



En Español

The Mark Day School Board welcomes you to the 2022-23 school year! Our Board is intently focused on ensuring that Mark Day School is poised to thrive in the years and decades to come. Significant work has already begun this school year, including during our recent Board retreat held on-campus earlier this month. Read on to learn more about the Board and our specific areas of focus for 2022-23.

#### Who is on the Mark Day School Board?

This year's Board is composed of 22 dedicated trustees, most of whom are current parents and guardians, who contribute their time and their expertise in support and care of the school. No trustee represents any particular constituency, but rather the institution as a whole. The Board includes a faculty trustee, an alumni trustee, and the Family Association president in addition to outside members who have educational and community leadership backgrounds. Trustees are nominated and elected by the current Board membership, and generally serve two three-year terms.

#### What are desirable qualities of a trustee?

The criteria for electing new trustees include strategic expertise, diversity in perspectives and experience, and time to serve. Depending on anticipated needs, we may look for specialized expertise in finance, marketing, human resources, real estate, law, and others. These criteria enable the Board to be effective in furthering the strategic plan and, ultimately, the school's mission.

#### Does the Board get involved in classroom issues?

No. 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 the 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. Most of the substantive work is achieved outside of those meetings in small groups and committees. We currently have five standing [committees](#):

- **Advisory** - Chaired by Board president Ethan Dornhelm, the Advisory Committee provides counsel for the head of school as needed and performs the head of school's evaluation.
- **Development** - Chaired by Ryan Brown, this committee partners with the Development Office on philanthropy, including the Mark Day Annual Fund and Family Association fundraising. The Development Committee communicates the importance of philanthropy and its impact on Mark Day School to nurture our community's culture of philanthropy.
- **Finance** - Chaired by Board Treasurer Julian Allen and Assistant Treasurer Megan Mariani, 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 focuses on maintaining the School's financial strength and sustainability. The Finance Committee includes an Investment Subcommittee, responsible for reviewing investment policy and monitoring performance of the school's endowment.
- **Governance** - Chaired by David Shapiro, 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 and Risk Management Subcommittees as well as the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee.
- **Site** - Chaired by Sara Egide, the Site Committee works to ensure site permanence for Mark Day School and to support the administration in the planning and execution of enhancements to the campus.

In addition to standing committees, the Board sometimes takes on special projects and organizes task forces to lead them. The Board currently has one such task force:

- **Campaign Steering Committee** - Chaired by Aimee Foreman, this task force - in partnership with the Head of School and Development Office - is leading the Campaign for Mark Day School Faculty, our school's endowment campaign to support teaching and learning.

#### What are the 2022-2023 Board Priorities?

With a constant eye toward the future, the Board uses the school's Strategic Plan as a compass to guide us in our areas of focus. Key Board priorities in the 2022-23 school year include:

- **Rolling out our new Strategic Plan:** Last year, the Board, working closely with the administrative team and also with significant input from our broader school community, completed and then voted to adopt our [school's next strategic plan](#). This year, again in partnership with Joe Harvey and his team, the Board will be focused on prioritizing and initiating key action steps within the strategic plan to ensure that we are well positioned to accomplish our stated goals over the next 5 or so years. Identifying key Strategic Plan action steps for prioritization was the main focus of our Board retreat held on-campus earlier this month.
- **Advancing the school's endowment campaign:** The Campaign Steering Committee has launched the leadership phase of our endowment campaign, focused on major gifts and getting our campaign off to a strong start. This campaign is focused squarely on our world class faculty and staff and will help ensure that we continue to attract and retain the very best teachers by supporting faculty compensation, enhanced professional development opportunities, and an expanded intern teacher program.
- **Budgeting:** Mark Day School has a long track record of financial stability brought about by careful financial budgeting and stewardship. Even as the 2022-23 school year begins, the Board Finance Committee is already digging into draft budgets for the 2023-24 school year. This process involves multiple budget iterations and in-depth discussion at both the Finance Committee and full Board level, as we seek to fund the school's vital programs, compensate teachers competitively, and set tuition levels all while considering important topics such as access, affordability, and innovation.

Stay tuned for upcoming editions of *In Step With The Board* to learn more about our work in service of Mark Day School.

All the best,

Members of the Board of Trustees

#### 2022-2023 Board Members

Ethan Dornhelm, President  
Chris Abate  
Julian Allen, Treasurer  
Paul Austin  
Mike Beck  
Ryan Brown  
Prathap Dendi  
Sara Egide  
Pam Emo, Family Association President  
Scott Faber  
Aimee Foreman, Vice President  
Rika Gopinath  
Reetika Grewal  
Joe Harvey, Head of School  
Chelsea Ialeggio  
Chelse Lamson '06, Alumni Trustee  
Megan Mariani, Assistant Treasurer  
Chris Mazzola  
Dr. Christine Metzger, Faculty Trustee  
Andrea Urda Rijo  
David Shapiro  
Katie Shannon

39 Trellis Drive San Rafael, CA 94903 / 415.472.8000

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