



PDS Board FAQs

The Park Day School Board of Trustees is comprised of parents, staff, and community members who are responsible for the governance and stewardship of the school.

Serving on the Board is a deeply rewarding experience. Trustees are guided by one simple question: What is in the best interests of our children and the school? Working in collaboration with the Head of School, Trustees takes a strategic and long-term view of Park Day's fiscal strength and the implications of policies and procedures.

The information below provides an overview of what it means to be a Trustee. If this leadership and service opportunity appeals to you, the Park Day School Board of Trustees invite you to apply. Please note: There are also opportunities to join the Board's Advisory Committees, described at the bottom.

We welcome your interest the Park Day School Board of Trustees!

What is Park Day's Board?

Park Day School is a 501c3 non-profit organization and as such maintains a Board of Trustees charged with providing stewardship, strategy, and oversight for the school's mission. The Board and its committees are a dynamic team of parents, teachers, administrators, and external community members.

Who are Park Day trustees?

Our trustees deeply value Park Day School, understand its mission, and are committed to ensuring our school thrives over the long-term. They are willing to play a leadership role, and to give their time, energy, and expertise. Park Day School trustees are gratified by the deeper engagement with school leadership and staff and with other dynamic and talented trustees that Board service brings.

See a list of our current trustees and committees on the website under the "Our School" menu or at <http://www.parkdayschool.org/domain/131>.

What qualities are you looking for in a trustee?

In keeping with the school's commitment to provide open and fair access to leadership, eligibility for our Board is evaluated primarily in terms of an applicant's level of commitment to Park Day's mission and values, and relevant skills. Previous Board experience is desired, but not required. Our Board gains strength through being inclusive of all forms of diversity.

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The professional background of our trustees is varied and there is no one profession that best suits being a trustee. We always need a few trustees who have experience in business and/or finance, organizational development and/or HR, law, technology, nonprofit management, and education (especially in independent schools).

A trustee should be comfortable picking up a lay-level understanding of new issues and applying that understanding to collaborative and strategic decision-making.

We seek trustees who possess strong qualities such as:

- Understanding and commitment to the full mission of Park Day School
- Inter-personal and communication skills
- Positive outlook (and a sense of humor is always appreciated)
- Analytical and critical thinking abilities
- Self-motivation and integrity
- Commitment and ability to manifest Park Day's core community values in their own interactions

Serving on the Board calls for time and energy. Applicants should be prepared to actively engage with Board committees, to assume leadership roles within the Board, and be ambassadors of the school at a variety of school events.

Do I need previous experience volunteering at Park Day School to become a trustee?

Ideally, parents have participated in other school activities that can prepare for Board involvement, including but not limited to Board advisory committees. We also recognize that not all parents have been able to volunteer at the school previous to Board service. We strongly suggest applicants be school community members for at least one full year before applying.

How long is a Board term?

Parent trustees serve a term of three years, and may be invited to extend the term on a yearly basis for up to three additional years.

Sounds great! What is the process for applying?

We generally begin looking for new Trustees in January and applications are reviewed at the end of March. However, applications are accepted year-round. We strongly encourage you to attend a Board meeting in February or March to get a flavor for what the Board does before submitting an application. Please follow this application process:

Downloaded the application from our website <http://www.parkdayschool.org/domain/131>.

The application can also be requested from the Board chair by sending an e-mail to board.chair@parkdayschool.org.

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Return the completed application by e-mail to board.chair@parkdayschool.org, or you may return a hard copy to the staff mailbox of the Head of School.

Applications are reviewed by the Committee on Trustees at the end of March. The committee then selects eligible candidates for a panel interview and recommends candidates to the full Board. Candidates selected by the Board are asked to join our Board meeting in June.

Tell me about the Board's Advisory Committees.

Much of the cooking on Board initiatives takes place in our Advisory Committees. The website includes our current list of committees and their rosters. These groups are relied upon to guide Board decision-making. Active, dedicated people are always welcome to these committees. The Committee Chairs or the Board Chair can help you determine the committee that is the best fit for your skills, interest, and availability. The application for committees is also available on the Board's web page.

What if I have more questions?

You can get more information several ways:

- Review the website's section on the Board
- Talk with the current Board Chair (board.chair@parkdayschool.org)
- Talk with other current trustees (see list on website <http://www.parkdayschool.org/domain/131>)
- Talk with our Head of School Jon Kidder (jkidder@parkdayschool.org)