

DES School Council Parent Representative Candidate Bios

Name: **KIM BECKER**

Grades of children: Rising 2nd Grader (and a 4 year-old who will begin Kindergarten at DES in 2016)

Professional experience: Degree in Industrial Engineering
Currently working as a Product Manager for a mobile banking product at Fiserv Corporation – where my role is basically to make banking very simple for mobile users. Since having kids, I’ve been fortunate to be able to work part-time which has allowed me to (at least attempt to) find that elusive balance between work and parenthood.

Volunteer experience: This year, I’ve served as Dunwoody Elementary PTO Executive Committee Secretary, where I’ve enjoyed having visibility to the PTO activities.

Why you want to serve on school council: As a parent, I’m interested in having a voice in matters which impact the education of both my own kids as well as those in the surrounding community. Reading “The Good School” inspired me to get more involved, so that I may apply my own lessons from the business world and life – as well as collect input from other interested parents - to have a positive impact on school achievement.

Name: **TRACY ELLET**

Grades of children: Julia Ellet (4th), Nicholas Ellet (1st)

Professional experience: I earned a degree in Textile Engineering from Georgia Tech. I worked in engineering for 10 years, first for Queen Carpet as a project engineer and later with BP Amoco in Research and Development. I also was a licensed Real Estate Agent with MetroBrokers/GMAC working primarily in the Dunwoody/Sandy Springs area. I have lived in Dunwoody for the past 17 years. I am now a stay at home mom.

Volunteer experience: I am currently serving a one-year term on the 2014/2015 School Council and I am the DES Dunwoody Chamblee Parent Council (DCPC) representative. I was the 2013/2014 Parliamentarian for the PTO Executive Committee. I am also a 4th grade room parent. I

have volunteered my time over the course of 4 years to help with Registration, Picture Day, and Field Day.

Why you want to serve on school council:

There are critical issues facing our school over the next 2-3 years. My positions this year on School Council and PTO as the DCPC Representative have given me the insight on the needs of our school including what kind of support and funding we need from the school board, county, and local community. School council is a bridge to understand and influence policy that drives support and funding decisions. I want to be a voice that communicates our needs and helps to guide changes in policy that have a positive impact.

Name: ROSEMARY GORHAM

Grades of children: Ashley, 3rd Grade and Daniel, 1st Grade

Professional experience: N/A

Volunteer experience: Served on the EC of DES in the position of secretary during the 2013-2014 school year.
Chaired lunch bunch for the past 2 years
Have also volunteered during Tour De Dunwoody, Field Days, Photo Day, Teacher Appreciation, Media Center, Lunch Bunch, STEM days and nights, Book Fair, Family Nights, helped out in the classroom and have been a room parents many times. Basically if you name it then I have volunteered for it at DES!

Have volunteered my time at my church
Am co-leader of my daughters girl scout troop
Have been involved in many local Dunwoody issues

Why you want to serve on school council:

I have loved volunteering in all the above positions during my years at DES but I would now like to concentrate my time in a role which has more of a broader impact within DES. I believe that being involved within the Dunwoody will help me in this role. School Council is a major voice in our community and school when it comes to the education of our children because it is comprised of parents! I would love to be a part of that.

Name: **RACHEL GURVITCH**

Grades of children: 3rd grade boy and K girl *** in 2015-2016

Professional experience: Associate Professor in the School of Education at Georgia State University (Department of Kinesiology and Health). As a teacher educator in the state of GA part of my responsibilities is to prepare the most effective educators.

Volunteer experience: I contribute to DES as a teacher educator and as a parent. I have selected DES to be a site school for our GSU student teachers. My colleagues and I have been working with DES students in the areas of Health and Physical Education throughout the year. In addition, my student teachers and I have been volunteering at the DES Field Day in the past several years. Personally, I volunteer as mystery reader several times throughout the year. I also contributed to diversity discussion meetings in the past year. As higher education faculty, I am engaged in many service-orientated opportunities on state and national levels.

Why you want to serve on school council: I was born and went through K-16 education system in Israel. I came to the USA as a graduate student; therefore I believe I can bring an international perspective to the school council membership. In addition, as a higher education faculty member in GA I stay informed with all educational policies, initiatives and trends from a state and national level and I believe I can offer a broader perspective to many issues discussed by the school council. Through my commitment to better public education I can help the process as your representative on the DES School Council.

Name: **KIMBERLY KIRKLAND (TREGO)**

Grades of children: Second Grader and a Sixth Grader (at PCMS)

It's been an honor to have served as a School Council representative for the past two years. School Council is committed to working with administrators, teachers, and parents to further DES's academic success and its place in the community. An informed and dedicated parent representative helps DES effectively respond to the challenges facing our students and their families by giving a much needed voice to parents in communicating with school leaders and the district.

I am a dedicated school volunteer and have enjoyed serving on several committees and helping at many school events. I've co-chaired the Safe Routes to School Committee for the past two years

and have been a Room Parent for four years. Previously I co-chaired the Directory Committee.

I am a Lab Director with a Master's in Public Health from Emory University. My primary job function is coordinating customer needs with available resources to provide the highest quality services. With my background in science, I am especially excited about DES's certification as a STEM school and I see real value in incorporating these problem-solving skills into the curriculum.

Name: NATASHA MORRIS

Grades of children: 1st grade

Professional experience: I am the Revenue Cycle Operations Coordinator at Northside Hospital. I have been employed at Northside Hospital for 10 years. I have a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Business Administration.

Volunteer experience: I currently serve as one of the Room Parents for my child's class and I served as Room Parent for my child's class last year. I've volunteered for Field Day, the Book Fair, field trips and mystery reading. Prior to being in the DES family, I served as Chair on the Parent Advisory Committee for four years and co-chair for three years of the seven years that my child attended the Northside Hospital Child Development Center.

Why you want to serve school council: I want to serve on the school council because having a sound **on** education is an essential ingredient for our children's success. I believe that I can use my experience as a team player to be an asset for the school council. I also feel certain that I can bring new ideas to the table to heighten the potential of the school.

Name: EVA TABACHNIKOFF

Grades of children: 5th, 3rd and Pre-K

Professional experience: I graduated with a Masters degree in German and English language, literacy and didactics from Maximilians-University in Munich, Germany. I have taught Pre-K through 12th grade in Germany, California and Mexico and have been teaching at the German School of Atlanta since September of 2013. From 2000-2003, I was responsible for the adaptations department at Wieden&Kennedy advertising in the Amsterdam office.

Volunteer experience: I was in charge of organizing and running the book fair and restructuring the school library at Bet Breira School in Miami, Florida. I served as PTA Secretary for two years and as PTA Co-President for one year at BBS. I have been volunteering as a room parent for several years, at DES and previously at BBS. I have helped at DES with the media center, spirit wear as well as field day and other class activities.

Why you want to serve on school council: I am very interested in being involved with helping our children grow into strong people and future leaders. I believe the foundations are laid in elementary school. My background and experience as a teacher as well as my vested interest as a parent of three in the DeKalb school district are a strong motivator for me to become a liaison with more than one perspective between parents, students and teachers. I would like to use my voice to efficiently contribute to making positive policy decisions.

Name: ANDREW ZIFFER

Grade of child: rising 4th grader

Why you want to serve school council: I want to make a contribution to serve my family and surrounding on community. I want our kids to grow up to be leaders in Middle School, High School, and later in the world. Whatever I can do to provide a head start for them at this early age will be an honor. I do support working with Dekalb County furthering the interests of DES. I also support:

- Continuing the conversation about a more independent Dunwoody school system either as part of the Dekalb County School District or not;
- Making the City of Dunwoody a destination for high achieving students and raising the bar of academics throughout DES and other Dunwoody schools;
- Ensuring education resources are available for students that need that “push” to make a difference in their academic performance;
- Helping parents understand the valuable role they play in being part of a community school and how their contribution of time, ideas, and/or money – however large or small – will make a difference for their kids and their community.

Volunteer experience: I have been on the DES PTO Board for two years and hold the position of Technology Committee co-Leader. I can be seen taking a break from a busy work day - opening ketchup packets and wiping tables clean once a month for lunch bunch duty in the cafeteria. I am

also part of a committee working to fix the playground drainage issues at DES. I have served in numerous roles in the non-profit area. In 2013, my wife and I founded the PHACE Syndrome Community, Inc. 501c3 non-profit to provide services to families dealing with PHACE Syndrome, a complicated and rare medical condition. In our three years of operations, we have successfully navigated forming a 501c3 organization and operating a twelve member Board, which is located in multiple states around the US, and with community members around the world including Europe, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. I currently hold the position of Treasurer. In 2008 I was elected to the position of Treasurer in a Couples Life Enrichment non-profit. My wife and I later served as President from 2011 to 2013.

Professional experience:

I am a 1992 graduate of the University of Florida with an Engineering Degree in Computer Science. I have worked in the IT Industry for over 20 years including the world's first Internet bank SFNB.com/ Security First Technologies/S1. My positions have included working in Australia, UK, Amsterdam, and Belgium. At the same time, I have built a real estate business consisting of single family and multifamily housing, starting with a single duplex when I graduated from college. I currently work for a very large IT consulting firm in addition to managing a real estate business.