

MORTON

**School Based Decision
Making Council
Nominee Biographies**



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Kentucky Department of Education and Kentucky PTA are allowing PTA/PTSA's to hold the elections for parent representatives for the School-Based Decision Making (SBDM) Council virtually. In order to participate in this online election, you MUST use the email address that Fayette County Public Schools has on file in Infinite Campus. If the email address cannot be verified, the vote will be considered invalid and will be disqualified. If your email address requires updating, you will need to contact Sue Hufnagel, Morton Registrar at sue.hufnagel@fayette.kyschools.us with your name, the email address you would like to have removed, and the email you would like added.

Voting will be open from Friday, April 30, 2021 through midnight on Monday, May 3, 2021. Thank you for taking the time to be an active participant in this very important process.

Vote now: <http://bit.ly/MMSSBDMElections21>

Nominee: Tracy Parks

Hello Friends & Families!

My name is Tracy Parks and I am the current parent representative on SBDM for the 20-21 school year. It has been an interesting year to serve my first time on SBDM but I am proud of Morton, our families and students, and our new principal for doing such a great job during unprecedented times. I would be honored to continue serving as your SBDM parent representative for the 21-22 school year, but I will also be happy to assist and support whomever you choose to fill this roll should it not be me. I am here to serve in whatever capacity that is needed and will do it with absolute commitment and dedication to the needs, vision, and ideas of our families and students.

I have one daughter at Morton, next year will be her 8th grade year. We are so looking forward to all the engaging activities that we all hope to see return to Morton next year. There are so many things our students missed out on this year, and I know our SBDM is eager to roll their sleeves up and do the work to ensure that every opportunity finds its way to our students for a full and eventful 21-22 school year.

I would like to also take a quick moment to thank all the families for coming forward this year and sharing their opinions and guidance this year when called upon. Having your input and feedback makes it so much easier to speak as your representative with confidence and clarity. I hope you all enjoy your summer vacation and are ready to return to Morton refreshed and enthusiastic because I have a feeling its going to be nothing short of a thrilling year full of engagement!

Thanks,

Tracy Parks

Nominee: Keith Elston

Keith Elston is a Lexington attorney and Legal Director of the Kentucky Youth Law Project, Inc., a nonprofit legal services organization providing advocacy and pro bono legal services for LGBTQ+ youth throughout Kentucky. He grew up in the Hollywood-Mt. Vernon neighborhood, and went to Cassidy, Morton and Henry Clay. Initially planning to be a music teacher (and having come from a family line of music teachers), Mr. Elston switched career goals in the middle of his junior year at the University of Kentucky, and graduated with B.A. in Political Science. He received his Juris Doctor in 2005 from Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa where he distinguished himself as an advocate for the rights of children and youth. Since 2006, he has practiced law, working in the Dependency, Neglect and Abuse Courts throughout Central Kentucky, and managing his family law and estate planning practice, in addition to his work with the Kentucky Youth Law Project, which he founded in 2014. He is a member of the Kentucky Bar Association's Committee on Child Protection and Domestic Violence, the incoming Chair of the KBA's LGBT Law Section, and a vetted member of the National LGBT Bar Association's Family Law Institute. He has also made numerous presentations around Central Kentucky regarding the needs and concerns of LGBTQ+ children and youth. He lives in the house he grew up in, just a block from Cassidy and Morton, along with his husband, Mark, their sons, Allen (age 16) and Nick (age 11), their dog, Marley, and various freshwater fish. Mr. Elston is excited to add another facet of his advocacy for young people by serving on Morton's Site-Based Decision Making committee.

Nominee: Lucy Waterbury

I have been a resident of Fayette County since 1993 and a property owner in Lansdowne subdivision since 2003. I have 2 children, Wyatt, an 8th grader at Morton Middle and Ainsley, a 5th Grader at Glendover Elementary.

I am currently finishing my 4th year on Glendover's School Based Decision Making Council. I am a current and active member of Glendover PTA and serve as Legislative Liaison to Morton Middle School PTSA. I served on the 2015-2016 School Based Decision Making Council at Lansdowne Elementary, prior to the change in the Glendover Elementary school boundary. I have served as a parent representative on several hiring committees at both Glendover and Lansdowne Elementary. I also served on the Lansdowne Elementary PTA Board. I have served on the 16th District PTA Board as By-Laws chairwoman. In the past, I have taught parent advocacy training for the Urban Family Engagement Network and have served on various task forces at the district level regarding parent engagement for the office of family engagement at Fayette County Public Schools.

I am currently the Vice President of Legislative Response for Save Our Schools Kentucky, advocating diligently in Frankfort to protect public education and working in opposition to charter schools and private school scholarship tax credits in this legislative session, and defending parent power and voice on Kentucky's School Based Decision Making Councils.

I graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1996 with a bachelor of arts in Economics with a minor in Sociology. I am a licensed real estate agent with Rector-Hayden Realtors. Prior to obtaining my real estate license, I was a mortgage banker with PNC Bank and a FNRA 6 & 63 licensed retail banker with JPMorgan Chase Bank.

I believe I bring a number of valuable skills to the table as a parent representative on the Morton Middle School SBDM Council. With my current and year of previous experience as a School Based Decision Making Council member, I am familiar with the time commitment, analytical skills, and dedication that this position requires. My background in lending & banking taught me the value of extreme attention to details and the value of understanding budgets and financial allocations. As a licensed real estate professional, I am reminded constantly of the value that a well performing school can bring to the real estate in that district. But most importantly, as a parent, I am reminded constantly of the value that a well performing school can bring to the development, enrichment, & achievement of a child.

As your parent representative, I am interested in hearing your thoughts and concerns. I will support and ensure the continuation of the immense achievements at Morton Middle, with the strength of a diverse population, to be the school that sets the standard to which other district middle schools look to for inspiration.

As parents, we must ALL be a part of this, no contribution of time or talents is too small, and it is my hope that through your vote, you will allow me to represent you on the Morton Middle School Based Decision Making Council.

I would appreciate your vote.

Nominee: Amanda Hurley

My name is Amanda Hurley and I am running for a parent position on SBDM Council. My daughter will be an 8th grader at Morton Middle School next year and as a family we actively support both the academic and athletic programs at MMS. Currently I serve on the PBIS Committee. I have served several years on a SBDM Council and understand the time and responsibility that it requires and would love to represent parents on next year's SBDM.

Amanda Hurley, National Board Certified Teacher
Henry Clay High School Media Specialist
AASL School Library Event Promotion Committee

Nominee: Craig Cammack

Craig Cammack is a graduate of Hanover College where he focused on political science and social movements. Several years later, he graduated from the 2008 class of United Way of the Bluegrass's Get on Board program, helping him understand how he can better use his background to help nonprofit organizations find their voice, advocate for their programming, and change their community. Since then, Craig has been a vocal advocate for legislation promoting equality and fairness. Craig was Chairman of Lexington Fairness in 2010, 2011, and 2012, and served as Treasurer in 2014. During his tenure, Lexington Fairness started its bullying prevention program, Project Speak Out. This started through work with the Fayette County Public Schools' (FCPS) Superintendent's Office, as well as holding a training session for numerous individuals, including educators employed by FCPS.

In addition, he has volunteered as a Board member, Executive Committee member, and/or Advisory Board member with Lexington Ballet, Lexington Art League, United Way of the Bluegrass' Get on Board Advisory Board, UK's I Am Diversity program, Statewide Fairness Coalition, New Leaders Council Kentucky Chapter, Arbor Youth Services, Sullivan University Legal Studies Program Advisory Board, Fayette County Democratic Party, Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame, FCPS Equity Council, FCPS Audit Committee, and FCPS LGBTQ Advisory Council. He has also volunteered for JustFundKY, Blue Grass Community Foundation's GoodGiving Challenge, and the Living Arts and Science Center. Craig was appointed as a Commissioner and Executive Committee member of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission, serving as Vice Chairman for two years.

Craig is employed by the City of Lexington, serving as Community Outreach Liaison for Mayor Linda Gorton. In that role, his responsibilities include School Partnerships, LGBTQ Relations, Neighborhood Engagement, Veterans Affairs, and Communications. He has provided primary research and policy recommendations to issues including Lexington's minimum wage ordinance, tree canopy goals, social services budgeting, urban service boundaries, economic incentive programs, COVID-19 testing and vaccinations programming, and conversion therapy restrictions. He also serves as staff support for the City's Commission on Veterans Affairs.

Craig has also worked in various roles in the private sector providing support to leadership boards for an international association, as well as leading community outreach programming for a local technology company. Craig's experience working with leadership groups, community partners, nonprofit agencies and serving our local government provides him with a unique vision for ways to provide support to the community as a whole. He is passionate about community service and the importance of community to the prosperity of youth. Combined with our public school teachers, administration and staff, he believes we can bring out the best in our future generations of leaders.

He and his husband, Joseph, have been together for nearly 19 years. They served as state foster parents, beginning in 2012, and adopted their two sons, who attend Morton Middle and Paul Laurence Dunbar High Schools.

Nominee: Erin Oakley

My name is Erin Oakley and I would like to serve as a parent representative on Morton's SBDM Council. I have three children in FCPS. Mary and Parker (both 9) attend Cassidy Elementary and Will (11) is a 6th grader at Morton. I attended Centre College and have a Doctorate in Physiology from the University of Kentucky. My background is in biomedical research and I work as the Education Coordinator for the Markey Cancer Center. In my position, I mentor and provide career development guidance to graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. I am also actively involved in science education outreach with K-12 schools in Lexington. I would like to be a member of the SBDM council because I think it is important to have an active voice in our children's education. I served as a SBDM parent representative for four years at Cassidy and would like to contribute in the same capacity at Morton. I would appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the Morton team.