

Dear Titan Family,

As a teenager, George Washington hand copied a set of *Rules to Civility and Decent Behaviors in Company and Conversation*. Rule #110 of this list, “Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience”, best sums up how I’ve strived to serve as a Director. Engaging in activities across our beloved campuses these last few years has allowed me to witness how our Core Values and Mission are woven into the fabric of daily operations. As a result of this formative time, my devotion to TCA has increased and my conscience urges me to seek re-election to continue serving in this humbling capacity. The Core Values’ cover page states that “the foremost measure of our success now and in the future is how well we live up to the words in this document”. The Titan’s Creed, which was inspired by our Core Values, will serve as my qualifications. This letter will highlight examples of how I’ve modeled, often imperfectly, the Titan’s Creed, in life and how my conscience has played into some of those moments.

Titans endeavor to recognize and pursue truth, beauty, and goodness. Did you know that 1 in 3 drivers report running a red light in the last 30 days? According to the Department of Transportation, 165,000 motorists are injured annually by red-light runners. On November 1, 2023, minutes after departing from TCA East carpool pickup: I unintentionally ran a red light. Both vehicles were totaled and injuries were involved. The truth is that all families involved were shocked. It felt devastating, and it still does. Some beauty and goodness, which has sprung forth from this incident, is that others have felt free to share their own red-light running stories in response to my choice to bring my experience to light. I know that people are practicing greater caution when driving, as they hear our stories, which may lead to saved lives. Whether in personal life or public service, choosing to pursue truth, beauty, and goodness, during difficult seasons, facilitates growth and a more hopeful future.

Titans celebrate virtue in scholarship, relationship, and citizenship. This line resonates deeply with me because I was born into a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-religious, military family. The military allowed us to live immersed in a spectrum of foreign cultures for the first 13 years of my life, cultivating an appreciation for diverse relationships. Leveraging diverse approaches to baseline challenges are crucial to inhibiting “group think,” produce richer solutions, build bridges, and ensure checks and balances are in place. TCA Board Directors sign a Board Agreement annually and agree to govern with “an emphasis on consideration of diversity of viewpoints.” Our current Board is committed to soliciting and considering a diversity of viewpoints when forming conclusions to ensure our faculty and students are not deprived of valuable opportunities.

As a second generation veteran and a veteran spouse, I have a profound affection for our country, its people, and the world as a whole. I have not only lived this out through service to TCA as a Board Director, but my dedication to service in my personal life has borne fruit in the desire of my children to also serve in our US military.

Titans take ownership of and find joy in learning. Academics can be challenging to even the most dedicated of students in our TCA body. While I struggled academically in high school, this did not dampen my drive to learn, but rather fanned the flames of desire to seek knowledge and understanding that would eventually lead to earning a MBA while serving in the Air Force. I am able to step into new opportunities without prior experience or knowledge because I find joy and fulfillment in confronting challenges while seeking out and relying on those who are the experts. Once elected in 2021, I prioritized learning about TCA, from a macro perspective, through reading and meeting with key TCA stakeholders. Each month, the Directors receive numerous read-aheads filled with updates and metrics on the school’s health. Not only is this time of learning personally

enriching, but it weighs on my conscience to do my due diligence in managing TCA's organizational health and preserving our culture.

Titans value our responsibilities above our rights. Last summer, I was invited to serve on D20's Mill Levy Override (MLO) committee. I typically oppose raising taxes so the goal and initial drive of the committee runs counter to my natural inclination and it would have been my right to respectfully decline. However, I felt it was my responsibility to seek understanding and either confront or confirm my pre-disposed belief before deciding. After learning more about the MLO and the positive impacts it would have on our TCA staff and student body, my conscience compelled me to accept the responsibility to support the MLO efforts (as a private citizen and not in my capacity as a TCA Director).

Titans love, respect, and protect one another. For years, I co-moderated two unofficial TCA parent Facebook groups. One invitation to moderate was extended years before my Board service, the other was during my tenure. I hesitated to accept the recent invite because of my service, but I accepted because social media is undeniably an effective tool to rapidly disseminate information to users and that group required minimal moderator engagement. Traditionally during Board elections, a basic post or flier of each candidate was shared in the Facebook groups. Last year, a candidate reached out to me to post some campaign content, which was outside of the normal scope of candidate marketing, in one of the Facebook groups. I reviewed the material, shared that I had concerns regarding some of the topics they chose to highlight, encouraged them to share it with their constituents in a different way, and welcomed them to post the standard basic post or flier in our group. The content was posted despite my guidance so I removed it and provided the same justification I had shared on the phone earlier that day. The poster contested the removal and accused me of censoring. I consulted with my co-moderator and reviewed the content at least a dozen times. After realizing it had also been shared on other TCA parent groups, I chose to repost it within three hours of removing it. Although the final conclusion differed from my initial desire, I held at the forefront the desire to maintain an even playing field for all candidates and a virtual space rooted in love, respect, and protection for all community members.

Striving to be our best, do our best, and give our best to the world in mind, body, and spirit. My kids and I have discussed how "our best" fluctuates and may not be "the best" relative to others. And that's ok. My best, when running a 50K in 2021 and a half marathon in 2022 looked like second to last and bringing up the rear, respectively. But I finished. My best currently looks like walking until my body recovers more from the accident. And that's ok. I'm not sure how my Board efforts compare to previous Directors, but thank you for entrusting me with an opportunity to offer my best effort to serve our incredible community. This has been one of the greatest professional endeavors I've ever embarked on and will always cherish this time. If re-elected, my vision for the school is for all of us to aspire to do our best to live up to TCA's Core Values. I will also continue to "labor to keep alive in my breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience" while continuing to give my best to you. However that may look.

With much affection,

Kinetta Johnson

Kinetta Johnson

P.S. Be sure to check out my candidate video to learn more about my TCA contributions. Feel free to email me with questions or to set up a time to meet: kjohnson2@asd20.org (remember the 2!).