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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Naperville Education Foundation Welcomes Five Trustees and Elects Board Officers

Naperville, IL – The Naperville Education Foundation (NEF), the non-profit arm of Naperville Community Unit School District 203, welcomed Travis George, Diana Torres Hawken, Kristin Porter, Dr. Kelly Ryan, and Steve Schnack to its Board of Trustees, effective July 1, 2021. Kimberley Henderson was elected board chair, Julie Beehler vice chair, Jenny Tank board secretary and Jordan Johnson as board treasurer.

Outgoing Board Chair Kitty Ryan said, "I join all NEF trustees in welcoming these five outstanding individuals to the Board. Diana, Kelly, Kristin, Steve and Travis bring unique talents and experiences to NEF and most of all, are deeply committed to the NEF mission. It will be wonderful to see all they will contribute to our important work."

New Trustees



Travis George is the Chief Financial Officer of Molex, LLC. He serves on the board of the Japan American Society and is a committee member of the Boys & Girls Club of America. George holds a Bachelor’s degree and MBA from the University of Louisville. A Naperville 203 parent, George says, “Naperville has an amazing educational staff and I very much appreciate their efforts as well as everything the district does to support the children. I welcome the opportunity to contribute to this outstanding school district as an ambassador of NEF and District 203.”



Diana Torres Hawken is a community volunteer. She serves on the City of Naperville Human Rights and Fair Housing Commission and is Membership Co-Chair of the American Association of University Women (Naperville Chapter). She is also a board member of Nuestro Futuro/“Our Future” and incoming Home & School co-Vice President at Maplebrook Elementary. Previously she was on the Parent Board of Directors at Hobson Cooperative Preschool and Board Chairman and Member of the Aurora Hispanic Heritage Advisory Board. Torres Hawken holds a Master’s in Sociology from the University of South Florida and a BA in English and Sociology from Kenyon

College. “The work being doing by NEF is providing additional opportunities for access, growth and exposure for the entire community,” Torres Hawken said.



Kristin Porter is a dedicated community volunteer, actively involved as a committee chair at Mill Street Elementary Home and School, the National Charity League, and the Cress Creek Country Club swim team, and a member of the Naperville North Advisory Council. Porter has over 20 years of experience as a marketer with a global consulting firm, and her education includes a Master’s degree in Psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (TCSP) to be completed in August 2021, a Bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, and a certificate in child and adolescent psychology from TCSP. “I enjoy being involved, making a difference, and contributing to my community, particularly in the areas of education, child development, and equitable opportunities for children,” Porter said. “I look forward to being an active part of the NEF mission.”



Dr. Kelly Ryan is Director of Social Services and Doctoral Training at Linden Oaks Behavioral Health. She is a member of the Linden Oaks Taskforces on Trauma and Autism, as well as the

Linden Oaks Healing Team and a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives. “I enjoy working with a team and seeing the positive results of our efforts,” Ryan said. “I look forward to helping children as part of an interactive team and offering expertise on all aspects of psychological and emotional well-being as it relates to children in our community.” She holds a Master of Science in Clinical Counseling, a Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology and certificates in Critical Incident Stress Management and DBT.



Steve Schnack is a previous Naperville 203 employee and community volunteer, acting as president of the Home & School organization at Lincoln Junior High for the past three years and Kingsley Elementary the previous year. A lawyer, Schnack holds a BA in Mathematics and Political Science from Northwestern University, a JD from University of Iowa College of Law, and an ISBE Substitute Teaching License. “My passion for supporting education and families aligns with NEF’s vision,” Schnack said. “I can apply that passion and my skills and experience as an attorney and educator to NEF’s mission.”

Board Officers

The board elected a new slate of officers. Kimberley Henderson was elected board chair. Henderson holds a JD/MBA and is a parent liaison for volunteer organization S.U.C.C.E.S.S. (Schools Using Coordinated Community Efforts to Strengthen Students), which is devoted to inspiring and empowering black students/children of color in the district to achieve greatness. Henderson is also actively involved in Jack & Jill of America, Inc., a membership of African-American mothers and children whose objectives are to create a medium of contact for children which will stimulate growth and development and provide children constructive

educational, cultural, civic, health, recreational and social programs. She is an active Home & School volunteer.

Julie Beehler was elected vice chair. A retired educator, Beehler worked for more than 35 years in Naperville 203, starting as an elementary teacher and serving as Principal at Beebe and Naper Elementary schools before becoming Director of Administrative Services for the District. She continues to work for the Regional Office of Education as a mentor for new principals across DuPage County.

Jenny Tank will continue as secretary. Tank is a former attorney and current advocate, acting on behalf of children in the foster care system through CASA of DuPage County. She is also the Intake Coordinator for Modify Counseling and serves on the Home and School Association for Highlands Elementary School.

Jordan Johnson continues in his role as board treasurer. Johnson is Manager at DHJJ where he works with closely-held businesses and individuals on tax planning, tax preparation, business advisory, investment management and financial planning. Johnson is a Certified Public Accountant and has his Series 65 Investment Advisor Certification.

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The Naperville Education Foundation (NEF) raises and grants funds for programs that enhance and enrich the educational experience of Naperville School District 203 students. With the generous support of foundations, businesses, educational professionals and individual donors, NEF is able to provide financial resources that increase learning opportunities by supplementing school district budgets. NEF encourages creativity, innovation and excellence in our students by helping to ensure that every student in the district can take advantage of opportunities to make the most of their education. www.nef203.org