



League of Women Voters of Saratoga

## Voter Guide School Board Elections

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# Saratoga County School Districts

## Saratoga County:- Ballston Spa School Board

The Board of Education for the Ballston Spa Central School District is responsible for the general supervision of the schools. The Board includes seven unsalaried citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of three years each. Two board seats are up for election this year. Polls are open from 7 am to 9 pm, you must be a registered voter to vote. Absentee ballots are available. Contact District. District telephone is 884-7195

### Candidates (choose 2)

#### Daniel Cramer

The candidate has not yet responded.

#### Susan Filburn



##### Biographical Info:

**Education:** Syracuse University, Maxwell School, Masters of Public Administration (MPA) United States Military Academy, Bachelor of Science (BS)

**Community Involvement:** Ballston Spa Education Foundation, Board Member Milton Terrace North PTA Leadership Saratoga, Class of 2007

**Experience and Qualifications:** Worked in New York State government for over ten years. Have a Master of Public Administration (MPA). Served in the United States Army for eight years.

##### Questions:

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** As a former New York State Division of the Budget employee, I have an understanding of how the state budgets for New York State schools, as well as, funds for other public services and local communities around the State. I have experience with the legislative process and how bills are passed. I have an understanding of the governance process and hope it will be a benefit to the school board.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** Spending priorities have to be in the best interest of the students. Education has to be the priority, but extracurricular activities must be considered as well. Children learn from activities outside of the classroom, as well as inside the classroom.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** School districts need to integrate technology into their curriculum. Technology can not only teach children a new way to learn, but it will prepare them for a workplace where technology is moving at such a fast pace.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** I would like to learn about the school board members, the budget process, and bring my skills and talent to the board to improve the school district, and the community.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** - no response -

## **Saratoga County: - Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake School Board**

The Board of Education for the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School District is responsible for the general supervision of the schools. The Board includes seven unsalaried citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of three years each. Two board seats are up for election this year. You must be Registered in order to vote. Absentee Ballots are available. Contact District. District telephone number is 884-7195.

### **Candidates (choose 2):**

#### **Will Farmer**



**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** willfarmerforbhbl@gmail.com

**Education:** Ithaca College, BS in Communications Management

**Community Involvement:** Volunteers with the Southern Saratoga Chamber of Commerce and is a former T-Ball and basketball coach.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Three years experience on current board. As a partner at Creatacor, Inc., I manage a dimensional marketing business with 55 employees in Clifton Park.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** As a partner in a local, growing marketing firm, I bring leadership and management qualities as well as an understanding of the skills required of our current students in order to be successful. As a parent of a fourth and eighth grader, I know the challenges our children and teachers face on a daily basis. And having completed my first three years on the board during tough economic times, I have gained valuable experience on balancing quality programs with fiscal responsibility. In addition to the standard work of the board, I've participated in training sessions and attended the state School Board Conference for three years in an effort to further my knowledge to better serve the community.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** Unfortunately, with the many mandates required at the state and national level limiting the options of the board, it makes it difficult to rule out any specific area for cuts. This is one reason I led the effort on a Board Resolution against unfunded mandates as local districts need greater control over educational decisions. Decisions must be based on what's best for all students. This past year, I wasn't in favor of full day kindergarten as the long-term benefits are unproven and the program demands higher staffing levels. While state grants cover higher costs for several years, eventually the board will be faced with prioritizing full day-k verse other programs just as our neighbors in Scotia and Niskayuna have had to do this year.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** AT BHBL, the administration has done an excellent job outlining the framework for 21st skills and it is obvious to me the staff is continually moving towards full implementation. The challenges include upgrading the technological infrastructure so the students have the tools and access necessary, modifying the facilities by updating classroom space and providing staff development so our teachers have the latest training available. The current board commissioned a bond referendum committee with an emphasis on capital improvements to help us overcome these challenges with a vote scheduled for next fall. Changing the way we educate children is an ongoing process but one the school board is dedicated too.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** My goal is to continue the good work the board has done the last three years. Fiscally, we have been through some tough times but thanks to sound management, BHBL is on solid footing and the board is thinking strategically, developing a tool analyzing today's decisions and their long-term effects. We must continue this long term planning. I also want to follow through on the bond referendum so we can provide our children maximum opportunities for learning 21st Century skills. They deserve and require every advantage we can give them. Finally, I will continue to push for greater community involvement believing an informed and participative public is the key to good governance. I'll always be available to listen to your concerns.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** No matter the environment, the top priority of any community must be providing the highest caliber education for each and every student. We must offer a challenging, safe and well-rounded experience, ensuring our children have the tools to be the leaders of the future. As a board member, I will consider the long term while balancing the needs of the group with the individual needs of each and every student. My commitment to these goals has only increased since joining the board. I am proud of the work the board has done, proud to be a part of the process and ask you to provide me the opportunity to continue representing you and respectfully request your vote on election day.

### **Jenifer Loratin**

The candidate has not yet responded.

### **Lee-Ann Mertzlufft**

The candidate has not yet responded.

## **Saratoga County:- Corinth School Board**

The Board of Education for the Corinth Central School District is responsible for the general supervision of the schools. The Board includes seven unsalaried citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of five years each. Two board seats are up for election this year. Polls are open from 7 am to 8:30 pm. Absentee ballots are available. You do not have to be registered to vote in order to vote in this election. District telephone number is 654-9005.

### **Candidates (choose 2):**

#### **Susan Falkenbury**



**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.facebook.com/pages/Susan Falkenbury for Corinth Central School District Board of Education](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Susan+Falkenbury+for+Corinth+Central+School+District+Board+of+Education)

**Education:** AS, Business Administration, Summa Cum Laude, Adirondack Community College

**Community Involvement:** Corinth Elementary School PTSO, Corinth Central School District CSE Parent Member, Holy Mother and Child Religious Education Parent Assistant

**Experience and Qualifications:** I have a background in educational services working for Adirondack Community College's Business and Social Science departments as an administrative assistant. I was responsible for coordinating between various departments within the college, as well as between

students and faculty. I was also responsible for assisting the faculty with budgets, academic matters, and being a liaison between the college and outside vendors. Additionally, I am proficient at utilizing various social media outlets as well as computer technology for communication and business applications.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** Fortunately, over the past three years, I have become very familiar with the Corinth Central School District. I have served on the elementary school PTSO, coordinating the elementary school fundraiser, working our student fun nights, and participating on the committee to interview potential elementary school principals this year. Additionally, I have served for the last four years as a parent member for the CSE (Committee for Special Education).

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** Our goal is to give our children a well-rounded education. Each child follows a unique path as they navigate through school, shaping them into the adult they will become after high school. I definitely feel that core academics should never be cut from a school budget, nor should AP classes and certain electives, such as Business and Technology courses. When examining sports, clubs, and extracurricular activities, we should consider creative cost effectiveness measures as well as fundraising or sponsorship options to alleviate some of the cost to the school district.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** I believe that in order to best prepare our students for the 21st century, we need to ensure that they have the skills necessary to compete for the jobs. By offering business and technology courses, like Essentials of Technology, in addition to the core educational classes, we would be giving them these skills. Skills like word processing, financial management, accounting, marketing, and fundamental computer skills like word, excel, and power point will benefit our students in a variety of occupations. These skills would increase the opportunities for our students with regard to employment, technology, and higher education.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** In general, I would like to make sure our students continue to receive the best education. By investing in their future, we are investing in our economy, our country, our small businesses and large corporations. We need to give our students the opportunity to reach their goals, no matter what. Every student deserves that chance and it's up to the Board of Education to LEAD our district to this goal and keep us there. We need to give our teachers the support they need to effectively educate our children. If we increase morale among teachers, it will have a direct, positive impact on students. Making sure our children are safe is another goal, by both preventing violence in our schools and other problems such as bullying.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** Children are always going to be the priority for any person willing to serve on the Board of Education. We must recognize that all children are individuals and that we are responsible as parents, community members, and educators to guide them in their education and give them all the tools necessary for success. Sometimes we will need to make tough decisions, but we should readily explain our reasons for these decisions. In order to prepare our children for their lives ahead, ALL of us adults, whether we are parents, educators, or members of the community must be ready to LEARN: Listen, Evaluate, Advocate, Recognize, and Nurture.

## **Meredith Jenkins**



**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** meredithjenkins@gmail.com

**Education:** BS degree in Psychology specializing in Child Psychopathology

**Community Involvement:** Two years as assistant coach for Corinth Youth Football Cheerleading. Two years as assistant coach for Corinth Little League. Three years service with the Elementary School PTSO where I served as Treasurer. Six years service with the Corinth Central School District as a board member where I held the positions

of Vice President and 2nd Vice President. Ten years service with the Corinth Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary were I held the positions of Treasurer, Vice President and President.

**Experience and Qualifications:** I am currently employed as Human Resources Director for a human services agency. My fifteen years experience in this position has given me extensive knowledge with complex budgets and day to day business operations. Due to my experiences both professionally and personally, I feel I am qualified to handle the challenges that come with working with a diverse population and variety of situations.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** Having served on the board for the past six years I feel I have gained extensive knowledge as to how the board works as a whole and the process that goes into making decisions when dealing with such a diverse group of people. I feel that my background in Psychology as well as my work experience as a Human Resources Director makes me a strong candidate. I have good analytical, leadership and collaborative skills that I believe will help to move the district forward.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** It is extremely important to focus on the education of our children while still trying to be fiscally responsible to our community. Thinking outside the box and collaborating with other school districts is essential in these times of limited discretionary funding. Throughout the past few years we have made significant cuts to our programming. We need to examine ways to work with other schools to consolidate our costs and limit cutting the programs we are able to offer to our students.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** In a knowledge-based economy it is imperative that we teach our children to collaborate with others and connect through technology. We need to teach ways of thinking that include creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making. Learning through digital means is essential. One way I believe we can achieve this is to continue to focus on enhancing our distance learning capabilities. By providing these skills to our students we are giving them a greater probability of succeeding in the future while remaining fiscally responsible to our community.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** If elected for another term on the school board, education will continue to be my top priority. I believe in these times of limited discretionary funding, it is essential that we listen to the needs of our students as well as the concerns of our community. I would continue to support the "Joint Efficiency Feasibility Study" that is currently in the beginning stages and continue to look for ways to consolidate resources that is beneficial to both our students and our community.

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**Arthur Lozier III**

The candidate has not yet responded.

**Thomas Morgan**

The candidate has not yet responded.

**James Murray Sr**

The candidate has not yet responded.

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**Saratoga County:- Edinburg Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees for the Edinburg Common School District is responsible for the general supervision of the schools. The Board includes three unsalaried citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of three years each. One board seat is up for election this year. Polls are open from 12 pm to 8 pm. District telephone number is 863-8412

## Candidates (choose 1):

### John Olmstead

The candidate has not yet responded.

## Saratoga County:- Galway School Board

The Board of Education for the Galway Central School District is responsible for the general supervision of the schools. The Board includes seven unsalaried citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of four years each. Three board seats are up for election this year, one for three years and two for four years. You must be a Registered voter to vote. Polls are open from 10 am to 9 pm in the Auditorium Lobby. Absentee ballots are available. District telephone number is 882-1033..

## Candidates (choose 3):

### Jay Anderson

#### Biographical Info:

**Campaign Web Site:** NA

**Campaign Email:** jay@andersonacresny.com

**Education:** US Navy Electrical Engineer

**Community Involvement:** Galway School Board 1989-2004, PTSA, Coached 5&n6 grade Basketball 5 years,

**Experience and Qualifications:** Board President, Chairman of the Finance, Grounds and Buildings, Curriculum and the Public Relations Committees.

#### Questions:

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** I am a team player that believes everyone should be treated with dignity and respect. I served on the Galway School Board from 1989-2004. During my tenure I served as Board President and on various other committees. On two different occasions, I served as Chairman of the Negotiating Committee while negotiating a new contract with the GTA. Both contracts were negotiated to the satisfaction of both parties. Presently I manage nine Engineers, one Technical Specialist and two Draftsmen. I work with many other organizations to ensure we train and produce quality Nuclear Operators for our Naval Fleet. I am also required to set goals and provide a long range plan to accomplish assigned work tasks on time and within budget.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** Spending priorities should support the needs of the students. We as a district are responsible to ensure all of the students are offered challenging and diverse classes. We have an obligation to ensure the students have a sound academic background, so if they desire, they can pursue higher education. Some students may decide to attend college, trade schools, military service or directly join the work force. We have the responsibility to make sure they have the tools through education to reach their goals. Cutting academic courses such as higher level math, chemistry and physics are off limits. I believe with teamwork between the School Board, Faculty and the community, the Galway School District can survive with no more spending cuts.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** I found during my tenure on the Board in the past, the Board needs to listen to the Administrators and Educators involved in the school system. Many times they have good suggestions that can improve the teaching methods and make the education system run more efficiently. During my tenure

on the Board we initiated Distance Learning, which enabled our district to offer more diverse courses with a reduced cost to the district. We also instituted Project Lead the Way which helped introduce basic Engineering courses to students in Galway. We should also offer as many Advanced Placement Courses as possible to prepare our students for higher education. Having a variety of courses will help our students make informed decisions for future careers.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** Reestablish trust between the School Board, GTA, CSEA and the community. Establish a teaming atmosphere for the good of the students, faculty and our community. Provide a quality education for our students at a reasonable price to the tax payer. Ensure the school continues to serve as a Community Center for Galway. Give students and teachers the motivation needed to achieve their best.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** My wife and I have lived in the Galway School District Since 1985. Both of my sons graduated from the Galway School system and pursued a higher education. Dan went to Albany School of Pharmacy and Joe acquired a double Bachelor degree in Applied Economics and Management, and Animal Science, from Cornell University. My wife and I are both delighted both have settled in the Galway School District. I have five grand children, two of which are now in the Galway School system and the three younger ones will be old enough to attend soon. Please feel free to call me with any questions you may have. Thank you for reading my responses to the above questions. I am looking forward to serving on the Board again

## Melodye Eldeen



### **Biographical Info:**

**Education:** Bachelor of Science Degree and Master of Science Degree in Education, State College of New York at Oneonta; Master of Science Degree in Educational Administration, State University of New York at Albany

**Experience and Qualifications:** Having spent 26 years as a successful school administrator at the elementary and secondary levels, I have extensive experience and expertise in all aspects of the educational program. I am interested in giving back to

the community in the area I know best. When relocating, a great school for their children is what matters most to parents. I understand schools and the teamwork required from all members of the school community - the BOE, teachers, support staff, parents, and students - to have great schools. There are many challenges facing schools today, reduced funding, more rigorous expectations for students and teachers, increased concerns in the area of school safety. I have first hand knowledge and experience in how to successfully meet each of these challenges.

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** I have a strong and extensive background in education, recently retiring after 10 years as a teacher and 26 years as a successful school administrator at both the elementary and secondary levels. I have a wide range of experiences in education that I can apply to decision making at the BOE level. Currently, I work part-time training administrators and teachers on APPR, the new teacher and principal evaluation system in New York State. I also do training for teachers and administrators on implementing the new Common Core ELA and Math Standards. I am passionate about kids and education. As a BOE member, I will bring knowledge, expertise, a positive energy, and commitment to the district.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** Spending priorities would be determined by the Board of Education based on the district's goals. Improved academic achievement, including increased graduation rates and state assessment scores would be high priority goals. To meet these goals, the implementation of more rigorous ELA and math common core standards would be a spending priority. In addition to improved academic achievement, student safety would be an area of priority. I think all areas of the budget need to be analyzed before any reductions are made.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** To be successful in today's workplace, students need to be creative, have strong critical thinking skills, excellent verbal and written communication skills, and work together as part of a team. A 21st century curriculum not only teaches academic and social skills, it requires students to apply the skills learned in a meaningful way. A school district can create partnerships with businesses to provide opportunities for students to complete internships in fields such as nanotechnology, health care, energy, or technology. Teachers and businesses can team to create simulations that require student teams to solve problems by thinking critically and creatively and then sharing results both orally and in writing. Interesting, relevant and fun!!

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** During my term on the BOE, I would like to work toward creating a district culture that has high expectations for all staff and students and functions as a cohesive team. I will work with fellow BOE members, staff and parents to provide a quality, 21st century education for all students given the resources of the community.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** In Galway, the school is the heart of the community. It is important to me that our school remain stable and a valuable resource in the community. The Board of Education develops policies that set administrators, staff and students up for success. I believe I have the qualifications necessary to help the BOE develop policies and set a direction that will take the Galway District to the next level in terms of student achievement and more rigorous 21st century learning. I understand the importance of a school culture that expects everyone to be the best they can be, every day, for every child. This cultural norm starts with the BOE. The Galway community has my commitment that as a BOE member, I will do my best for their children.

## **Jerri Ernst**

The candidate has not yet responded.

## **Harold Fajans**

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** efajans@nycap.rr.com

**Education:** ATTENDED UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Community Involvement:** WHEN LIVING IN BALLSTON SPA I COACHED T-BALL, INSTRUCTIONAL BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL FOR BALLSTON AREA RECREATION COMMISSION, COACHED T-ball, INSTRUCTIONAL BASEBALL AND BASKETBALL IN GALWAY. WAS CHAIR FOR THE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE FOR THE BALLSTON SPA ELKS AND ALSO SERVED AS HOUSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. SERVED ON THE CHRIST CHURCH VESTRY FOR 5 YEARS IN BALLSTON SPA. TAUGHT SUNDAY SCHOOL AS WELL. I AM CURRENTLY A LICENSED LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER. I ALSO SPENT TIME AS THE PUBLICITY MANAGER AT MY CHURCH. MEMBER OF THE GALWAY PLAYERS, GALWAY FRIENDS OF MUSIC AND PTSA. ROAD CLEANUP CHAIRMAN FOR GRAVES ROAD TOWN CLEANUP. ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER FOR THE BOY SCOUTS-TROOP 1

**Experience and Qualifications:** HAVE SERVED ON VARIOUS COMMUNITY AND CHURCH COMMITTEES FOR OVER 20 YEARS. I HAVE VAST EXPERIENCE IN RUNNING BUSINESSES AND HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A MANAGER IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. I HAVE SKILLS IN OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT AND COST MANAGEMENT. I HAVE VAST EXPERIENCE IN HVAC AND PLUMBING WHICH WOULD HELP US REDUCE OPERATING COSTS IN OUR SCHOOLS. I AM A FATHER OF TWO CHILDREN, ONE WHO ATTENDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN GALWAY. I HAVE TWO GRANDCHILDREN, ONE WHO WILL BE ENTERING KINDERGARTEN NEXT YEAR IN GALWAY. I WAS RAISED BY A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, A DEAN OF STUDENTS AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE, MY GRAND-PARENTS, AND MY MOTHER WHO TAUGHT SECOND GRADE. BROUGHT UP BY EDUCATORS AND VOLUNTEERING TO WORK WITH CHILDREN HAS GIVEN ME A REAL GRASP ON OUR SCHOOLS AND CHILDRENS NEEDS.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE DIRECTION OUR SCHOOLS ARE GOING IN. IT SEEMS LIKE OPERATING COSTS ARE ONE OF THE MAJOR ISSUES FACING OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM. MY MANAGERIAL ABILITIES AS WELL AS MY PUBLIC SPEAKING SKILLS WOULD ENABLE ME TO BE A LIASON TO THE

COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS AN ASSET TO THE SCHOOL BOARD. IT SEEMS THAT SOMETIMES THE COMMUNITY IS FORGOTTEN. I HAVE THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE GOOD AND COST EFFECTIVE OPERATING BUDGETS AND HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAKE THE HARD DECISIONS I AM SURE I WOULD HAVE TO FACE. MY CONCERNS ARE FOR THE FRONT LINES OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, THE TEACHERS. I AM ALSO CONCERNED THAT TO OFTEN WE FOLLOW THE LEAD OF THE STATE RATHER THAN OUR COMMUNITY. WE NEED TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT AND CURRICULUM THAT IS GOOD FOR OUR FUTURE.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** FIRST I WOULD HAVE TO BE PRIVY TO THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO COME UP WITH A RESPONSE. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A CANDIDATE THAT HAS NOT JUST SERVED ON THE BOARD TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION WITHOUT THE FACTS AND FIGURES. MY PRIORITIES ARE TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION POSSIBLE. CONSIDERING THAT THE BASICS HAVE TO STAY, I WOULD TRY TO KEEP THE ARTS IN PLACE-MUSIC, BAND, AND ART CLASS. THESE EXPAND THE MIND IN MIRACULOUS WAYS AND CREATE BETTER STUDENTS. I WOULD LOOK AT THE USE OF VOLUNTEERS WHEREVER AND WHENEVER POSSIBLE. PERHAPS ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS COULD BE REDUCED ALLOWING MORE FUNDING FOR TEACHERS. OPERATIONAL ISSUES MAY NEED TO BE OUTSOURCED FOR COST EFFECTIVENESS. ENERGY COSTS MAY ALSO BE ABLE TO BE REDUCED FREEING UP MORE FUNDS.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** WE NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON MATHEMATICS AND THE SCIENCES TO KEEP OUR STUDENTS READY FOR THE EVER CHANGING WORLD. CONSIDERING WE ARE A RURAL COMMUNITY WE NEED TO LOOK AT OUR VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS, AS MANY WILL NOT OR CAN NOT AFFORD TO GO ON TO COLLEGE. WE NEED TO TEACH OUR STUDENTS MORALS AGAIN. AN EMPHASIS ON ANTI-BULLYING POLICIES WOULD KEEP OUR SCHOOL ENJOYABLE FOR ALL STUDENTS, NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE. WE NEED TO GIVE OUR SCHOOLS BACK TO THE TEACHERS. WE NEED TO ALLOW THE RETURN OF DISCIPLINE TO OUR SCHOOLS. WE NEED TO LET THE OLDER MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY GET INVOLVED WITH OUR SCHOOLS AS MENTORS AND AIDES. I AM SURE THEY WOULD LOVE TO HELP OUR SCHOOLS WITH THEIR YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** FIRST, I WOULD LOOK AT ALL OF OUR OPERATIONAL COSTS AND MAKE AN ASSESSMENT. MY HOPE WOULD BE TO LOWER OUR OPERATING EXPENDITURES WHICH WOULD FREE UP MONEY FOR EDUCATORS. SECONDLY I WOULD LOOK AT ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE EXTRA INCOME TO THE SCHOOL SYSTEM, IE: FUNDRAISING, CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS, DONATIONS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, GRANTS, ETC. THIRD, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPAND OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM BY ATTRACTING NEW FAMILIES TO OUR COMMUNITY TO INCREASE OUR TAX REVENUE. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MAKE SURE OUR STAFF IS THE VERY BEST AVAILABLE.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** OUR FUTURE IS WITH OUR CHILDREN, WE NEED TO MAINTAIN A SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL CHILDREN IN OUR SCHOOLS. MY HOPE IS THAT WE COULD KEEP ALL OF OUR PROGRAMS IN PLACE AS WELL AS ADD NEW ONES TO KEEP UP WITH THE TIMES. WE NEED TO KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE FROM HARM AND NEED TO DO ALL WE CAN TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY. WE NEED TO ENABLE OUR STUDENTS TO BE ABLE TO GO OUT AND LEAD PRODUCTIVE LIVES, WHATEVER THEIR ABILITY. HOPEFULLY THEY WILL GO ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION, BUT IF THEY DO NOT, THEY STILL NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD.

## **Stacey Morey**

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** morey24@gmail.com

**Education:** MA Counseling and Community Psychology, Marist College; Internship at USMA Center for Enhanced Performance, West Point; BA Psychology, SUNY Potsdam

**Experience and Qualifications:** Union Representative and Treasurer, Public Employees Federation; Psychologist for special needs populations, including intellectually disabled of varying degrees, forensically involved, and autism spectrum disorders.

**Questions:**

**Q:** A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?

**A:** I have a vast amount of experience working with people of all different backgrounds and intellectual abilities. I have the capacity to remain unbiased, and to listen and respond to other's concerns and issues. Once I have formulated an opinion, I am a strong advocate, especially for those who are not able to advocate for themselves.

**Q:** As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?

**A:** Spending priorities are for educational aides, transportation, and classroom supplies. Reductions may be considered for testing materials that are not considered valid and reliable instruments to assess classroom performance. Off limit budget reductions would be decreasing or eliminating classroom aides.

**Q:** There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?

**A:** Gather research and performance evaluations of highly successful programs and model Galway's programs after those.

**Q:** What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?

**A:** I would like to help the community members to feel that their opinions and concerns are being heard and addressed. I understand that in any outcome there will be some people that are not happy with the results. Animosity, frustration, and dissonance are far less when people feel important and that their voices have been heard. I want to help people to feel that their opinions are important and deserve to be addressed.

**Q:** Additional comments?

**A:** I want to bring information to the community, and take their valuable input back to the Board of Education.

## Lauralyn Sakala



### **Biographical Info:**

**Education:** Attended St. Lawrence University & SCCC Galway Central School District Graduate

**Community Involvement:** Current School Board Member, Galway Public Library Volunteer, Past PTSA Officer & Volunteer, Meals on Wheels, Galway Nature Preserve

Steward, Odyssey of the Mind, Galway Players, Friends of the Galway Public Library, Saratoga PLAN Stewardship Committee

**Experience and Qualifications:** Current school board member, Galway Public Library Trustee, active community volunteer, PTSA Officer

### **Questions:**

**Q:** A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?

**A:** I believe I can bring several useful qualities to the Galway CSD board, if elected. My professional experience in Document Control and Quality Assurance at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals provided me with a solid understanding of the importance of having strong policies and procedures in place as well as 100% adherence to these policies and procedures. Good policies and procedures are essential for communicating expectations to the entire school community and are the foundation for a functional relationship between the Superintendent and board. I also feel my knowledge of the district and community is important in order to represent the entire community when decisions are made. I am familiar with staff, students and programs at the school.

**Q:** As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?

**A:** Discretionary spending should be prioritized based on our students' needs and no single individual can make that determination. The administration should provide recommendations to the board based on the vision and goals of our district. Instead of always looking at where reductions need to be made which result in a loss of programming and opportunities for our students, it is the board's obligation to continue to explore the possibilities of delivering what our students need in other ways as well as

investigating how funds are currently utilized in all areas to optimize each dollar spent. Finding ways to save money or do things better should be an ongoing process throughout each year.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** I'm not quite sure that a school has to reimagine its education. 21st century skills have been defined as the 3Rs (reading, writing & arithmetic) and 4Cs (critical thinking, communication, collaboration & creativity). Those are skills that I received at Galway over 30 years ago and they are the reason that I, along with my peers, have been able to adapt to the changing demands of today's world and be successful. I believe that if a school district employs quality school leaders and teachers who can provide our students with these skills; along with science, technology, and media skills; our children will get the foundation for what they need to be successful. The board is responsible for hiring and retaining quality leaders & teachers.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** The first thing I would like to see the school board accomplish during my term, if elected, would be hiring a Superintendent who is able to effectively lead our school and work with our administration to meet the vision and goals of our district. The second would be to update all board policies and procedures. The third thing would be to continue to improve the programs and opportunities for our students by supporting our administration, utilizing the many resources in our community and securing additional partnerships with area corporations and higher institutions of learning. I would also like the board to establish standing committees that would be charged with providing information, feedback and recommendations to the board.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** My husband and I are both Galway alumni and have a son who is currently a 6th grader in the district. I left my QA position at Regeneron nine years ago in order to spend more time with my family and volunteer in my community. I feel fortunate to have had the ability to be involved in my community in so many ways including delivering meals to the elderly, serving as a trustee of our public library, PTSA volunteer and officer, PTSA Book Fair Chairperson, Saratoga PLAN Stewardship Committee member, Odyssey of the Mind coach and serving as a mentor to young mothers. I am willing to devote the time and energy that are necessary to be an effective board member and it would be a privilege to be elected by my community and help our school thrive.

## **Cheryl Smith**

The candidate has not yet responded.

# **Hadley-Luzerne School Board**

The Board of Education for the Hadley-Luzerne Central School District is responsible for the general supervision of the schools. The Board includes five unsalaried citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of three years each. Two board seats are up for election this year. Polls are open from 12pm to 8 pm. You must be a Registered Voter. Absentee Ballots are available. To contact the district, telephone 696-2378 ext 108

## **Candidates (choose 2):**

### **Antoinette Lombardi**

The candidate has not yet responded.

### **Greg Novotarski**

The candidate has not yet responded.

## Saratoga County:- Mechanicville School Board

The Board of Education for the Mechanicville City School District is responsible for the general supervision of the schools. The Board includes seven unsalaried citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of three years each. Three board seats are up for election this year. You must be a Registered Voter in order to vote. Absentee ballots are available. Polls are open from 12 pm to 9 pm in the High School Lobby. District telephone number is 664-5727.

### Candidates (choose 3):

#### **John Bove**

The candidate has not yet responded.

-

#### **Kim Dunn**

The candidate has not yet responded.

#### **John Taglione**

The candidate has not yet responded.

#### **John Zacher**

The candidate has not yet responded.

## Saratoga County: Saratoga Springs School Board

The Board of Education for the Saratoga Springs City School District is responsible for the general supervision of the schools. The Board includes nine unsalaried citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of three years each. Three board seats are up for election this year. You must be Registered to vote. Absentee Ballots are available. Contact District. District telephone number is 693-1450.

### Candidates (choose 3):

#### **Russell Danforth**



##### **Biographical Info:**

**Education:** Associates Degree in Engineering Science at Adirondack Community College, Bachelors Degree in Mechanical Engineering at SUNY Buffalo, 30 credits towards a Masters in Business Administration at Syracuse University

**Community Involvement:** Coached many years of Youth Soccer, Served on the Saratoga Springs City School District Facility Improvement Committee

**Experience and Qualifications:** Served twelve years on the Saratoga Springs City School Districts Board of Education and one year as president.

##### **Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** My 35 years experience as a practicing professional mechanical engineer provides an excellent background in the operation of large facilities similar to those of the District. Experience as a managing partner of a \$35-50 million Mechanical Contractor brings background in business and finance as well as engineering to the Board. I have served on the Board of Education for 12 of the past 15 years which provides specific experience to the particular requirements of the this responsibility. I am currently serving on the Finance Committee of the current BOE. This committee deals with the challenges and choices regarding programming, financing, new regulations, and conflicting requirements of the state and federal governments.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** Approaching the budgeting process requires an open mind as to options and alternatives available to make finances work. It is important to keep the core programs strong and effective. Every year existing programs are reviewed for their relevance, student interest, compatibility with state standards, and need for maintaining options for students needs to maintain certain sequences for graduation. Sometimes programs need to be trimmed to allow for growth in other areas to keep our graduates competitive in newly developing fields. This year, for example, we have substantially increased the number of elementary mathematics specialists to improve our elementary students performance in math now and hopefully into their future.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** Currently the District has a 21st Century Academy which provides students with the opportunity to learn in an environment that utilizes the technology of today. This program has over doubled in size in the last year and interest seems to continue. A program has also been started in cooperation with Ballston Spa and HVCC with focus on learning methods and activities to support the needs of employers like Global Foundries. Next year a program is being initiated with ACC that affords students an educational opportunity in conjunction with real work experience. If one is to walk through the schools of Saratoga Springs you will see that technology is all around you.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** The most challenging thing facing us is how can we maintain the highest level of education while reducing costs and containing the tax burden on the public. I feel that over the years we have done an excellent job of this as reflected in our high graduation rates and the lowest tax rate of any comparable District in the region. Given the continuing challenges of higher educational standards, tax caps, escalating employee benefit costs etc. my goal is to continue the excellent work that has been done by the BOE, Administration, faculty, and employees as well as the consistent support of the public over the last fifteen years.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** - no response -

## **Ernest J. Gailor**

### **Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** ernie@harlan-mcgee.com

**Education:** Graduate Saratoga High School 1973 BS Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering, Clarkson University; Additional training (USDOT) at Cameron University in Stillwater Oklahoma and at the Mike Monroney Academy in Oklahoma City.

**Community Involvement:** Current member and Vice President of the Saratoga Springs City School District School Board; Member of the St. Clements Property and Grounds Committee; Past President of the Saratoga Springs Jaycees; Past Saratoga District Chairman for the Boy Scouts of America; Leadership Saratoga Alumni; Past President of the Tri-County Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers.

**Experience and Qualifications:** I have six years experience as a School Board Trustee and for the past five years have been Chairman of the Property Committee. I am the owner of Harlan-McGee of North America Engineering Inc. I have participated in and operated volunteer groups in Saratoga Springs for over 30 years.

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** My background includes a deep understanding of building and safety codes as well as land use and personnel management. I have a determined interest in education, more particularly the education of the youth here in Saratoga. I have spent the last 6 years on the School Board working on the critical balance between a complete education (academic, sports and the arts) with the fiscal realities of the day. As an engineer, collecting information and varied points of view is the only way for me to finally decide what it is that can be done to carry out the mission of the School District.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** There is little "discretionary" funding in our school district or any school district for that matter. Our costs for the teachers, bus drivers, support staff and supplies needed to support our student population keeps increasing the same way your family budget increases each year. You pay more, but you don't get any more. Unfunded State mandates take more and more money away from us each year, impacting our funding of existing programs. Reductions in our budget can only come from the elimination of programs. As the years come to pass, I fear that nothing will be off limits. You can only pay for what you can afford, or a least that's how I was taught to live by my parents. This same lesson is true here at the School District.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** In the Saratoga Springs School District, we ARE 21st Century learners. Our use of Smart Boards, tech labs, partnerships with industry and colleges has place us well into the 21st century for our students and our community. We have developed programs for our high school students to gain college credit while in high school. The STEM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) takes every age, every grade, every level of understanding to a place where they learn about working collaboratively for solutions. Real world experience today that will be needed for tomorrow's work force is being offered. Every one of our students is stepping into the 21st Century with talent and opportunity.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** The next 3 years will continue to challenge your school board. I can not express to you enough how important fiscal responsibility within the district will ultimately make or break us. In the next 3 years we will negotiate a new teacher's contract as well as a new contract with CSEA. I have negotiated with both groups before, I am confident that we can bring new contracts with renewed and shared responsibilities to control spending. I am confident that we can maintain our facilities in top condition using current staffing levels. I am confident that I will continue to accept and act upon input from you, our students and our staff for the betterment of our community.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** Thanks to everyone who has supported me and entrusted me with the education of their children. There has been no better gift for me than to watch them grow into wonderful young men and women. It just reminds me of the truths that are in the Jaycee Creed. My favorite one is that "Service to humanity is the best work of life".

## **Regina Gapczynski**

### **Biographical Info:**

**Education:** BA Degree in Education ,MS Degree in Education & Administration. I am a certified teacher & school administrator

**Community Involvement:** Saratoga Springs School Board of Education member for 6 years. I served as President of the Caroline Street School PTA & President of the Saratoga Springs Teachers' Association. I served as a Girl Scout Leader and a Church School instructor. I am a Eucharistic Minister at St. Clement's Church and a member of the Pastoral Council. I am a member of the Saratoga County Children's Committee.

**Experience and Qualifications:** I was a classroom teacher at the Caroline Street School for 10 years and then was the coordinator/teacher for the Gifted & Talented Program for the Saratoga Springs School District. Recently, I retired after 20 years of service to the Greenwich Central School District as an elementary principal.

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** I would bring to the school board a wide diversity of educational experiences and knowledge which has been gathered over 34 years of active service as an administrator, a teacher, as well as 6 years of active service to the Saratoga Springs Board of Education. I have been President of the Saratoga Springs BOE for the past 2 years. I continue to have the passion for giving back to this District and wish to assist in the future attainment of the District Goals.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** The spending priorities for the District would be embedded in the Vision 2018 that the District has recently adopted. When it is necessary to consider reductions, all areas of the District are to be seriously examined. Reductions should be made across the board which means that nothing is considered "off limits", however, there are State Education Mandates that must and will be funded.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** I am pleased to share that the Saratoga Springs School District is presently actively engaging students in 21st century educational skills. This District has many opportunities that truly highlight these skills. However, I'll provide some examples: our 21st Century Academy, Smartboards in classrooms, Tablets used in a variety of grades, & the District's STEM initiatives. We have collaboration for 21st century learning activities with the District's STEM initiatives, Tech Smart (HVCC), Skidmore College, & Advanced Manufacturing program with SUNY ADK. We also have our Project Lead the Way Program as well as the Early College program in the High School.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** I have great enthusiasm for our District to successfully continue its initiatives that are embodied in the Vision 2018 which focuses on access, equity and opportunity for all students.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** I would be honored to serve the District and the Saratoga Springs community. I would continue to:  
- Act in the best interest for the students - Support sound & responsible budgeting - Encourage our tradition of excellence in education - Foster communication within the community.

## **Stephen Verral**



### **Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** StephenVerral@yahoo.com

**Education:** B.A. University of Michigan, M.P.H. University of Illinois, D.O. A.T. Still University

**Community Involvement:** Medical Volunteer Glens Falls Free Skin Cancer Screening, Sponsor of Division Street Elementary Sun Shade Structure, Sponsor of Division Street Elementary Science Room

**Experience and Qualifications:** Successful business owner with extensive experience maintaining and balancing a budget. Educator with experience teaching and training medical students. Statistician with experience and understanding in the proper use of testing and assessment.

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** As a father of two children in the Saratoga Springs School District, I have a vested interest in the continued success of our public school system. As a business owner, I have experience with developing a budget and have been running my own business for the last 6 years. As a physician and educator, I can offer my expertise regarding the importance of mind, body and spirit in educating young minds. As a statistician, I can offer unique advice on the benefits, and more importantly the pitfalls, in this age of ever increasing assessment and reliance on standardized testing to evaluate students and teachers.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** I will need to immerse myself in all aspects of the budget in order to fully appreciate where we can trim and what must remain. I will do this, however, being guided always with an eye towards providing the best education for the students, inherent in which are the best resources, the best educators and the best facilities. I will lean heavily towards allocating funding for that which is evidence-based, moving us towards what experience and science tells us is successful. I will

emphasize efficiency, better use of internal resources, and getting things done correctly the first time. My goal will be to avoid any reductions that could compromise our students' education.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** Saratoga Springs School District has embraced the Common Core Standards and have agreed to follow this approach to better prepare students for a global economy. As part of the common core there is a focus on communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. The school board and the administration need to also follow this standard and get creative about implementing 21st century education and go above and beyond common core. We need to remain clear that preparing our students for the 21st century entails more than simply adding Smart Boards to classrooms; it involves fostering critical thinking, problem solving and civic engagement to ensure students who can enter and succeed in both traditional and newly emerging fields.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** As a member of the board, I hope to share my expertise and knowledge from the many hats that I wear to help Saratoga Springs City School District be the leading public school in the region. I have a vision of a school system that values creativity over standardized test scores, better dialogue and involvement with parents, and strives to do better than the status quo. To that end, during my term on the school board I will work to find ways to preserve and enhance opportunities for our students to engage in learning that fosters creativity; I hope to ensure better communication between the school board and the community; and I would like to seek out ways in which we can help our students flourish academically and excel as a school system.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** If elected to the Board of Education, I promise to be a strong advocate for the students and to serve the district to the best of my abilities.

## Saratoga County:- Schuylerville School Board

The Board of Education for the Schuylerville Central School District is responsible for the general supervision of the schools. The Board includes seven unsalaried citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of five years each. Two board seats are up for election this year. You do not need to be a registered voter to vote. Absentee ballots are available. Polls are open from 12 pm to 9 pm at the Elementary School. District telephone number is 695-3255

### Candidates (choose 2):

#### Jon Beaulac



**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** [jbeaulac@nesrentals.com](mailto:jbeaulac@nesrentals.com)

**Education:** A.S. Engineering Science - HVCC, B.S. Civil Engineering - University at Buffalo, M.B.A. in process - Empire State College

**Community Involvement:** Past Youth Softball Assistant Coach - 5 years, Parent Volunteer Youth Basketball, Volunteer - Two Pews Back ministry, Past Equinox Volunteer

**Experience and Qualifications:** General Manager for 2 facilities with budgets exceeding \$14 mil, Back up District Manager with budgets exceeding \$35 mil, Director of Sales responsible for \$120 mil in revenue.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** My experience running locations and districts with individual budgets exceeding \$120 mil and over 200 employees, knowledge of facility operations, experience in union negotiations, a construction background and engineering degrees that lend themselves well to facility improvement considerations, the ability to apply those skills learned through an M.B.A. program combined with 17 years of experience in operations and sales with full P&L responsibilities. Five years of experience working within a management team responsible for a \$300 mil budget. A history of volunteering to make

individuals a priority at associations like Parents Anonymous, Equinox, the Schenectady City Mission, Two Pews Back Ministry, and youth sports programs.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** Having spent the last 17 years in business operating and managing facilities the realities of funding are always a consideration. My experience has shown me that I must first examine the details of the current situation and make decisions based on those observations. Although I have strong views that education should make students the priority, what that looks like as far as spending and budget reductions couldn't be determined until I sat on the board.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** I believe teachers are doing the best they can with the tools they have available to them. With the State's focus on standardized testing, obstacles are created limiting teachers abilities to create free thinkers in our children. A 21st century education would provide students with decision making and social interaction skills that work in conjunction with traditional educational lessons and a forward thinking technological focus.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** The students and parents of the Schuylerville School District deserve a board that includes parents of students enrolled. I am a father of 3 daughters and will have a child in each school during my time as a board member if elected. I will have a child in each school at the same time at some point. I would like to give parents with students currently enrolled a larger voice than is currently in place.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** - no response -

## **William Corrigan**

### **Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** will.candca@gmail.com

**Education:** 1979 Graduate of Schuylerville Central Schools, 1981 Graduate of Hudson Valley Community College, 1983 Graduate SUNY at Plattsburgh

**Community Involvement:** Not applicable

**Experience and Qualifications:** My current positions requires me to work with Public School Boards and Organizational Structures in all facets of Planning and Expenditure Issues as it relates to School Construction and Renovations.

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** I possess the knack of looking at things differently than most, my interest in walking the path less traveled and my desire to make an impression is generally what sets me apart. I have a strong commitment to my family, home and area that provides me with a foundation for decision making skills. I have a vested interest in public school impact to our students and children as they are our most trusted asses for the future.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** Priorities must be identified, common to all, long term or they are momentary and subject to change as the times or members change. A long term spending strategy not just for the current budget year but a "Five Year" spending plan must be developed, communicated to all and ownership of all stakeholders established. Those items directly affecting education need be highlighted, those not, need be examined with a "out of the box" view.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** By understanding that the District is not alone, that they are part of a greater resource that can be shared and gain insight from other facets such as other larger Districts, Educational Institutions such as Community Colleges, College and Universities, Town and Village Governments, County Institutions, Employers large and small. By asking the question: Why do we do the things we do the same way we have for years when all others are changing?

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** Help bring about ownership through discord and discourse, develop and define a new path for education of our students more in line with the current pace of society, technology, 21st century vision. I would like to accomplish a greater sense of being part of a larger framework that examines the delivery of education in a way that is larger than just the School District we live in.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** - no response -

## Louis Maggiore



### **Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** lmaggiore@nycap.rr.com

**Education:** Graduate St. Peters High School, Schenectady Community College AAS Hotel Restaurant Management, Hudson Valley Community College Marketing

**Community Involvement:** 5th grade Church School Teacher Notre Dame Visitation, Head Internship Program for High School Students for Culinary Arts, Raise Funds for a variety of food pantry's, local families, victim of devastation, coach for traveling

basketball team, numerous other non for profit organizations.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Culinary teacher at Saratoga Votec, Advisory Board at Schenectady Community College, Advisory Consultant at Saratoga VoTec, Deal with Internship Programs for Schuylerville High School, Saratoga High School, SCC College. Involved in numerous budget specifications for business.

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** I am a former instructor, my main objective was to better the student by listening to the voice of the student, voice of the teachers and the voice of the school. As a teacher you learn that the reason we are here is for them not just to collect a paycheck. There is never a time to get comfortable and take things for granted. Students and teachers are dealing with obstacles all the time I will bring 2 ears and 1 mouth with me, I will listen first and speak later. Integrity, values and morals are what drive me, using these standards as a path in my life will help every decision I make be the right one.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** Technology for all classes to stay with our ever growing world. Continued Education for the Teachers on Staff and to make sure classrooms are not overcrowded. Part 2 of the question is going to be reserved till I learn more about the budget of the school. I can't answer this question honestly till I know more about how the school functions, what is truly needed and is not needed. Part 3 of this question is Teachers we need to make sure we do not reduce the number of teacher compared to the ratio of students. When is to many students to much for a teacher to handle. Once again the focus being the student and what is best for them.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** We must study and learn what is coming where is our economy going where are the jobs going to be. Once we understand this then we can start to focus on taking our school into the future. Not everything is computers and desk jobs there will always be a diverse opportunity for our young people to further their lives. If we do our due diligence on educating ourselves and thinking out of the box. We should be the leaders in the education world, we should think out of the box, we should be the ones to be the benchmark for all school districts. Nothing should be left out of the discussion all employment should be considered whether trade jobs or technical jobs.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** To create a school district that families will want to come to our school for a great education. Create a lasting budget that will have a surplus for our district to use to better our students experience throughout their career's with us. By the end of the our term I would like families and parents to respect the job that our board did, for them to know that the school is better for what we did not what we said we were going to do. When I put my head on my pillow at night I want to know that I had a hand in making our small corner of the world better.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

A: - no response -

## Robert Thirerge

### Biographical Info:

**Education:** I graduated from Schuylerville High School in 1986. I am currently active duty Air Force and have been enlisted for 26 years.

**Community Involvement:** I volunteered and assisted with softball, baseball, and football youth leagues. I currently volunteer to assist with the youth lacrosse league in Schuylerville. I am a former member of the North Country Search and Rescue Team.

**Experience and Qualifications:** government budgeting, personnel management, equipment management

### Questions:

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** I am active duty military and have served in the United States Air Force for 26 years. I serve as a flight chief and manage 63 personnel and 14 aircraft. I schedule deployments, conduct interviews, manage career planning, counseling, and furthering education. I am financially responsible for government accounts that are used to manage aircraft, personnel, career development, and professional military education. I have developed plans to reduce spending in light of military spending cuts. I am interested in bringing my life experiences to assist the Schuylerville School District in providing continued quality educational experiences to our students while maintaining fiscal responsibility to the tax payers of the district.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** In lieu of the recent events with violence in schools facing our children, my number one financial priority would be providing a safe, academic environment for students, faculty, and staff. At the same time, I want to continue to support our district in providing enriching educational experiences for students at all academic levels. I support the integration of technology in the classrooms to further enhance the learning experiences for all students. I also support maintaining smaller classroom sizes. In this age of financial hardships for districts, I would heavily weigh the impact that any programming cuts may have on the district.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** It is my belief that public schools need to continue to educate students for some 20th century skills that will allow them to communicate intelligibly and function as contributing members of society. However, schools also need to integrate technologies, math, sciences, and communication skills for advancement in today's high tech society. It is important for schools to utilize resources such as federal grants to provide some of this programming. Schools can also utilize long distant learning labs that allow interactions among students from various school districts in the area. Schools need to take advantage of any opportunities provided by new technology corporations in the Upstate New York Region, such as Global Foundries.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** I am concerned with the continued push of unfunded state mandates. These have been a heavy financial burden on districts. I believe it is important to band with other local districts and address our state government about providing funding and/or services to meet the mandates. I would like to revisit the issue of parking in the district and maximize the use of the space that is available for this purpose. I would also like to maintain fiscal responsibility to the tax payers of Schuylerville while providing quality educational opportunities for our students.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** My wife, Ruth Anne, and I are life time residents of Schuylerville. We are both former graduates of SCS and have chosen to raise our family in this district. Our daughter, Autumn, graduated from SCS in 2011 and is currently in her sophomore year of college. Both of our sons, Robert and Jared attend SCS and are in the 10th and 6th grades respectively. As a family, we are proud of our district and community. The district provides a vast range of educational opportunities that meet the interests and ability levels of all its students. It is my desire to become a member of the Schuylerville School Board to continue this tradition of quality education while facing the financial challenges that face our district. Thank you for your consideration.

## Denise Zdobnikow

The candidate has not yet responded.

# Saratoga County:- Shenendehowa School Board

The Board of Education for the Shenendehowa Central School District is responsible for the general supervision of the schools. The Board includes seven unsalaried citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of three years each. Three board seats are up for election this year. You do not need to be registered in order to vote. Absentee ballots are available. Polls are open from 7 am to 9 pm in the Gowana MS Gymnasium. District telephone number is 881-0600.

## Candidates (choose 3):

### Gary DiLallo



**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** badgad@aol.com

**Education:** BA in social studies education, MEd in Educational administration

**Community Involvement:** Jonesville United Methodist Church in multiple role and responsibilities

**Experience and Qualifications:** 28 years employed as a professional educator, member of the Shenendehowa Board of Education for 12 years and Capital Region BOCES Board of Education for three years.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** Board membership is a collaborative venture in which members respectfully listen, consider and evaluate the thoughts, facts, and data presented to them by those who serve the board and those who serve as part of the board. The member needs to possess all these abilities and then add their own thoughts and conclusions to reach decisions. How well and effectively the individual member participates in this process, in no small part, contributes to the quality of the board's decisions. I have the knowledge and experience to be an effective board member. I am an experienced and effective advocate for public education with both state and federal officials.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** The budget process is not completed solely nor even mainly by the board of education, dis a cooperative effort involving the entire school community . In recent years of severe fiscal challenges, the board has strived to increase efficiencies, and instituted economies. We have reduced, cut, combined, reassigned and bargained to achieve economies. Through these efforts we have managed to preserve the offerings, programs and services that make us a high achieving school district. Continuing to provide quality programs and services remain of mission and determines our actions. We assess everything annually and make our determinations based on that assessment.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** 21st century learning and skills are more than rhetoric or a catch phrase. These skills and change in approach to learning are upon us. Schools are morphing into something very different. Two major interactive and interdependent changes are underway. First, is the "Common Core Learning

Standards". Second, is the way learning occurs which requires changes in the role of teachers. The teachers remains vitally important to learning but they must be retrained. New technology is being incorporated into schools to allow changes in the way students learn. These changes once in place will provide a 21st century learning experience.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** I want the board to follow through on the important and exciting changes education is undergoing, to see the district successfully achieve the transition into learning where we meet the needs and excite the interests of each student. The board must get the most out of every dollar expended, planning over multiple years and seeking adequate support from the state and federal levels. We have to retool our classrooms and retrain many of our professionals to operate in a different environment. We have to be sure that each student's needs are met with a continuum of services that phases in and out as needs arise and diminish. Teacher and student assessment must be valid and reliable, not based on test scores alone and without excess testing.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** Education is my passion and community service holds an important central place in my life. Public education remains the vehicle by which our children are prepared to operate and succeed during their adult lives. Our public schools have been and continue to be the best means through which the dreams and hope of the poorest and most fortunate among us may make the most of their lives.

## Todd Gilbert



### **Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** todd@thegilbertcrew.com

**Education:** Mayfield Jr/Sr HS, Bachelor of Science-Business- SUNY Plattsburgh, M.B.A.- University of Dallas

**Community Involvement:** Past Volunteer Fire Fighter-Jonesville, Sports Coach: Baseball, Football, Soccer, Lacrosse

**Experience and Qualifications:** Board of Directors-NYSHTA (New York State Hospitality and Tourism Association), Active School Volunteer, 2 Children at Karigon Elementary, Experience with Budgeting and Financial Analysis, Professional background in Telecommunications and Technology

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** First, I believe I will bring valuable insight to the board given my two children at Karigon. I hope that by adding the point of view of a parent with Elementary children, I will strengthen the entire team. Second, along with my B.S. and MBA, I have board experience, as I am currently on the NYSHTA Board of Directors. Third, my 15+ years of professional experience has provided me with excellent financial analysis and budgeting skills as well as a strong Telecommunications and Technology background. Finally, I am a local parent that feels the demands of raising two children and balancing a budget on a daily basis, especially in the current economic climate, making tradeoffs to ensure my children have the best educational experience.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** As I have not been involved directly in Shen's budget process, I don't feel I can give an accurate answer to this question yet as far as reduction and off-limit areas. With any public institution, you need to look at what you want to provide and balance that with what the community is willing to pay for. Just because you have the ability to raise taxes to x% every year does not mean you should. The community that makes up our school district has done an excellent job of supporting the school, even during these tough economic times. In order to keep the trust of the community we need to ensure that the programs that are put in place are worth the added expense to the community and provide VALUE.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** If we look at kids today, including those at the elementary level, it is obvious that we are moving to a digital society. The amount of data & resources that are available today electronically is staggering. In order to keep up with other states and countries, we need to continue investing in those items/programs that will further our students learning, of which technology plays a major part. In

addition to technology, we need to ensure our children can work as a team, communicate clearly and think critically. All of these skills will be used in their careers and could give them the edge they need to succeed. Early exposure to these skills and technologies will help prepare them as they grow, better equipping them for life after Shen.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** As with any new board member, my first goal is to get acquainted with the many tasks and duties required of me. I would push to continue open dialogues with not only the teachers and parents, but the support staff and community as well. I feel that the best way to avoid major issues is to openly communicate. From a teacher perspective, we need to not only retain the outstanding educators we are lucky to have, but also ensure we are recruiting the very best. Finally, I want to ensure as a district we are providing a valuable educational experience that balances the resources of our community in both today's and tomorrow's economic climate with the needs of our students.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** I am excited at the possibility of being able to participate in the planning for our children's educational experience. I have no doubt my education and professional experience, coupled with my connections with the community will allow me to quickly provide value to the board, the district, and our community. I want our school district to remain a top performer for our children and a desirable relocation choice for new families. I will ensure that the expenses of the school are weighed against what the community can afford, ensuring we making the best financial decisions not only for today, but down the road.

## Pamela Koniszewski



### **Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.pam4shen.com](http://www.pam4shen.com)

**Campaign Email:** [pam4shen@gmail.com](mailto:pam4shen@gmail.com)

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Studio Music from The College of St. Rose

**Community Involvement:** Member of Shenendehowa Community Coalition Planned several free community events such as our church Harvest Parties and Egg Hunts Support our High School Drama Club, Friends of Music, and the Shen Crew Club Various community outreaches through my church

**Experience and Qualifications:** I have financial and managerial experience in managing over 40 employees at Key Bank I have experience Directing and managing over 80 volunteers I have substituted in every school in the district in the music field I have raised two children who attended Shen and currently have one in 9th grade I currently work with seniors and have an appreciation for how our school taxes effect them

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** I have had the fortune of being both a stay at home mom for a time and to build a career. I have had the privilege of working in various fields with people from every age group. I am able to relate well to people and am a great listener and collaborator. I bring to the table the ability to offer creative solutions and inject intelligent discussion on issues. I have natural leadership qualities and am able to manage projects with the big picture in mind. I am ready to roll up my sleeves and serve my community to do my part to ensure that the best decisions are being made.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** I believe that our priority needs to be in the classroom, first and foremost. This could encompass curriculum, teachers, and programs that ensure students are getting the support they need to be successful. Student health and safety is always a primary concern. There needs to be a thorough and careful analysis of every budget line item. We need to determine what is critical in meeting the goals and furthering the mission of our schools. WE may need to develop alternative solutions that utilize existing resources within our community, if possible.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** There are many realities today that we need to consider. One is the need to reach students where they are at, and that means in the digital age. I will support Shen's initiative to gradually add digital

components to the curriculum. WE need to embrace technology and do so in a way where our students and families are prepared and responsible with that technology. It is also vital that the schools partner with parents. In today's fast paced world, this connection is getting harder and harder to maintain. I will do my part to help build bridges between the schools and parents, acknowledging that both play a crucial role in the formation and education of the student. When we partner, students only prosper!

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** I would like to be a good representative of my community. I think it is important to remember that I represent the residents, parents and non-parents. I will strive to approach every decision with that in mind. The bottom line is that our students are our future. I hope that every decision we make would reflect what is truly best for the students, empowering and equipping them to be successful, making positive contributions to a global world none of us have lived in before.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** As a single mom, I do have an first hand experience in serving multiple roles in the home and still being involved in my children's educations. It is one sacrifice after another, but I have seen that hard work pay off. Now that my children are older, I am ready to make those same kinds of sacrifices for my community. I consider it a great privilege to give my time to help other families make the most of the high quality education we have at Shen.

## **Richard Mincher**



### **Biographical Info:**

**Education:** Associates Degree in Civil Technology from SUNY Delhi

**Community Involvement:** Six years service on the Shenendehowa Board of Education. Eight years of active PTA involvement. Serve on many committees within the Shen School District.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Past President of the Shen PTA District Council and served as their chair of The Arts in Education Committee. Served four years as the Board President and two years as the Treasurer of the Upper Saranac Lake Association. I have taught students each summer since 2002 in a program designed to help the Unified School District of Los Angeles.

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** In my professional career I work to improve communication skills within organizations. Having served on the Shen Board of Education for the past six years and as past president and treasurer on another board up until 2008; I have specific experience in assuring the effectiveness and goal driven accomplishments of organizations. I was a manager and then Vice President of a construction equipment rental business giving me tremendous knowledge and experience in contract negotiation, building construction techniques and management skills. Teaching creative writing and poetry to disadvantaged students for the past 10 years gives me invaluable knowledge in education when serving at the board table.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** Spending priorities should focus on maintaining and developing curriculum programs that prepare our graduates for successfully furthering their life choices whether that be college, military service or serving the global community in constructive endeavors. Spending should also assure the safety of students and staff. If economic conditions were dire then there are no reductions that would be "off-limits" for discussion at the board table, except those that would put students and staff in an unsafe environment. If the economic challenges were crippling to our tax base the board members need to consider every area for spending cuts. I served on the board when we recently asked our employees to freeze their salaries.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** Everywhere you look; advances in technology have entered into most careers. Creating the infrastructure to allow our students to safely learn and explore the latest technological advances will help to assure their future success. Maintaining a focus on what is best for the educational process in the 21st century and avoiding distractions from that goal will help move the school and community to remain on the forefront of the latest in technology and education. When I say, "what is best" I think

that we need to assure a balance in the lives of our students so that the very best values of honesty, fairness and love remain in the drive for great educational opportunities.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** I would like to leave my term of office knowing that the school district continues to keep class size as an important factor in the success of students. I would like to identify those on our staff that go above and beyond to educate our students. Highlight what they do to help our students enjoy learning. Use that information to assist other staff members to the benefit of our entire student body. I would like to know throughout my term on the board that we have done an effective job in keeping our students and staff safe. This includes safe from bullying, both cyber-bullying, emotional bullying and physical bullying. I want the integrity of our school facilities to continue to be maintained in a safe and secure manner.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** I care about the success of ALL our students. We have students who excel in academics and sports. We have students who struggle to read, write and who suffer physical challenges that make each day difficult. Each and everyone of these students deserve to be a success. I am on the board to be a voice and an advocate for all our students in the achievement of becoming the very best they can be.

## **Saratoga County:- South Glens Falls School Board**

The Board of Education for the South Glens Falls Central School District is responsible for the general supervision of the schools. The Board includes nine unsalaried citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of three years each. Four board seats are up for election this year. Polls are open from 8 am to 8 pm, with voting at the Winch MS and Ballard Elementary School. Absentee ballots are available, contact district. District telephone number is 793-9617

### **Candidates (choose 4):**

#### **Nelson Charron**

The candidate has not yet responded.

#### **Timothy Dalaba**

The candidate has not yet responded.

-

#### **Roger Fedele**



**Biographical Info:**

**Education:** A.A.S. Adirondack Community College (Liberal Arts/Science) B.S. SUNY Plattsburgh (Biology/Secondary Education) M.S. SUNY Plattsburgh (Curriculum & Instruction) S.A.S. The College of St. Rose (School Administration/Supervision)

**Community Involvement:** Long-time Tennis and Soccer Coach Key Club Advisor at Queensbury High School

**Experience and Qualifications:** 20 years in Education: 10 years as a Middle School Science Teacher 3 years as a Middle School Principal 7 years as a High School Science Teacher I have worked for six different school districts, participating on district-wide planning committees at each.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** My greatest strength is an institutional knowledge of how school districts operate. Throughout my 20-year career in education, I have worked closely with elementary, middle, and secondary students, faculty, and administrators. As I consider important school board issues, I have an in-depth

knowledge of how those decisions will impact the people most involved. Students and teachers are far more than test scores, data points, and budget line-items. While all of those are important in directing the decision-making process, we can never forget that it's our kids who are most impacted. I simply offer a broad-based educational perspective that will complement those board members who have expertise in the business world.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** My first priority is always what is in the best interests of our children. Since our school district does not have unlimited resources at our disposal, that priority must be balanced with the needs of our taxpayers. There is no such thing as a "sacred cow" in any school system, and each program must be evaluated with an eye on its true costs/benefits. If there is a way to provide the same (or greater) benefits to our students at a lesser cost, then that is the course of action to take. District priorities will evolve from year-to-year, but as long as we have our children's interests at heart with an eye on the bottom-line, we will make good decisions for everyone.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** The way a paradigm gets shifted is to have complete buy-in at every level. This means that from the school board to administrators to teachers to families and students to the community at large, if we are to graduate students prepared for college and the workforce with the tools they need to succeed in the 21st century, we all need to be "talking the talk" and "walking the walk." Strong leadership is necessary as our administrators convey the need to our staff for this course of action, but there must be financial commitment on the part of the district to provide the teachers and students with the technology needed to move forward. It is a force of will at all levels that will drive this necessary shift to 21st century skills.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** My goal is to simply leave the district better than it was when I first joined the school board. From my experiences with other districts, those school board members who get elected as "one issue" candidates are rarely successful in bettering their districts. I believe that if I enter the school board with good intentions and an open mind, as we face new, unforeseen challenges I will be able to evolve with the times to reach the best outcomes for our school district. If I make each decision based on the best interests of our students while considering the resources at our disposal, I believe that I will have a positive impact on our district at the end of my term on the school board.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** - no response -

## Thomas Kurtz



### **Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** tkurtz24@gmail.com

**Education:** Fordham University - Bachelor of Science in Marketing

**Community Involvement:** Current Member SGF Board of Education SGF Youth Baseball Coach SGF Youth Soccer Coach

**Experience and Qualifications:** Member of SGF School Board for three years  
Significant experience creating and managing multi million dollar budgets Experienced

negotiator

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** My extended family has a wealth of experience in education from both a teaching and administrative standpoint. I bring an understanding and perspective that allows me to see both sides of many issues that face our District today. I also have three children that currently attend Moreau Elementary School, giving me a vested interest in the direction and actions of the District from a concerned parent perspective. Lastly, I have over 20 years of experience developing and managing budgets as well as negotiating multi-million dollar contracts.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** My spending priorities would be programs that would directly impact the education of our children. It is critical that we are able to offer a strong curriculum that will prepare them for life post k-12. I have been a strong advocate reviewing the budget by line item to realize any and all cost savings no matter how small. Any program that impacts the preparedness of our children whether it relates to college or occupational readiness is off limits.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** The district needs to look at the essential skills that will be needed to succeed in today's global economy. Engaging with area colleges and businesses to understand what is driving their needs and tailoring curriculum in line with the findings is a good start. Whether it is offering or expanding courses that teach languages that are more relevant, or providing students with the fundamentals needed to start their own business or save for a house, it is critical that our students be afforded every opportunity to succeed.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** I would like to ensure that our curriculum is competitive with the best schools in the country. The only way to accomplish this is to think big and make the extra efforts to engage the proper resources to guide us. I would also like to solidify our long term ability to remain fiscally solvent, allowing us to maintain high standards of academic rigor.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** Having served three years on the School Board I have worked closely with my fellow Boards Members and in doing so we have accomplished the following: 1) The hiring of a new Superintendent ) Enhanced our communication at all levels between school administrators, teachers and the community 3) Kept the tax levy increase below the allowable tax cap Lastly, I firmly believe it is an honor to represent the community as a SGF School Board Member. I thank you for allowing me to serve the past three years and ask for your vote for the next three.

## **Jeff Riggi**

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Web Site:** none

**Campaign Email:** none

**Education:** BSME Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY

**Community Involvement:** Member of SGF Board of Education since 2008. Board President 2009 to 2011.

**Experience and Qualifications:** As noted, have been Board member since 2008.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** Will bring the following perspectives to the board: As a parent of children that graduated from the SGF school system and went on to obtain their four year college degrees. As a small business owner who understands the financial demands presented to any organization that operates in New York State. As an engineer who can understand the nuances of any project work that the school system may have to undertake, planned or unplanned.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** Spending priorities must center around maintaining existing academic programs. Unfortunately extra-curricular activities will be the target of reductions in the future. All programs related to the safety and well-being of our students should be considered off-limits for budget reductions.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** We need to look at the global education system. How is public education being delivered in Europe and Southeast Asia for example? Why is the U.S. public education system not rated in the global top five?

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** Would like to be a positive influence in SGF school community and continue to address the tough issues that our school system will be facing in the next three years.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** My photo is available from the SGF School Administration Office

## **Saratoga County: - Stillwater School Board**

The Board of Education for the Stillwater Central School District is responsible for the general supervision of the schools. The Board includes nine unsalaried citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of three years each. Three board seats are up for election this year. You must be registered with the District to vote. Absentee Ballots are available. Polls are open from 12 pm to 9 pm in the old MS Gym. District telephone number is 373-6100

### **Candidates (choose 3):**

#### **Pamela Bisailon**

**Biographical Info:**

**Education:** I Graduated from Mechanicville High School in 1985, earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology (1989) and a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling (1991) from the State University of New York at Albany. I have held national recognition as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) since 1991.

**Community Involvement:** I am an active fundraiser for the Let It Shine Foundation and a member of All Saints on the Hudson Parish in Mechanicville/Stillwater.

**Experience and Qualifications:** I have been a Stillwater BOE member for the past three years, worked for the NYS Education Department as a HS transition counselor for fourteen years, been an active member of the Saratoga, Warren, Washington Workforce Investment Board's Emerging Worker Council for the past eleven years and have been a member of the Stillwater PTA for the past eight years.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** I hold a Masters degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and work as a high school transition counselor with the NYS Education Department's Adult Career and Continuing Education Services Office. For the past 14 years, I've been helping high school students from several school districts to make the transition from school to college and work by providing services that involve planning and preparing them for future employment. In addition to my professional experience working with students in transition, I come to the table with the perspective of a mom with a child currently in our school district, who can offer meaningful insight on student experiences in "real time" to help guide decision-making that is in the best interest of our children.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** I believe priorities for spending need to continue to focus on improving student achievement. With the implementation of the National Common Core learning standards, we need to ensure students are provided with necessary and current learning materials as well as provide a productive learning environment. In addition, we need to make sure teachers are supported and well-equipped with the tools they require to get this job done. Areas that would be considered off-limits for budget reductions would include anything that would compromise student safety in any way.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** I believe we have an obligation to help facilitate a new path for public education that incorporates 21st century skills development such as critical thinking, problem solving and creativity into core academic subjects, so that students are prepared to compete in a global economy. Consideration needs to be given to what the fundamental changes in the economy and jobs are in the 21st century

and what new and different skill sets our students will need to be prepared for these jobs. These skills need to be integrated into standards, assessments and graduation requirements. We need to look at what education support systems need to be in place so 21st century desired student outcomes are met.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** I believe in the importance of home and school involvement in developing well-rounded students and citizens. In my opinion, the home/school connection (and partnership) is one of the most important keys to student success. I think communication and collaboration is vital in strengthening this partnership and I believe we can improve the way we engage parents and the community at the decision-making level. I am also committed to exploring ways we can enhance educational technology in our school to better prepare our students for 21st century demands.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** Despite tough economic times and the on-going annual reductions in state school aid, during my first term we've been able to preserve programs without making major cuts. If re-elected, I will continue to prioritize when spending hard-earned taxpayer dollars. Also, in the midst of mandated changes to curriculum/accountability measures, I am committed to ensuring that by implementing the new Common Core standards, we not only focus on college-readiness but also on career-readiness and preparing our kids for life after school.

## **Thomas Coffinger**

The candidate has not yet responded.

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## **Joe Greene**

The candidate has not yet responded.

## **Lauren Kirkwood**



### **Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.laurenkirkwood.com](http://www.laurenkirkwood.com)

**Campaign Email:** [laurengkirkwood@gmail.com](mailto:laurengkirkwood@gmail.com)

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in International Studies and Economics at the American University, Washington, D.C. Master's Degree in French Education at SUNY Albany

**Community Involvement:** Volunteerism at various school and community functions such as field days, field trips, "Warrior Walks", "Cooking for shelters".

**Experience and Qualifications:** Teacher for 19 years, have attended budget meetings and forums (Stillwater and Burnt Hills), served on several Shared-Decision Making committees (Burnt Hills), Delegate to NYSUT 2013 Representative Assembly (Washington, D.C.)

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** I have been a teacher for almost 20 years. After attaining my master's degree, I taught for 9 years on Long Island and have been teaching for 10 years in Burnt Hills. During that time, I have served on numerous educational committees, attended a wide variety of conferences and have spent countless hours perfecting my craft. I have spent my whole professional career dedicated to education. I believe that this expertise would be a great asset to the Stillwater school board.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** My spending priorities would be to maintain and promote a quality education for all students and to afford all students with opportunities for success in diverse areas of interest. I would need to examine the costs and benefits of any proposed reductions in order to make informed decisions about them.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** To re-imagine education would mean to modify the one-size-fits-all approach currently mandated. We would need to tailor students' education to suit their strengths and interests in order to prepare them for their futures. Many New York State schools have already started or are continuing to

implement frameworks to promote 21st century skills. Students are being challenged to think critically and creatively, to collaborate, to problem-solve, to effectively communicate and to use technology to further their education. All of this can be enhanced by increased experiential, hands-on learning in the form of internships, community partnerships and other vocational opportunities in their areas of interest and strength.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** I would consider my tenure on the school board fulfilled if, through the efficient use of funds, our students continue to receive a quality education. I would like to ensure that students are provided with the instruction and infrastructure necessary for successful lives in the global economy of the 21st century.



**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** I would be a dedicated, hard-working and responsible advocate in support of our children's future and, therefore, our community's future.

## Valerie Masterson

### Biographical Info:

**Community Involvement:** I have served as a Deacon, Elder and Sunday School teacher and I am currently serving as a Trustee for the Stillwater United Church. I was also an active participant in the Stillwater PTA throughout my children's years in school, first as a volunteer, and then as Vice President and President I also served as a coach for the Odyssey of the Mind program

### Questions:

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** I have been a member of the Board of Education for 18 years and have participated in many NYS School Boards training workshops and conventions. I have served as Chair of the Policy Committee for the past three years and have also served on the Finance and Budget Committees. I currently serve as a trustee at the Stillwater United Church. I am not afraid to ask questions of administrators and other Board Members and have demonstrated my willingness to do my own research to find information that I believe was important in order to make informed decision that will benefit the students, employees and community.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** School districts must use the funds they have wisely. Many families have felt the impact of this economy and have had to make difficult choices. We must do the same. Our school district must prioritize. We must protect the core academic program in order to prepare students to be able to support themselves or continue their education after graduation, so I would not consider reductions in the core academic program. I would look at staffing to see who is assigned where, to do what and for how many - thereby ensuring the funds are being spent wisely. We need to look at creative ways to serve our students differently and effectively. Other programs should be reviewed by the number of students served and the cost to provide each program.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** Stillwater is very fortunate because through the years our superintendents and principals have valued the importance of technology for our students and how it helps them learn. So we have put ourselves in a position where we are doing very well in that area. We need to continue to make sure students are knowledgeable not only in the core curriculum but in the technology area as well, and continue to give students the opportunity to become comfortable using this technology.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** I would like to see more communication between the school community and the Board of Education. More open and honest communication and discussion within the school between all constituents on where we are and what we would like to see for our school district. I would like to continue to help our school district move into the 21st century and provide the educational tools our children need to be successful in whatever path they choose to take

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** I am fortunate to be able to participate on the Board of Education as a parent who understands the challenges students, parents and teachers face, a community member and taxpayer who listens, considers and understands the needs of the community, and a Board member who has learned a great deal over the past 18 years. I am not afraid to ask questions of administrators and other Board members, and have demonstrated my willingness to do my own research to find information that I believe was important in order to make informed decisions that will benefit the students, employees and community. I take my role as member of the Board of Education very seriously. I want to see us all work together toward making Stillwater a "School of Excellence."

## Timothy Ryan



**Biographical Info:**

**Education:** Bachelor of Science/Building Sciences, RPI 1976; Bachelor of Architecture, RPI 1977

**Community Involvement:** See below.

**Experience and Qualifications:** See below.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** In my work as a business consultant, I help my clients (mostly banks and credit unions) develop concrete plans for achieving their strategic goals. Good decision making requires clear thinking about priorities—that is, knowing which things are most important, which are less important, and which are not important at all. I feel that my experience in this arena has been helpful in my role as a board member for the past six years. I have also owned and operated my own business(es) for the past thirty years. Although there are important differences between the private and public sectors, I believe that my experience as a business owner does bring a useful perspective to my work on the board.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** Our district has a track record of sound fiscal management. This has proven indispensable in meeting our core mission for students in difficult economic times. We have trimmed expenses for areas such as facility operations, energy use and transportation, but have been able to maintain core education programs and beneficial class sizes, despite severe state aid cutbacks. Some area districts are resorting to cuts in kindergarten and pre-K programs as they struggle to make ends meet. It is essential that we maintain the fiscal discipline which has allowed us to avoid the need for such counterproductive steps. Investing in our youngest students, to improve their readiness to learn, is both educationally sound and fiscally responsible.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** Our schools are preparing students for future academic and employment careers which are, by definition, dependent on mastery of 21st century skills. Of course, technology plays an important role. Our district has deployed an impressive array of technologies such as smart-boards, I-pads for student use, an online "Alternative Academy", etc. But the best preparation for success in a changing world is to train individual students to think deeply and creatively about what they are learning; to form the habit of analyzing new information; to see connections between ideas. In my opinion, smaller schools like Stillwater have an advantage in helping our students succeed as the well-rounded and engaged learners that the future will demand.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** I have been on the board for two terms, serving as board president for the past five years. I enjoy working as part of the team that guides the direction of our school district, and hope to have the opportunity to continue in that role. In my opinion, we have a well-run district with a highly committed team of administrators, educators, and support staff. Although the economic conditions have been challenging, I believe our district has done an excellent job of maintaining and strengthening programs and services for students, while minimizing the cost to taxpayers. If reelected, I will continue to do what I can to keep the district moving forward, as a vital part of our local community.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** My wife and I have lived in the Stillwater school district for over twenty years. Our two children both attended Stillwater schools from kindergarten through high school. They benefited daily from the efforts of dedicated teachers, staff, administrators, coaches and volunteers. We saw firsthand how a positive atmosphere and commitment to student accomplishment can pay big dividends in children's lives. I'd like to help ensure that the district continues to excel at this vital educational mission.

## **Saratoga County:- Waterford-Halfmoon School Board**

The Board of Education for the Waterford-Halfmoon Union Free School District is responsible for the general supervision of the schools. Two seats are up for election this year. Polls are open from 12 pm to 8 pm. Voters must be registered. District telephone number is 237-0800..

### **Candidates (choose 1):**

#### **Tammi Dehler**

**Biographical Info:**

**Education:** High School, College in Management, Continuing Education Courses since 1987. Certified Dentrix Trainer(Dental Software). Training in Practice Management - Consultant

**Community Involvement:** Past PTO President for Waterford-Halfmoon School, Past Cub Scout Leader, Educating students in dental health ( donating my time and supplies to school. Volunteer for fundraising, PTO Auction, School playground, school banking and classroom helper.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Practice Management since 1987, Continue Education Courses since 1987. Sage College and Certified Dentrix Trainer for Dental Management Software.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *A good board is made up of interested citizens bringing diverse qualities that they can apply to decision making. What special expertise, knowledge or interest would you bring to the board?*

**A:** Excellent customer service skills, good observational skills, positive thinking and good team player. The ability to adapt and deal with most situations.

**Q:** *As you consider the competing demands for limited discretionary funding, what would your spending priorities be? In what areas might reductions be considered and what would you consider off-limits for budget reductions?*

**A:** I would need to first learn more about the funding, spending and reductions before I can answer.

**Q:** *There is some evidence public schools are still educating students for 20th century skills. How can a school district reimagine its education for the 21st century and the skills students will need to compete successfully in the future?*

**A:** Moving forward with technology and communication skills.

**Q:** *What would you like to accomplish in your term on the school board?*

**A:** This is new for me. A better understanding and knowledge of school board roles.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** - no response -