

COMPASS  
CHARTER SCHOOLS



2020-21

# A Year in Review

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL



Tuition-Free | TK-12 | Personalized Learning Programs  
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**Proud Parent**  
Compass Charter Schools



# MISSION • VISION • VALUES



## Mission

Our mission is to inspire and develop innovative, creative, self-directed learners, one scholar at a time.

## Vision

Our vision is to create a collaborative virtual learning community, inspiring scholars to appreciate the ways in which arts and sciences nurture a curiosity for life-long learning, and prepare scholars to take responsibility for their future success.

## Values

Achievement | Respect | Teamwork | Integrity | Communication



# A WORD FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT & COUNCIL CHAIR

Compass Charter Schools values families as an integral part of the scholar educational experience. Partnering with parents and seeking feedback from learning coaches and families has enabled Compass to gain a vital perspective when creating policies and procedures, measuring impacts on scholars and families, and establishing additional engagement opportunities.

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is a diverse group of parents representing a wide variety of families enrolled in the multiple programs offered through Compass. PAC members provide staff and administration with feedback and suggestions regarding planning, policies, and procedures. It also serves as a platform for new ideas and a forum for bringing resources to light. The PAC serves in an advisory capacity to staff, making recommendations and providing insight throughout the school year.

This year the PAC had thoughtful discussions on COVID impacts, technology needs, and mental health resources. Members reviewed and provided feedback for the Local Control and Accountability Plan, the Learning Continuity & Attendance draft plan, and the School Plans for Scholar Achievement. PAC also conducted their annual parent survey and submitted various ideas and suggestions to staff based on parent responses. This year also provided the PAC the opportunity to award the first annual Rising Firebird and Loud & Proud Scholarships in each of our charter schools.

The PAC members look forward to another year of collaboration and teamwork. We are working continually to give parents a voice and bring to each meeting the Compass core ARTIC values of achievement, respect, teamwork, integrity, and communication.

Forever Loud and Proud,



J.J. Lewis, Superintendent & CEO



Randi Pugh, Council Chair





# ABOUT THE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL



## **Randi Pugh - Council Chair**

Mrs. Pugh is a “Loud and Proud” Firebird parent! Pugh holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration management and has played varying roles in many industries, including non-profit, retail management, human resources, and data research. In recent years she has focused on facilitating the education of her youngest child, who has autism and was no longer being appropriately served in the brick & mortar public education system.

Pugh advocates and acts as a voice for parents who seek the best educational opportunities for their children regardless of ability. Her passion is that all scholars have the opportunity to develop a life-long love of learning, enabled by embracing the whole spectrum of learning methods, educational choices, and enrichment engagements.

Pugh serves the Compass community as the chair of the Parent Advisory Committee, a member of the Special Education Advisory Committee, and as a parent representative to the El Dorado County Charter SELPA Parent Advisory Committee.

## **Brianne Manning- Council Member**



Mrs. Manning is a mother and learning coach to five wonderful and wild boys in Southern California. The Mannings have been with Compass for four years now, and they love it! Manning has a degree in nutritional science and is a student at Arizona State University pursuing her bachelor’s degree. She plans to become a college professor after her children grow up and have families of their own. Their family loves to get outdoors and explore new places.

## **Lacey Scott- Council Member**



Mrs. Scott has two twins who have been with Compass Charter School since kindergarten. Her family loves learning through travel and life experiences. She believes kids learn best in a low-stress, hands-on and playful environment where they can choose their learning style.

After 20 plus years of being self-employed in the real estate and home building industry, Scott is considered an industry expert. She currently serves her community as City Commissioner and Vice-Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission in the small Northern California town that she lives in. She looks forward to serving the Compass community as a parent representative for the CCS of Yolo.

# ABOUT THE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL, CONT.



## **Galit Gordon- Council Member**

Mrs. Gordon has been a proud learning coach for her daughter at Compass for several years and loves every minute of it, even the challenging moments. She graduated from the University of Phoenix with a Bachelor of Science in Computers and a Masters of Science in Computers with a specialty in eBusiness. She is also an Army veteran of six years and has lived in Australia, Israel, Germany, US Virgin Islands, Maryland, Washington, DC, Raleigh, NC, San Francisco, and beautiful Carlsbad, California. Both her son and herself (who graduated from Kuma Sum Laude with a degree in Computer Programming) have created a video game news website in 2013 and have over 35,000 followers. She is very excited about being on the Parents Advisory Council because she strongly believes that learning coaches truly understand what makes our scholars grow and thrive as online learners and have a wealth of knowledge and advice to share with the learning community.



## **Joy Elizabeth Sterling Effie- Council Member**

Ms. Sterling is a passionate parent and learning coach of two Compass scholars. After serving in the United States Marine Corps, she attended the University of San Diego, becoming certified as a paralegal. Although San Diego natives, her children initially enrolled with CCS of Los Angeles in 2014 as the family had a busy and unpredictable schedule acting and modeling where it necessary for the children to be homeschooled. In 2018, they returned to their hometown, now being with CCS of San Diego for the past three years. Both children have found the curriculums challenging yet maintaining 4.0 GPAs. Ms. Sterling is a professional photographer, model, actress, and member of the Women Marines Association. She strongly advocates for School Choice, completed the Compass Learning Coach Academy, received the Compass Excellent Parent Participation Award, and has been a member of the Parent Advisory Council for three years.



## **Leah Smith- Council Member**

Mrs. Smith is a SoCal native mother of five, a party wherever they go. They enjoyed six years of Idaho snow for skiing, but not for driving, so she is enjoying the beaches once again. She is an accidental home educator with one graduate and another one on the way. She is creative, crafty and keeps plants alive most of the time. When she's serious, you can find her helping her husband in real estate and mortgage, and she is a proud Firebird!



## **Mariercor Agravante- Council Member**

Mrs. Agravante is a work-from-home Mom, thanks to her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, her Master of Science degree in Organizational Leadership, and her professional experience as a writer, editor, designer (art and photography) and online educator. She likewise has several years of experience serving on the boards of many nonprofit organizations, not just locally and regionally but also, more recently, nationwide. Her children have been attending Compass since their Kindergarten years and are proud Firebirds!

# ABOUT THE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL, CONT.



## **Samatha Herrod- Council Member**

Mrs. Herrod has been a proud Firebird parent at Compass for the past three years. She received two BFA's in Illustration from the University of San Francisco and The College of the Arts (CCA) in San Francisco. She is a Los Angeles native who has several occupations; along with being a home educator, she also teaches painting classes and works in the marketing and customer service field.



## **Therese Christopher- Council Member**

Mrs. Christopher grew up in a small town in Sweden, where she went to school and learned several different languages. She has worked in the restaurant business and the local tourist board in her hometown. She wanted to explore the world and did so by traveling to Spain, England, and eventually coming to Southern California in her early twenties, where she met her husband. They have a daughter who has been attending Compass since 6-grade; she is now a graduate and is very excited to be involved with the development of Compass Charter Schools. Christopher currently works as an administrator/human resource manager at a local art gallery in Southern California.



## **Tony Christopher- Council Member**

Mr. Christopher grew up in Southern California as a surfer and self-taught musician. He traveled Europe extensively in his early twenties. He worked in video production before joining the video game industry, where he worked several years before starting his own business as a computer technician and technologist. Both himself and Mrs. Christopher have a daughter, a newly graduated senior and has enjoyed seeing Compass grow and develop for the last six years and wants to contribute to its further positive and creative development.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The Parent Advisory Council serves to provide parent feedback on school policies and procedures at Compass Charter Schools to ensure that they are consistent with its mission, vision, and values. Members act as a committed group of advisors to the staff and administration regarding issues that affect the scholars and school of Compass. They provide feedback and insight from the parent's perspective on the school process, policies, and initiatives to ensure that the needs of parents and their families are included as decisions are made. They also serve as an advisory, not a decision-making body, that makes recommendations, encourages brainstorming, and provides opportunities for parent involvement on committees.

During the 2020-21 school year, the Parent Advisory Council met on the third Friday of every other month at 3 pm. They also held a special meeting in October. At each meeting, recurring agenda items included hearing updates from the Superintendent, updates on the El Dorado County SELPA Community Advisory Committee, as well as the opportunity to share parent feedback on the Compass Experience with staff. There are several highlights from meetings this year:

## The Parent Advisory Council:

- Provided input on the Learning Continuity & Learning Plan, which included asking clarifying questions on various aspects of the draft plan.
- Provided input on the COVID-19 Reopening Plan, which included research on waivers for parents to access in-person services.
- Approved the application form and process for two new scholarships for graduating scholars: the Loud & Proud Scholarship and the Rising Firebird Scholarship.
- Launched their annual Parent Survey. It included questions this year on the support provided by Compass during the COVID-19 Pandemic (as suggested by the Scholar Leadership Council) as well as questions to share moments of pride and gauge parent interest in joining the Council.
- Reviewed and approved the 2020-21 School Plans for Scholar Achievement (SPSA).
- Spent time at each of their meetings in the Spring to review and analyze the Parent Survey results.
- Reviewed the Loud & Proud and Rising Firebird Scholarship applications and named the following graduating seniors as the inaugural recipients:
  - Loud & Proud Scholarship - Eric Vivian
  - Rising Firebird Scholarship - Michael Effie & Eric Vivian
- Reviewed and approved the 2021-24 Local Control & Accountability Plans (LCAPs).
- Provided input on the Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant Plan, which included additional resources geared towards the Counseling Services Department, social-emotional support, and extra learning lab time.



# JOIN THE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL



Join PAC to serve Compass and provide feedback on school policies and procedures, to ensure that they are consistent with Compass Mission, Vision, and Values. Members make recommendations, encourage brainstorm, and provide opportunities for parent involvement.

If you are interested in serving on the PAC, please contact J.J. Lewis, Superintendent & CEO, at [jlewis@compasscharters.org](mailto:jlewis@compasscharters.org) to learn how to get involved.



# LEARNING COACHES OF THE YEAR

Compass staff nominate learning coaches who have stood out as leaders and have excelled in supporting their scholars throughout the year. Join us in celebrating our **2020-21 Learning Coaches of the Year**:



## Los Angeles

### Online Learning Program: Jessica Chouari

"Jessica supports her scholar each and every day by monitoring his progress and always staying by his side to ensure that he can get through the reading materials. She is always available for connection meetings. Thank you for your excellent work as a learning coach Jessica!" -Janae Smith, CCS of Los Angeles Principal.

### Options Learning Program: Barbara Baez

"Barbara goes above and beyond for her scholars. She is calculated in how she teaches content and is always researching new ideas. She continually strives to learn how to be the best educator. Her effort and tenacity shine brightly. Barbara is a pleasure to work with and gives each day her 100%. I love watching her scholars not only excel but have fun while learning. She is such a rockstar and deserves to be recognized. Thank you, Barbara, for being amazing!" -Janae Smith, CCS of Los Angeles Principal.

## San Diego

### Online Learning Program: Therese and Tony Christopher

"The Christophers have been such an amazing family and a joy to work with the past few years. They are extremely supportive of their scholar Elizabeth's endeavors and have been very active in various aspects of her education, from field trips to parent committees. They never miss a connection meeting or a Coffee with Compass and strive to make sure that Elizabeth never misses a learning lab. They are an amazing family with an amazing scholar, and they will be incredibly missed. In short, the Christophers are the epitome of exceptional learning coaches, and I am grateful for their partnership in Elizabeth's education. It has been a pleasure getting to know them personally over the last six years. Congratulations to both of you!" -Sharon Rosen, social studies teacher.

### Options Learning Program: Elizabeth Bettisworth

"Liz is one of the most passionate, caring, and knowledgeable learning coaches. She is always open to my ideas to help support her scholars and always finds unique ways to ignite learning based on their learning styles. She always attends our connection meetings and completes expected requirements in a timely and detailed manner. Liz is cooperative and easy to communicate with. She is a great Mother and teacher to her scholars. Liz is truly deserving of Learning Coach of the Year." -Jan Marquez, supervising teacher.

# LEARNING COACHES OF THE YEAR, CONT.



## Yolo

### Online Learning Program: Shaunna and David Green

"Mr. and Mrs. Green are dedicated and always involved with their scholar's academic performance and school activities. They have been active participants in all parent-teacher conferences this year, asking questions and working with their scholar to develop and attain goals. They quickly respond to any queries or requests from their homeroom teacher and are truly a great partner in their scholar's education. According to their current homeroom teacher, they are just a pleasure to have as learning coaches and are a wonderful model of what a learning coach for a high school online scholar should be." -Jason Bee, CCS of Yolo Principal.



### Options Learning Program: Rubyann Arcilla

"Rubyann Arcilla's Supervising Teacher has had the pleasure of working and watching Rubyann homeschool her three scholars for the past three years. Rubyann has three very different children, and knowing this, she approaches each of their learning needs and desires uniquely, even though it means a lot of extra work for her in terms of planning, teaching, and grading. She encourages them to pursue their interests and has high expectations of each one according to their abilities. Ms. Arcilla is always smiling, gentle, and encouraging; she's a pleasure to support. On top of all of this, she's very organized, and she keeps me on track! She's never been late to a meeting, turning in a work sample, or with attendance." -Jason Bee, CCS of Yolo Principal.

"Congratulations to Jessica Chouari, Barbara Baez, Therese, and Tony Christopher, Elizabeth Bettisworth, Shaunna and David Green, and Rubyann Arcilla for receiving this honor. You each are an integral part of your scholar's academic success. Your guidance, support, and teamwork with our teachers and educational facilitators are immensely appreciated; continue the incredible work. Please join us in celebrating our Learning Coaches of the Year, thanking them for being our partners along this educational journey and a role model for their fellow learning coaches!" -J.J. Lewis, Superintendent & CEO.



# GIVING BACK



Compass is proud to offer our Loud and Proud and Rising Firebird scholarships for our graduating seniors.

**GIVE TODAY!**  
SUPPORT A GRADUATING SENIOR!

SUPPORT OUR INCREDIBLE SCHOLARS  
WITH THE **RISING FIREBIRD** AND **LOUD  
AND PROUD SCHOLARSHIPS!** SIX WILL BE  
AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP TOWARDS A  
COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY!

**COMPASS**  
CHARTER SCHOOLS

**Please donate and support our incredible scholars at:  
[compasscharters.org/giving/](https://compasscharters.org/giving/)  
Thank you for making a difference in a scholar's life!**



# COMPASS CHARTER SCHOOLS



# Proud Parent

Compass Charter Schools

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