



April 7, 2008

Dear Baker Community,

Our School Board election is just around the corner, and we hope you will exercise your right to vote and participate in this unique Baker process. Completing a successful year with our Interim Head of School, Mr. Robert Coombs, we look forward to continuing our Baker journey with our newly hired Head of School, Dr. Andrew Taylor.

Our Baker by-laws require that an annual meeting and School Board election take place on the second Monday in May, which is May 12th this year. One change for the school year 2008-09 will be that the School Board of Directors is expanding to comprise 18 elected members instead of 16. Each Director will serve a three year term so that each May six seats, or one-third of the board, will be up for election. Typically, each year there will be six candidates, but due to special circumstances of both standing and exiting School Board members, this year we have nine slated School Board nominees.

The School Board works diligently to promote Baker Demonstration School by defining the mission, hiring and providing direction for the Head of School, and creating sound financial policies that sustain and develop the education of our students. To this end, much thought and effort is given to sourcing and selecting strong Board candidates who will serve Baker well. We are excited about the quality of the proposed candidates and encourage you to review the summaries of the slated board nominees on the following pages.

The Board has adopted a provision that allows for non-slatted persons to run for the Board of Directors. Anyone choosing this option can pick up the required forms in the school office and return them there before Friday, April 18 at 4pm.

In the first week of May, you will be mailed a proxy ballot and voting directions so you may participate in this democratic responsibility as a member of our community. You may cast your vote in person at the meeting on May 12 or by returning the proxy ballot.

Sincerely,

Kimeri Swanson-Beck
Chair of Trustee Committee
Baker School Board of Directors

Listed below is the Board approved Nominees for 2008 School Board of Directors, with short summaries of each. We thank them for their willingness to serve, and for sharing their time and talents with our community.

Robert Berry
Daniel Goldsmith
Janet Hieshetter
Blair Miller
Elaine Mohammed

Andrew Morrison
Jim Olson
Rich Sato
Elena Zanussi

Robert Berry

Robert Berry attended Baker Demonstration School for 10 years from nursery school to graduation in 1994 and has served on the Baker Alumni Board for the last three years. While attending Northwestern University, Mr. Berry spent four seasons coaching middle school basketball at Baker. He is currently employed as a high school English teacher at Northside College Preparatory High School in Chicago, where he is also head debate coach and varsity baseball. Robb brings to Baker his expertise in public school systems, educational philosophy, and alumni perspectives.

Daniel Goldsmith

Dani Goldsmith is a parent of three Baker students, kindergarten – 6th grades. His background in business with highly-leveraged private equity and corporate enterprises has taken him to three different continents and provided his family with a diversity of living situations. His strengths in management, communication and prioritizing will be an asset to the Baker Board. Mr. Goldsmith has also served on other independent school boards, and understands from experience the role of a trustee and board governance. Dani, who is bi-lingual in Spanish/English, looks forward to supporting Baker in its new endeavors as well as its traditions.

Janet Hieshetter

Janet Hieshetter, a parent of two Baker middle school students, serves as the Executive Director of the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) and has over 20 years of experience working in the non profit world. One of her specialties is board development and strategic planning. In addition, Ms Hieshetter brings her strong communication and interpersonal skills to the school board. Janet has held many Baker leadership roles. In the last four years, she has been a guiding member of the Baker Charitable Fund Board. She also served on the Governance Task Force when Baker separated from NLU and this year she served as a member of the Search Committee. Janet brings strengths in fund development, board management, and collaborative decision making.

Blair Miller

Blair Miller is the parent of three Baker students, 1st -5th grades. He comes to the board with nearly 20 years of experience in helping organizations work more effectively, specifically training and consulting in the areas of collaborative problem solving, creative thinking, and innovation. For corporate and non-profit clients around the world, he has facilitated strategic plans and developed high-performance teams. He serves as an adjunct faculty member at the International Center for Studies in Creativity, SUNY Buffalo. Before starting his own business, Mr. Miller worked for seven years as a middle school teacher in Telluride, Colorado. Blair brings to the board a lifetime commitment to education with emphasis on experience, collaboration and creativity.

Elaine Mohamed

Elaine Mohamed, a parent of a Baker early childhood student, is passionate about the importance of education and about social justice issues. Arriving in Chicago from her native South Africa in 1994, she earned M.Ed and Ph.D degrees in school psychology. Her volunteer and civic work for the past 20 years have included political action campaigns in the African National Congress, gender violence issues, outreach programs for those marginalized in society, Illinois lead-safe housing, ACLU, and Amnesty International. Dr. Mohamed has worked as a school psychologist in city and suburban schools and is currently teaching at Loyola University. Elaine is deeply committed to the kind of education that Baker Demonstration School espouses and demonstrates.

Andrew Morrison

Andrew Morrison is the President of Altis Avante Corporation, and is the lead author and chief architect of the Earobics Reach® reading program, an innovative reading program for struggling students in grades 4-8. Mr. Morrison also served as a member of the Illinois Reading First Committee, where he contributed to the formulation of the Illinois Reading First program. He has been honored to contribute in various other forums to questions of education policy, including closed door sessions at the White House and with ranking Democrats on the Senate Education Sub-Committee. Andrew was formerly an investment banker and an attorney, where his primary practice areas included corporate transactional work and corporate restructuring. With his strong commitment to education, Andy brings outside insights and educational perspectives to the Baker community and will share his expertise to help it succeed.

Jim Olson

Jim Olson, a parent of two boys in grades 5 and 7 at Baker, has been a pediatrician for nearly 20 years, working in a variety of settings including private practice and an inner city community health center. He has been a Medical Director and a member of the faculty of Northwestern University Medical School. Dr. Olson brings his expertise in children's health and development as well as his administrative skills as the owner of his own business. Serving on other non-profit boards, Jim also has experience in organizational and fiscal management.

Richard Sato

Richard Sato is the father to two Baker children, grades 2 and 3. He graduated from Northwestern University in Physics and has worked for Channel 11, Northeastern Illinois University and the Department of Energy. For many years his company, Sato Productions, produced commercials, industrials and entertainment films for major agencies and corporate clients. Currently he works as a consultant in computers and networking. Mr. Sato also devotes a large portion of his time to a non-profit venture that obtains, restores, and donates computers into inner city schools of Chicago. Richard was instrumental in creating Baker's new Mac lab. He will bring to the board his technical expertise as well as his love of innovative techniques in communications and networking.

Elena Zanussi

Elena Zanussi is a Baker parent whose daughter is in 2nd grade. Elena has a strong background in employee benefits, specifically in working with nonprofit educational and research institutions such as TIAA-Cref. She has also served on the Cherry Preschool Board, revising their employment manual and assisting with various employment contracts. In addition to working on the Baker Benefit, Ms Zanussi, is currently the BPO Secretary. Elena's expertise in communication, collaboration, and organization will be a strong asset to her position on the board.