

Hello! My name is Diana Smith and I am running to be a Community Member for the Senn LSC. I am running because I believe deeply in Senn's potential, have the experience and drive to support Senn's mission and vision, and will work to safeguard Senn's devotion to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

For those who don't know me, I am the proud parent of a Senn graduate (Class of '25, Visual Arts Program) and I have firsthand knowledge of the school and its strengths. I was incredibly impressed with the educational opportunities my daughter had, which prepared her for college and life after graduation. It is my goal if elected as a Community LSC Member to ensure that all students have the same, or better, opportunities for success that so benefited my daughter.

Additionally, during my daughter's time at Senn I served as a Parent Representative on the LSC for two terms, beginning July 2022 and ending June 2025, when my daughter graduated. I served first as the LSC Chair, then as the LSC Vice Chair. During my time on the LSC I worked with the administration and LSC to get new helmets for the football team after finding out that players had to share helmets, while Covid was still in the acute phase. I also escalated the issue of broken microscopes to ensure that all students have the same opportunity to learn to use microscopes, which is vital for students looking to pursue science-based postsecondary opportunities.

I also headed the Principal Evaluation Committee that wrote the Principal Evaluation survey and participated in the CPS Pilot training program for Principal Evaluation. After finding that we only got a handful of responses on the Spanish version of the Principal Evaluation Survey, I worked with the LSC and Senn's ELL department to recraft the survey so that more of our English Language Learner students and families could participate. I am proud to say that we greatly increased participation and last year was the first year the LSC could get feedback from our ELL community (and, yes, I read every single response).

I completed all of the state mandated trainings in my first term on the LSC and attended CPS training update sessions, which means I am fully trained in Budgets, CIWP, Principal Evaluation, and CPS rules and regulations, and I can hit the ground running on day one.

I was the LSC advocate for the Arts Program when it was announced Nov 2024 that the program would be cut nearly in half. I played a major role in getting Senn Arts designated as A Program of Study by rallying with parents, attending parent-lead meetings, meeting with the Network Chief Dr. Lemone, Dr. Rice and OLSCR administrators, Chief of Teaching and Learning Nicole Milberg, and Board of Education Representative Debby Pope. At every step

of the way, I sought to be as transparent and accountable to the community as possible by offering regular updates to parents and the LSC. I also chaired the LSC Arts Committee, which included roundtable discussions for parents, teachers, and students to openly provide information, discuss Senn Arts, and make recommendations to the LSC. Our efforts inspired CPS to create the Arts Steering Committee, which focused on the Arts pertaining to CPS as a whole. The effort to save Senn Arts was a herculean effort by students and parents, and it taught me the value of collaboration and just how much Senn Arts needs a strong advocate on the LSC to continue offering top-tier, college preparatory Arts education.

Beyond Senn Arts, I also worked to help re-establish Friends of Senn, helped host the Movie on the Lawn, and met with officials in CPS's Office of School Safety and Security to advocate for student safety. As a community organizer, I have helped host events on ICE preparedness trainings, created materials to help local businesses prepare for immigration enforcement actions, and participated in neighborhood ICE watches. In my free time, I am also a member of the 40th Ward Safe Streets Board, and have worked with the Alder Vasquez's and Alder Hoppenworth's offices to advocate for safety-focused accessibility and safe-passage for Senn students.

If elected, I will put my energy and expertise into ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Senn students; towards enshrining Senn's values of diversity, equity, and inclusion; into expanding opportunities for each Senn student to thrive; and into ensuring transparent and accountable administration. Thank you.