engage in issues related to school curriculum or program, personnel, staff, or student matters. The board delegates all day-to-day operational school management to Joe Harvey, Head of School. His experienced leadership, along with his stellar administrative team and faculty, inspires us as trustees to bring our best selves to every board and committee interaction.

How does the board get its work done?

The board meets as a whole group every month to make decisions. Most of the substantive work is achieved outside out those meetings in small groups and committees. We currently have four ongoing [committees](#):

- **Advisory** - Chaired by board president Robert Hee, the Advisory Committee provides counsel for the head of school as needed and performs the head of school's evaluation.

- **Development and Finance** - Chaired by Alexander Fraser and Carl Reichardt, this committee supports the administration in creating the School's operating budget, which is then debated and formally ratified by the entire board. The committee also focuses on maintaining the School's financial strength and sustainability, including partnering with the Development Office on philanthropy, including with the Mark Day Annual Fund and Parents' Association fundraising goals.

- **Governance** - Chaired by Sam Parker, this committee is responsible for all trustee issues, including nomination and election of new trustees, review of the bylaws, education of trustees, and board self-evaluation. Included in the Governance Committee are the Audit Subcommittee, chaired by Sam Parker, and the Diversity and Inclusivity Subcommittee, chaired by Nicole Stanton.

To build our capacity as leaders of diversity and inclusion, the board often works with the professionals at VISIONS, Inc.. Much of our annual board retreat in October and many hours at our monthly board meetings are spent examining crucial diversity and inclusivity issues and opportunities to the benefit of the entire Mark Day School community.

- **Site** - Chaired by Andrew Kawahara, the Site Committee works to ensure we have a place to "call home," which entails negotiating leases and making plans for campus advancements. Huge thanks to Andrew and this committee, who are largely responsible for the success of our most recent campus transformation project.

What are the 2018-2019 Board Priorities?

With a constant eye toward the future, the board uses the school's Strategic Plan as a roadmap. It is a dynamic vision for teaching and learning in the current century; rethinking time and space; broadening and strengthening our community; and building on our financial excellence. In 2018-2019, we will specifically take aim at:

- **Evaluating the Market:** Taking a fresh look at Marin demographics, the economy, the cost of housing teachers and families, enrollment trends and other factors in order to attract and keep future students.
- **Financial Stability and Emotional Well-being:** The alchemy of affordability, philanthropy and our mission of creating a great place to learn and make students happy, healthy, and ready for the future.
- **Budgeting:** Mark Day School has a long record of financial excellence brought about by detailed consideration of our budget. We have already begun digging into the 2019-2020 draft. This involves multiple iterations examining all the variables to fund the school's vital programs, compensate teachers, and set tuition levels.

- **Strategic Planning:** We just published the refresh of our Strategic Plan to guide us into the 2020's. Join Joe Harvey and members of the administrative team to discuss the next set of emerging strategic priorities for the school on Friday, November 9, either here on campus after assembly or for an informal lunch in the financial district in San Francisco. RSVP by November 7 to Leslie Garber at lgarber@markdayschool.org for the lunch. Topics include expanding summer program offerings, refining assessment to improve student learning, and strengthening our 6th-8th grade program through smaller section sizes.

Stay tuned for future editions of *In Step With The Board* to read more about our work in service of our wonderful school.

Visit the [Board of Trustees](#) web page for more information. Robert Hee, Board President, or Sam Parker, Chair of the Governance Committee would be happy to answer any questions and welcome your feedback.

All the best,

Members of the Board of Trustees

Robert Hee, President

Julian Allen, Assistant Treasurer

Sharina Belani

Trent Boorman '03, Alumni Trustee

Aimee Foreman

Alexander Fraser, Treasurer

Reetika Grewal

Joe Harvey, Head of School

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Dan Kalafatas

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Kristin Keeffe, Trustee Emerita

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Melissa Villarreal, Faculty Trustee