

**Kinhaven School Board of Directors
2023-24 Candidate Statements**

The Kinhaven School membership votes on the composition of the Board of Directors. The Board is the governance arm of the non-profit; it oversees Kinhaven's operations and governance and sets policies for the school's programs. Members of the Board are elected by the entire membership to serve a term of one year, starting in June. The Board consists of five officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Director at Large) and Parent Representatives. Special elections may be held to fill vacancies as needed.

Miriam Matthews

My name is Miriam Matthews, mom to James (current Sprout, rising Acorn). Kinhaven provides an extraordinary environment where, guided by highly skilled and caring teachers, children can "learn through play." I love hearing James talk about the many fun activities and adventures that he experiences with his Kinhaven teachers and friends. This year, I served as parent representative to the Sprouts class. It would be an honor to serve as Board President and further support the Kinhaven community.

Professionally, I am a Senior Behavioral and Social Scientist for a non-profit, independent think tank, and I am the associate director over one of the organization's programs. I am also a lecturer at Johns Hopkins University. I conduct research in the areas of political psychology and diversity and multiculturalism. As suggested by my professional background and experience, I have a deep appreciation for education and the importance of considering the whole person, including their cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being.

Danielle Hofmeister

My name is Danielle Hofmeister, mom of Luca (current Shoot, rising kindergartener), Lana, and Nico (current Seeds, rising Shoots). Next year will be my third year at Kinhaven, and I am hoping to continue to represent the families in this extraordinary community. I am seeking to serve on the Board as Vice President.

Until recently, I was a first and third grade teacher at an elementary school in Fairfax County. I have had the pleasure of working closely with students, parents, teachers, and administrators to help build an environment where kids felt safe, happy, and ready to learn. I am passionate about learning and setting our kids up for success as kind friends, problem-solvers, and critical thinkers. I am eager to share my experience while fostering a deeper involvement with this school community. I have previously served on the Board as a Parent Representative.

Natalie Schlosser

My name is Natalie Schlosser, mom to William Schlosser (current Acorn, rising Kindergartener), Preston Schlosser (current Seed, rising Acorn), and Colette Schlosser (10 mos), who will hopefully attend Kinhaven in the future. We joined Kinhaven in 2020 and the school did a

phenomenal job navigating one of the most challenging years. Kinhaven's attention and commitment to its students and "learn through play" philosophy has really allowed our children to blossom. I currently serve as the Room Parent for the Acorns class and was fortunate to be a part of this year's Kinhaven Auction team. I am very devoted to building on Kinhaven's success and further enhancing the school's wonderful community.

Professionally I am an Event Planner and Designer for large scale social events. While I have a lot of experience with a diverse clientele, creating tailored budgets, managing vendors, negotiating contracts, overseeing and implementing designs, I would say problem solving, being the voice of reason, a clear communicator and very detail oriented are my biggest assets. I hope my experience will allow me to help shape Kinhaven and cultivate a greater community for its future.

Sarah Vahora

I'm Sarah Vahora and mom to Zayd (rising Oak) and Saafia (rising Seed). I am grateful to be a part of the Kinhaven family and would be honored to serve on the board again. This year, I served as a parent representative for the Shoots and have learned so much about the school and surrounding community.

Professionally, I have a background in international education where I focused on policy and programmatic work in early childhood development in Africa and Asia. I also remain committed to Kinhaven's approach to anti-bias education and am currently deepening my academic pursuits in education. I am working on a master's in early childhood education with a concentration in Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) with Erikson Institute. I hope to apply what I'm learning in the classroom to service on the board, helping Kinhaven achieve its long-term goals. Thanks so much for your consideration.

Hayes Jones

My name is Hayes Jones, mom to Ward (current Seed, rising Acorn). We have had a wonderful year at Kinhaven and have seen Ward grow to enjoy school, his classmates, teachers, and community.

Professionally, I have been in the energy efficiency field for over 14 years. I look forward to being more involved in the Kinhaven Community.