

School District Elections 2017

Saratoga Springs Board of Education

Description:

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 for three year terms.

Election districts and polling places

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Caroline Street, Division Street, Lake Avenue, Geysers Road, Dorothy Nolan and Greenfield elementary schools. If you are uncertain where to vote after reviewing the list, please go to the school district website to check

Voter Registration

Voter registration is required in the Saratoga Springs City School District. If you are not already registered, you must do so prior to the May vote.

Anyone who is registered to vote in general elections and has voted within the past four years may vote in school district elections. District residents may also register at the Saratoga County Board of Elections office in Ballston Spa from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays through May 15. Those who prefer to register by mail may pick up voter registration forms at post offices, public libraries, state government offices or the school district's MacFadden Administration Building at 3 Blue Streak Boulevard in Saratoga Springs. The completed forms should be mailed to the Board of Elections.

To register, residents must be United States citizens, at least 18 years old, and have resided in the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Absentee Ballots

Residents who will be out of town or unable to vote in person can vote by absentee ballot. You must complete an application to receive an absentee ballot. Click here for an application form that can be printed, completed and mailed to the following: Brenda Roberts, Saratoga Springs City Schools, 3 Blue Streak Blvd., Saratoga Springs, N.Y., 12866.

Applications may also be requested by calling the district clerk's office at 583-4703 or picked up at the district offices, located in the MacFadden Administration Building at 3 Blue Streak Blvd. on the high school campus.

Candidates (choose 3):



Anjeanette Emeka

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: Over 10 years in higher education assisting college students through academic, financial, and personal difficulties; tracking and guiding student academic progress; planning and carrying out new student academic orientation programs; and teaching.

Community Involvement: Saratoga Wilton Soccer Club; Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church

Education: B.S. in Business Administration; M.A. in Communications Management; M.S. in Sociology

Campaign Email: emeka.ssboe@gmail.com

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: The special interest I bring to the board is as the parent of a 16-year-old and a 9-year-old, one of who is thriving in the district and one who is not. I hope to contribute to decisions that move our district closer to being able to meet the learning environment needs of all our children. My expertise comes from advanced degrees in Communications Management as well as Sociology, which provided me with analytical skills and lenses to approach issues, as well as knowledge of social dynamics in diverse settings. Having served on PTSSO boards, a Home Owners Association board, and in governance positions at work, I have a strong sense of the diverse strengths and opinions necessary to make

good group decisions—ideally in a cooperative, collegial environment. I am also adept at helping guide discussion in order to bring a group to consensus or compromise in order to move things forward as necessary.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: Transparency and public voice are crucial in public institutions, and I see the role of openness and dialogue as crucial to decision-making in this setting. Respectful disagreement is necessary to sharpen focus on key issues and solutions, and to hone in on what is truly best for the most people. Without opposing views, decisions are not always as clear, concise and targeted toward the desired outcome as they could have been with critical debate and discussion. My tendency is to prepare and come in with a partially-formed opinion but holding off on solidifying it until hearing the opinions others bring—and most importantly, keeping a listening ear and open mind during discussion.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: If elected I plan to bring my positive attitude and hopeful mindset to the board as a member who encourages cultures of open-mindedness and cooperation on the board and in our schools. I am not afraid to roll my sleeves up, do my homework or put the time in to do the work, and my kids are supportive and proud of me running for this position. My true hope is to leave our school district more “safe” for all children socially, emotionally, and intellectually as they work to learn, develop and grow into critical thinkers and good citizens.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: It is my belief that policy and programs have the best chance of success when they start from the ground up, so students are an important part of the equation. Each group though—students, parents, teachers and administrators—brings a unique perspective, so pulling them together to develop and plan the implementation of policies or programs is an ideal way to go. One way to do that might be during lunchtime so students are not in class, and parents, including those who work, could come to school to meet regularly toward whatever current task is at hand.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: As a parent and community member, I have immense gratitude for the teachers in our district who day after day do the heavy lifting of teaching our children in an ever-changing society. I hope to be elected as a member of the Saratoga Springs Board of Education to serve our community and its children by providing teachers with the support they need to do their best work possible. Thank you for the opportunity to share some of my thinking in this forum.



Jennifer Leidig

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: Adjunct Professor, Women's Studies Dept., University at Albany, 1999-2002 Small Business Owner 2002-present

Community Involvement: 10 years Saratoga Hospital Foundation 10 years YADDO Sponsorship Committee

Education: SUNY Potsdam, BA University at Albany, ABD, Women's Studies Dept.

Campaign Email: jleidig@nycap.rr.com

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 years of experience creating and implementing policy, managing people and situations, and running a business. I have lived in Saratoga Springs since 1989 and have many deep ties to this community and its residents. I would be happy to speak directly to any parent, student, teacher, administrator, or employee to help solve any issue that arises.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: I would like to see the Board meetings televised. While I understand executive sessions are necessary, I would like to minimize these agenda items as much as possible and transfer any possible items over to the open agenda.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: Putting in place a quality leader in the role as Superintendent is my first priority. I am passionate about the quality of education we provide our students. Quality of education can only be reached when we create equal paths toward success, especially regarding girls in our STEM courses. If we want to be known as an exceptional school district, we must make sure all students are offered the same opportunities, this is crucial. I would also like to analyze our High School guidance department, getting a much better idea of job descriptions and duties. I share a concern with many parents of graduating kids that this department is consumed with scheduling tasks and day to day logistics, leaving a void for much needed family assistance for college placement, and guidance. We are a big school system and with that, also comes some challenges regarding individualized care of each of our students. However, we are also a school system with many resources, efficiency is key.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: Students and families must have a say in the school system. We must never forget that we serve families, first and foremost. If we are committed to help form children into independent, smart, productive members of our society, we must engage them directly from the beginning. Parents need to be sent clear expectations from the school and the teachers, no mixed messages. Accessibility is key to establish and maintain an open line of communication.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: I am very excited to serve on this school board for the next three years. Working around children is a privilege and those of us who choose to do so must always remember this.

Stephen Verral

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: 3 years on Saratoga Springs Central School District Board of Education

Community Involvement: Contributor to Saratoga Springs Little League, Prevention Council and Jake's Help from Heaven

Education: Bachelor of Arts from University of Michigan, Masters in Public Health from University of Illinois-Chicago, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from A.T. Still University

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 parent of two students in the district and a successful business owner. While working with the board I try to approach decisions based on what is best for the students as well as what works best from a financial stand point.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: Open communication with the board, administration, teachers, parents and community stake holders is key to successful decision making.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: The school is currently in the process of transition with the announcement of the superintendent's retirement in December of 2017. The selection of the next superintendent is going to set the direction of our school system for the next 5 years. It is imperative that the board work together in the selection of our next leader.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: As stated previously, communication is imperative to working together to develop educational policies and programs.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: - Candidate has not responded -

Ballston Spa Board of Education

Description:

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. Three board seats are up for election this year, two for full three year terms and one for an unexpired one year term. Polls are open from 7 am to 9 pm at Ballston Spa High School Library and Malta Town Hall (for Malta residents). You must be a registered voter to vote. Absentee ballots are available. Contact District to obtain one. District telephone is 884-7195.

Candidates (choose 3):



Lillian McCarthy

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: Lifelong resident of Saratoga County and Ballston Spa. My son graduated from Ballston Spa High School last year and my daughter will be entering high school in the Fall. Grant writing and State Funding for many programs within New York State, also working in the Human Services field for over 20 years.

Community Involvement: Current board member of the Saratoga County Community Services Board, active supporter of the Ballston Spa Athletic and Music Programs, and supporter of travel softball teams. I currently oversee the EOC Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry, and Summer Lunch Program just to name a few in my current position.

Education: BS - Psychology/Human Services with Minor in Sociology/Focus in Drug and Alcohol - Russell Sage College

Campaign Email: lillmcc@hotmail.com

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 very diverse background working with all people. In my current position as the Community Services Director at the Saratoga County EOC, I work with the low income population of Saratoga County. I work very closely with Ballston Spa High School, and all of the other schools in this county to provide any services they may need. I

formerly ran the domestic violence outreach program for Equinox and worked with inner city youth in Troy. I feel this background has given me a strong foundation for making sound decisions.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: Communication and transparency between the District and the Public is crucial. The public should be involved as much as possible. However, we must also remember that the Board of Education and the District make many decisions based on State mandates and federal processes that the public does not see. In my current role as Community Services Director, I make these decisions every day and based on different protocols, sometimes those decisions are made at the discretion of the Senior Directors within our Company.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: I would like to see the District continue to succeed. Ballston Spa High School has recently been recognized on the "Best High Schools" list compiled annually by U.S. News & World Report. The school was ranked Nationally in the top 7% of eligible high schools in the country. I would like to learn as much as I can from our District Team and support them with the mission of educating our children.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: I feel that the most important thing we can do is to listen and engage our teachers and staff to fully support them. Allowing our students to have a voice, listen to their ideas, and bring them to the table, is also important. My experience with low income families has shown me that when the family is involved with their future, the family and in this case, the teachers, parents, administrators, and students, are more inclined to participate in the development of educational policies and programs.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: I believe in being involved and volunteering within my community. I am a very strong advocate for my children and I will be a strong advocate for the children of our district. Thank you for your consideration and please remember to place your vote on Tuesday, May 16th.

Mike O'Donnell

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: Board Member since Oct 2016 Series 6 & 63 Investments, NYS Life & Health Licensed, experienced customer service rep. 23 years in transportation/logistics industry, location safety coordinator, driver/trainer for 5 years.

Community Involvement: Miss Scotties Softball Barc Theater Launching Pad

Education: Shenedehowa graduate of 1982 LeMoyne College graduate of 1986, BA in Political Science.

Campaign Email: mmmrodon@aol.com

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 come to the board with the understanding that this is a group effort to move the school forward, utilizing the community resources, volunteerism and the efforts of the paid employees of the district. As a licensed financial representative, I primarily deal with investments, however, that is part of the budgeting process for many households locally. I'm very interested to learn on a grand scale the process to create a large corporation-style budget. I also have the understanding of how and why busing routes would be created or changed as well as some of the safety habits required from my transportation experience. It is very important when the new board convenes that we each understand and recognize the strengths, knowledge and interests of each board member.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: The most important role each board member has is to foster the open process with the public and encourage their assistance and input frequently. The budget is made with taxpayer funds after all, and it is important for the taxpayers to clearly view the results. Debates and disagreements on issues relating to school system issues should be done at open meetings and not behind closed doors. This is honestly the best way to respect the taxpayers.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: I would like to introduce a new type of drug-prevention program. One with a proven track record which would include the discussion of social media standards as it relates to respectful use.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: We have already seen this occur when the state implemented the Common Core. During the implementation, it became obvious the NYS Dept of Education was continually moving the goal posts on the course curriculum. The response from the parents of students was the "Opt-Out" movement. Many middle-schoolers provided a note refusing to take the state tests. This is an example of protest that was effectively used to send a message of dissatisfaction back to Albany. An example of cooperation can be seen almost daily in our schools with the parent volunteerism, teachers who make time in their day to sit with a student to provide extra assistance on a subject that may be a challenge to the student. It's important for the lines of communication to be open to identify such a need quickly.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: I have enjoyed working with our board members and administration as we've discussed and resolved the issues in front of our district. I look forward to finding opportunities to enhance our student experience, keep our tax rates stable and recognizing our high-performing employees and students. I greatly appreciate your consideration on election day, May 16th. Thank you.



Jeanne Obermayer

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: Ballston Spa Board of Education: 2005-present; served as President for two years, Vice President for three years and on the Audit Committee, Executive Committee, Policy Committee and District Safety Committee. 33 years as a college administrator, serving previously as the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students, Associate Dean of Students, Director of Housing, Assistant Dean/Residence Director and Assistant Director of Career Services.

Community Involvement: Saratoga County Historical Society at Brookside Museum: January 2006 – December 2016, served as President for 6 years. YMCA Camp Chingachgook Board of Advisors, 2012- present, currently Secretary. Religious Education Teacher, 2001-2013

Education: Master of Arts, Bowling Green State University; Bachelor of Arts, Duquesne University

Campaign Email: jmobermayer@gmail.com

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 prior college Dean of Students, I know what students need to be successful in college (and what makes them unsuccessful) and while not all students go to college; I believe my insight and knowledge have helped Ballston Spa identify in our mission what we need to prepare our students for the work force and future education. I have also developed student learning outcomes and assessments to measure whether those objectives are being met. On a different note, in my current position at Siena, I am dealing with much of the same legislative and regulatory mandates affecting K-12 public education. I have to ensure our compliance at Siena and know what it takes.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: Serving on the Board for the past twelve years, I've learned how important it is to engage the community in what is happening in the district. I know how vital on-going, two-way, communication is between the district personnel (administration, teachers, staff and board) and parents and students. The Board is elected to represent the constituency. It is incredibly important that Board members seek input and insight from community members. Certain matters are governed by law and we are restricted as to what we can share about those. It's important for Board members to explain why they may not be able to give feedback on certain topics.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: I would like to see Ballston Spa continue growing. We have accomplished so much for our students in the twelve years I've been on the Board. We implemented the first International Baccalaureate program in the suburban council, initiated championship Robotics teams, created an Early College High School with partners at TEC-SMART; and Ballston Spa High School was recognized as one of "America's Best High Schools" by Newsweek Magazine, and by the Washington Post. The 2017 high school rankings have just been released by US News and World Report; Ballston Spa received a Silver Award and was ranked 132nd in NY, 1374th in the country (top 7% of eligible schools.) Only one other local school district was ranked higher than we were. The district has won state athletic championships and national recognition for our music program. We provide an excellent well rounded education, with opportunities to keep all students engaged and successful. I want our students to continue to have these chances

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: Ballston Spa has a terrific and very active shared governance system in place through our Building Leadership Teams (BLT). The BLTs include parents, teachers and administrators and they serve as both a goal setting and achieving bodies as well as for communication and feedback. The district Motto is "Educating Everyone Takes Everyone" and the BLTs are one example of how we put that into practice. Students are often part of the BLT programs and presentations as well. As always, we could do more. We have a strong and successful foundation in our BLTs and I'd utilize and enhance those.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: I truly believe in giving back to the community. I hope my service on this board and others demonstrates that commitment. My family has lived in the district since 1990 and both my children graduated from the high school. When I first ran for the Board of Education, I was looking for a place I could contribute and my background, skills and interests seemed to be a natural fit, a place I could contribute. I hope I have contributed in some small way and would really appreciate the opportunity to continue to make Ballston Spa a district of which our families and community are proud.

Katie Thimineur

- Candidate has not responded -

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Board of Education

Description:

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. Three board seats are up for election this year. You must be registered in order to vote. Absentee ballots are available from the district clerk or on the school website. Voting hours are 7am to 9pm in the HS Gym. Contact District. District telephone number is 399-9141 x85041.

Candidates (choose 3):



John Blowers

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: 25 years as business leader in HR Six Sigma Black Belt Area native

Community Involvement: 11 years on Junior Achievement Board of Directors 6 years coaching CYO basketball 11 years on BH-BL Board of Education Commissioner's Advisory team for principal preparation project ESSA task force

Education: MBA, Kelley School of Business, Indiana University Bachelor's Degree, University of Phoenix

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 an area native, a graduate of the district and have 3 children currently attending Burnt Hills. My training as a Black Belt in Six Sigma discipline allows me to assist the district in long-range planning by identifying key variables to focus on. As the Senior Operations Director for an area staffing solutions organization, I am familiar with the skills employers are looking for and how to create lasting partnerships between schools and the private sector. As a board member for Junior Achievement I also have an appreciation for the criticality of educational partnerships to complement district-delivered curriculum. I am also the product of both distance learning and blended curriculum advanced degrees, which gives me first-hand knowledge of the pros and cons of these emerging delivery methods and how they can apply to Burnt Hills. I also understand and respect the district's commitment to shared decision making as a guiding force for building consensus.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: Mutual trust on the board is critical to success. I have experienced boards where this trust exists and examples where that trust has been broken. The latter significantly interferes with a board's ability to be open with each other and this limits engagement and participation. When boards enjoy mutual trust, a spirit of dialogue and openness exists and decisions are made in a more informed and inclusive manner. All perspectives are sought and respected and decisions made at the board table are reinforced away from the board table. Our board typically has robust discussions prior to acting on agenda items. This portion of our meeting occurs after the simulcast has ended. I would like to see us expand our broadcast and archived portions of meetings to include this section of our meeting so the public can have a better understanding of the process of arriving at our decisions instead of just the current public recording of the decision.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: Board service at Burnt Hills has never been about personal agendas. When I first debated for a board seat in 2006, I identified two changes I felt we should adopt: full day kindergarten and earlier world language study. One of the first lessons I learned as a board member is personal agendas need to be subverted for the greater good of the district, which is about enabling the district to provide opportunities for all learners to achieve their potential. One of the items I would like for the district to accomplish during the next 3 years is to complete the ambitious 1-to-1 technology initiative. Another accomplishment important to the district is delivering on-time, on-budget with regards to the referendum approved by the voters. This is nearing completion. I would also like to see the district crystallize its approach to distance and blended learning delivery. Another accomplishment important to the district is to remain vigilant with its commitment to long-range, strategic planning.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: This concept is central to "the Burnt Hills way". This process of including stakeholders is embodied in the Shared Decision Making process, which is more than a law...it is a way of life in our district. Community members are actively sought out to participate in committees, the school and the business community work together and the district has created a role to focus on partnerships between higher education, private sector, education partners and others who can develop mutually beneficial alliances to improve education policies and programs. I bristle a bit with the "perhaps" qualifier for students. During this past term, I championed the addition of a student board member – which required a

community vote. Students have been involved in hiring decisions, ad hoc committees and, most recently, are being considered for inclusion in the district's Audit committee. Students are a vital voice in how this district operates and a key part of our success equation.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: It's a great time to be a Spartan! BH remains a destination district for families and educators. Our district is in sound financial shape. Our commitment to the whole child is alive and well as evidenced by significant student achievement in academics as well as music, theater, science and athletics. Exciting expansion plans to remodel buildings throughout the district will help us during our second century of instruction. My goal as a board member is to focus on student achievement while converting operational spend into program dollars by leveraging best practices. I am also committed to continuing to turn down the volume regarding the failed Regents Reform Agenda rollout from several years ago and focusing on the path forward rather than the bumpy road behind us. Our role in school governance is not to overreact, but rather to listen to all viewpoints, remain factual and make the best decisions to enhance learning opportunities, allowing our students to achieve their potential.

Don Marshall

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: Master's Degree in Social Work. Teacher in the Peace Corps. Forty-five year professional career in Education and Social Work. Most recently as Executive Director of The Charlton School for Girls until my retirement last year.

Community Involvement: I have been involved in various church activities, youth sports leadership positions, educational activities and advocacy work in the Burnt Hills community for over 30 years.

Education: Bachelor Of Science Degree in Zoology from Butler University. Masters in Social Work from Syracuse University.

Campaign Email: solodon1214@gmail.com

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 will bring a lifetime of experiences and learning to my role as a school board member. I was married for 30 years and have 3 children. I have 45 years of professional experience as an educator, clinical social worker, administrator and Board member. I will bring this experience and learning, along with an open mind and heart, to my responsibilities as a BH-BL School Board member. I will seek, listen to and consider the input of district stakeholders in my deliberations and decisions as a Board member.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: The Board is responsible for setting policy and budgets. It has oversight and compliance responsibilities for the District. The Board, as a group, hires, oversees and regularly reviews the performance of the District Superintendent. Board members do not act as individuals. The Board deliberates and takes action as a group. Board meetings should be open. All agendas and minutes should be made available to the public. All communication should be respectful, clear and direct. Once policies and budgets are established, the Board gives the District Superintendent the responsibility, the authority and the support necessary to operate an effective educational program.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: I would like to be a part of building on the tradition and commitment to the quality education that has long been a part of the BH-BL schools. I would be looking for opportunities to improve and make progress on any educational issues that come before the Board and the School District. I would be committed to continuous quality improvement in the areas of District communication, openness and transparency.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: I believe successful and lasting change involves a collaborative effort by all those affected by the change. Opportunities and forums for input and discussion by stakeholders must be created and supported. Thoughtful and honest input must be accepted and considered in all key Board deliberations and decisions. All effective organizational cultures are built on relationships and the open communication necessary to sustain them. Diversity of opinion, at all levels, is encouraged and valued.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: I recognize and accept the responsibility and the work associated with being a BH-BL School Board member. I realize that as a board member I represent the community. I understand that it is a privilege to serve in this capacity. I accept the responsibility associated with this role and will do my best to be a helpful and effective BH-BL School Board Member.





Peter Sawyer

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: Thirty years experience in higher education. In third year on the BOE.

Community Involvement: Charlton Heights PTA (past), BHBL Rotary Club, Town of Ballston Park and Recreation Committee (past)

Education: Ph.D. in Social Sciences, M.A. in Sociology, M.Ed. in Student Development and Higher Education Administration, B.A. in Urban Affairs, A.A. Liberal Arts

Campaign Email: psawyer@bhbl.org

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: With thirty years of experience working in a variety of positions in higher education, I think I am well prepared to serve on a board of education. My background in student development and higher education administration gives me an understanding of effective programming and strong leadership. My background in sociology of education

and political theory gives me a critical view of policy at both a state and local level. Due to this background, I have been able to contribute to the board these past three years, even as I continue to learn about K-12 education. In thinking about the future of education, I strongly believe that students need opportunities to apply their learning to real world problems. They need to develop the ability to work collaboratively, think critically and to work across disciplines when solving complex problems. I also think they need to challenge themselves in a variety of ways and to do their best to discover who they are and what they can contribute.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: Dialogue and openness are critical to effective decision making. All members of the board need to be open about their positions and be able to confront issues even when there is disagreement. These disagreements must be grounded in practices of civility and with a focus on what is best for the learning and development of our students. The board must also be open to the broader community and to get to know their thoughts and concerns regarding the district. We must be willing to hear a variety of opinions and positions on district policy but make decisions that we believe benefit the district as a whole.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: Currently, I am supporting and encouraging an expansion of active learning opportunities for our students. These opportunities help our students to be better prepared to make sound college and career decisions. So far the administration has done a great job of looking at what opportunities currently exist and to identify what opportunities we need to add. I plan to help find additional partners to fill whatever voids we have. As part of this, I also hope to see growth and development of more college and career pathways that encourage students to take college courses while still in high school. As we move forward over the next few years, I would also like to see the continuing development of a variety of measures to understand school success and to inform decision making.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: Policy making should always be done with a collaborative approach that includes those most impacted by the decision. Programs should be similarly developed with a clear consensus over outcomes. To this end, we hope to do more outreach to get greater participation by parents on committees associated with school success.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: - Candidate has not responded -

Corinth Board of Education

Description:

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. One board seat is up for election this year. Polls are open from 7 am to 8:30 pm at the Elementary School Room 111. Absentee ballots are available. You do not have to be registered to vote in this election. District telephone number is 654-9005.

Candidates (choose 1):

Danielle Freebern

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: I am a very involved parent who is caring and compassionate about what happens in our schools. I have the best interest of the students of the Corinth Central School district as well as the tax payers of the Community. I have a very fast paced occupation that interacts with hundreds of people face to face every day and allows me the ability to listen to concerns from others in a professional manner. I also deal with budgeting needs of my department and am often faced with problem solving situations. All of these experiences have made me qualified to run for this position.

Community Involvement: Spent many years as a coach for pop warner cheerleading. I am very involved with Boy scout Troop 4021 as the fundraising coordinator. I help out on the softball field, and hockey ring with my 8 year old daughter, and support the Corinth wrestling program with my 14 year old son.

Education: B.A Science. Studied History and minored in Education.

Campaign Email: hidaniele@yahoo.com

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 caring and compassionate parent who works outside of the community. I spend a lot of time working with customers and trying to meet all of their individual needs. I feel that being a part of the school board will be similar. I will need to listen to all comments, questions and concerns and in the end make help make the right decision for all.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: I think communication is the key to success. It is important to listen to all sides in order to make the best informed decision. Jumping to a conclusion is never the best outcome. I am open and receptive to all types of communication.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: I would like to see our schools and community continue to be a safe, nurturing environment that gives our children and students the best opportunities that are available in the school system.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: Try to get everyone involved. Even students need to help make decisions on the policies and programs they are involved in. Although it may be hard to work with so many different groups it is important to hear all sides when discussing each policy and program. Every group may have something beneficial to bring to the discussion.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: I am excited and energized about being a part of the Corinth School Board. I think it is a great opportunity to get involved in a fantastic school district and community that does so much for its students.

Edinburg Board of Trustees

Description:

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. You do not need to be registered in order to vote but must be a resident of the district for 30 days. Absentee ballots are available. One board seat is up for election this year. Polls are open from 12 pm to 8 pm at Edinburg Common School. District telephone number is 863-8412. More information can be found at the district website www.edinburgcs.org.

Candidates (choose 1):

Angela Ludwig

A: - Candidate has not responded -

Kristine Petruso

A: - Candidate has not responded -

Galway Board of Education

Description:

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. Two board seats are up for election this year. You must be registered to vote. Polls are open from 10 am to 8 pm at the Galway High School gymnasium lobby. Absentee ballots are available. District telephone number is 882-1033. For more information go to the district website: galwaycsd.org.

There are two propositions. A copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the School District budget for 2017-18 may be obtained by any resident of the District during business hours beginning Tuesday May 2, 2017 in the District Office of Galway School.

Candidates (choose 2):

Jay Anderson

A: - Candidate has not responded -

Stacey Caruso-Sharpe

A: - Candidate has not responded -

Hadley-Luzerne Board of Education

Description:

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. One Board member will be elected for a three year term. Polls are open from 12pm to 8pm at Stuart M. Townsend Elementary School, 27 Hyland Drive, Lake Luzerne. Must be a registered voter. Register at district administration office. Absentee ballots are available. To contact the district, telephone 696-2378 ext 108.

Candidates (choose 1):

Eddie Joe Moulton

A: - Candidate has not responded -

Mechanicville Board of Education

Description:

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. Two 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 Jr. Sr. HS Gym Foyer. District telephone number is 664-5727

Candidates (choose 1):

John Pugliese

A: - Candidate has not responded -

Anthony Sylvester

A: - Candidate has not responded -

Marlene Tierney

A: - Candidate has not responded

-

Schuylerville Board of Education

Description:

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 seats will be available this year, one for a five year term and one for a two year term. 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 Administration Building. District telephone number is 695-3255.

Candidates (choose 2):

Stanley Barber

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: 29 years experience on the board. Past president and vice president.

Community Involvement: Lay Pastor and lay leader at Schuylerville United Methodist Church.

Education: One year of college at Suny Plattsburgh

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: Experience with business, construction and agriculture.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: Well, it is very important. The more information and opinions freely given, lead to better decisions.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: Continue the improvement of our award winning school district and lend experience to the building project.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: Its all about open and honest communication. Every person at every level has much they can offer to the overall success of SCS.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: - Candidate has not responded -



Michael Bodnar

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: I've served on the board of the Old Saratoga Athletic Association, which oversees youth sports in Schuylerville, for several years. I've served as Softball Commissioner from November '15 to present, and previously served as Baseball Commissioner from November '10 through October '13. This has given me a great deal of experience in managing budgets and reducing expenses, working with community leaders and businesses, and working with other board members effectively to solve problems.

Community Involvement: I've coached the children in this community in baseball, softball, football, soccer, and/or basketball since 2006. I've done this in addition to serving as baseball and softball commissioner.

Education: B.A. in Political Science from Hartwick College in Oneonta NY ('98). Graduated from Troy High School in Troy NY ('94).

Campaign Email: mbodnar3@nycap.rr.com

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 work experience has provided me with many opportunities to solve complex issues and effectively handle multiple tasks. My experience in the community, in which I've served as Commissioner of youth softball and baseball, has helped me gain experience in managing budgets. This experience taught me the importance of responsibly managing resources, especially the need to focus on eliminating waste and reducing expenses to keep our fees as low as possible to families in the district. My experience serving on the board has also taught me the importance of being able to have strong working relationships with other board members, as well as members of the community, so that we can work together effectively to solve problems.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: Having open dialogue and transparency is absolutely essential in decision making for the Board of Education. Being a good listener and being respectful of the opinions of others are critical traits of any effective board member, or any leader for that matter. It is important that the Board of Education gather input from parents and other stakeholders in the community to make the best decisions possible for everyone involved. It is also important for board members to be able to have a positive and respectful working relationship with each other and the school's administration to help achieve improvement in the district, even if we might disagree on the issues at times.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: First and foremost, it is essential that we devote the necessary resources to empower our teachers to help each student to reach their full potential. We must also carefully manage our expenses to limit, or reduce, the burden on the taxpayer. It is important that we effectively manage the upcoming construction project to ensure that it is kept on schedule, on (or under) budget, and that we minimize disruption to students and teachers. I would like to see us expand the use of technology where possible to increase efficiency and reduce expenses. We've already made great improvement in this area and I would like to see it continue.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: It is critical that there are open lines of communication between all of the parties involved to help develop (and continually improve) educational policies and programs. One way to improve this would be to add forums, or working groups comprised of a mix of people from various roles, that would be focused on improving certain policies and programs. Having open lines of communication, if nothing else, will help parents and students better understand the thought process regarding current policies and programs.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: I would just like to add that I deeply appreciate the words of encouragement I've received from people in the community since my intention to run for the school board was announced. I also appreciate the League of Women Voters giving the candidates a forum which allows the voters know more about us and our views on how to improve the district. Thank you.



Veronica Wood

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: 21 years fourth grade teacher at Schuylerville CS, Director of Pupil Services, Remedial Math Teacher,

Community Involvement: Former member Schuylerville Public Library Board serving as both, Vice President and President, Current member SCS Board of Education, Volunteer for CAAP - Animal Protection Organization, Past member and co-president of PEP

Education: AAS in Dental Hygiene At Hudson Valley CC, SUNY Brockport Dental Health teacher certification SUNY Oneonta BS Elementary Education, SUNY Plattsburgh MS in Education and CAS in Administration and Supervision

Campaign Email: vwood9663@aol.com

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: The expertise and knowledge that I will continue to bring to the board is the experience of being a retired teacher and administrator in the district for many years. Having been involved with the development of curriculum, developing the teacher improvement plan and administering the state tests, I feel I have an excellent understanding of what makes an effective district.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: The role of dialogue and openness in decision-making is vital to good outcomes. It can be very challenging at times. It is important to have each voice heard to make the best informed decision. Many points of view can make for a spirited discussions.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: During my second term I hope to achieve acceptance of diverse points of view, and an open-mindedness among all board members. All members of the board have knowledge that is important for all to hear. I will continue to keep the total education of our students as my highest priority.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: Communication is important for all members of our school community to work together to develop policies and programs. We are very fortunate to have many parents who work well together. Our Green Ribbon School group has done much to help with recycling and other energy saving programs. Our parent group works to provide programs where children can have fun as well as learn. Our building teams have a diverse group of parents, teachers, and administrators to provide activities for each building. The BOE should be available to and supportive of all constituent groups.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: The BOE is only as good as its members. It is important for the community to be involved in the selection of your representatives to provide the leadership that fits the majority of the residents. I am not afraid to make tough decisions and vote what the community wants.

Shenendehowa Board of Education

Description:

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. Two 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 Gymnasium.

Candidates (choose 2):



Alexandra Blais

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: Professional and volunteer experience in: policy; advocacy, board and governance process; legislative process; program development, implementation, and evaluation; compliance; grant process; higher ed student affairs, health and counseling; individual behavior change; social service and benefit programs, etc.

Community Involvement: 10+ year history of current and former volunteer and board experience with various community organizations focused on women's issues, women's health, rape crisis, and political action

Education: BA, Psychology & MPH, Community Health and Behavioral Sciences University at Albany

Campaign Email: blaisforshenboe@gmail.com

Campaign Web Site: <http://www.facebook.com/alexfitzblaisforshenboe/>

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: A former Shen student and athlete, I grew up in Halfmoon and now live in Clifton Park with my husband, a Shen teacher, and two. We know firsthand what an exceptional district this is. The Board should reflect the community on behalf of which it serves, and that includes parents of future Shen students. As a parent not yet formally engaged with the school system, I offer a new perspective and an open mind, with a vested interest in the future of this district. With an educational, professional, and volunteer background, including board involvement, rooted in public health, policy, and advocacy, I currently work full-time in public policy in Albany. I have worked previously with universities in student health and counseling services, and also in grant program coordination and case management. These combined experiences have provided me a varied portfolio of skills (noted above in "experience and qualifications") and a broad view from which I approach decisions.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: Clear, direct dialogue and openness are critical components of the Board decision-making process, both internally and with the broader district community. One of the pillars of my campaign platform is the need for this Board to improve its communication with and engagement of the public. I have proposed several changes to the way the Board of Education engages district residents including: monthly, open sessions led by the Board to facilitate more open dialogue with residents; limiting executive sessions to matters of true necessity; increased public comment time at Board meetings, and a process for Board response; moving items of community interest to the beginning of the Board agenda; formation of public advisory committees for major policy decisions; and requiring a supermajority to adopt a proposal the first time it appears on the agenda. I believe that these concrete and simple adjustments would have significant impact on future board strategic planning and decision-making.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: My campaign platform has four main components which are directly related to what I hope to achieve if elected: 1. Increased board transparency and public communication/ engagement (mentioned above) 2. I would like to see the Board/district work quickly to reach agreement with the Town of Clifton Park on the 34 acres of land, reflective of the April 4th referendum results 3. I would like the district to finally and formally engage in a public conversation about the potential transition to full-day kindergarten 4. Whether considering current capacity issues in overcrowded classrooms or the prospect of expanding the kindergarten program to full-day, it is likely that the district will need to explore securing additional land (potentially in Halfmoon) and building a new school These are the four most pressing matters I see facing the district in the near future. I look forward to the opportunity to work with the existing Board and district leadership to tackle these complicated issues.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: Meaningful stakeholder engagement is essential to serious decision-making and progress at all levels. Parents, teachers, administrators and students all carry different viewpoints, priorities and goals, and this type of involvement helps ensure outcomes that reflect the broader population impacted. These parties should all be represented during program and policy discussions. Additionally, a collaborative spirit of openness and interest in new ideas or perspectives is what inspires and encourages creativity and innovation in others. This is evidenced across Shen, a district fortunate to have a strong network of engaged families, teachers and administrators who dedicate considerable time in pursuit of a variety programs and thoughtful policies that support all students. This kind of partnership serves to enhance the academic core of the Shenendehowa experience, and the results of the collaborative program offerings truly set our students apart. I hope to see this continue indefinitely.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: I am a new voice, with fresh energy, and a different perspective. I listen, think critically, and advocate accordingly. I would appreciate your vote on May 16th, and the opportunity to serve on the Board of Education where I will work hard for every student currently enrolled in Shenendehowa, and those who will enter the district in the future, too. For more information about me, my platform and proposals, and to ask me questions or provide feedback, please visit my Facebook page, 'Alexandra Fitz Blais for Shen Board of Education'. Thank you for your engagement and consideration.



Bill Casey

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: Completing 12 years of service as school board member, 7 years as president or vice president

Community Involvement: Advisory Board and past board member of CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services, Board Member of Shenendehowa Education Foundation, Past Elder Moderator and current Teacher and Prayer leader at Grace Chapel of Clifton Park

Education: Bachelor's of Science, Political Science from SUNY PLattsburgh, Graduate work in Public Administration, Univ. of Albany

Campaign Email: rcasey1@nycap.rr.com

Campaign Web Site: <http://facebook> Re-elect Bill Casey to the Shen School Board

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: From my 35 year professional career, I bring senior executive skills in management leadership and oversight, fiscal accountability, and contract and personnel management. As a deeply involved 48 year resident of this district, I also bring intimate knowledge of our community and its needs. Finally as a grandfather of two boys living in the district, I bring the watchful and demanding eye of a grandparent to the direction of our local school system. From my previous BOE experience, I bring curiosity and creativity, a collaborative spirit, and a commitment to be a highly effective and involved board member, regularly available to all our residents.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: After the tumultuous, high profile debate in the Shenendehowa District over the proposed sale of the 34 acre parcel between Moe Road and Maxwell Dive, I would urge our Board of Education to redouble its efforts on transparency and open and responsive communication with our residents. In the process of the debate on the sale of the land, I listened to the uproar from the public, rethought my own initial position supporting the sale, and agreed with the great number of residents who asked that the sale be stopped. As a BOE member, I was not shy in expressing my own dissatisfaction with the openness of our process....and I "hit the bricks" with those opposing the sale to gather a sufficient number of signatures to force a public referendum. I learned a lot in that process---most importantly the need to respect the opinion of our residents. Going forward I see a need to repair relationships and to identify additional means of improving ongoing dialogue and encourage community input.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: As a Board of Education member, I pledge to work on the following: --Continuous focus of preparing our students for graduation...and beyond! --Completing the land sale to the Town of Clifton Park for a community park. --Purchasing land in the Town of Halfmoon for future school expansion. --Urging a open and very public discussion on full day Kindergarten. --Greater Board of Education transparency and accountability. --Contributing to the update of the District's Futures Report which maps out possible new district directions.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: Engaging the stakeholders is a continuing challenge for a district as large and diverse as ours and we must look "outside the box" to encourage that. Two years ago, as Board President, I asked for BOE support to invite a student representative to sit at our board table to share a student perspective on our deliberations---that has been a rousing success!. With regard to the general public, we need to collaborate with natural partners---our unions for staff and PTA's for parents---and bring them together with administrators and Board Members to freely engage in focused discussions on our challenges and opportunities. From such discussions there will not always be total agreement, but the voices and perspectives of the stakeholders should feel respected.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: I started my initial service on our School Board in 1988 and have served a total of 4 terms over the years, often filling in when a temporary vacancy occurred. I cherish this service to the community where my wife and I have raised our family (and now watch our grandchildren live here). While I have always been concerned about the size of our district, I am very proud of the opportunities for innovation that has resulted---and I thank the public for being so supportive of our great public education system and the integral part it plays in our community's life! I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve another 3 year term as we have much work to do and I am "up for the challenge".



Jennyfer L. Gleason

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: I have worked at the Federal level in the US Capitol working in the House Rules Committee as a Legislative Liaison working with other Congressional staff. I also worked in a Washington, DC Legislative Lobbying firm, Brownstein, Hyatt and Farber, as a Legislative Assistant following legislation impactful to our clients and attending hearings and events of importance. I then took an appointee position at the State level working in the Legal Department of the NYS Thruway Authority following legislation impactful to the Authority, Canal Corporation and the Thruway State Police Troop T. Working

at both levels of government and with staff on differing sides to an issue have given me invaluable experience and knowledge applicable to many areas of life.

Community Involvement: I have worked with the Shenendehowa Methodist preschool to urge the development of a clear and concise Food Allergy policy. I have also worked with both Shen elementary and middle school staff to advocate for a safe environment in school classrooms, in addition to volunteering in the classrooms, library and computer lab classes. I also volunteered the Southern Saratoga Y, as well as my children.

Education: I received my Bachelor's Degree from John Carroll University with a degree in Political Science.

Campaign Email: jennyfergleason@gmail.com

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: The special knowledge I bring to the Board is first and foremost, the fact that I have two children who have been in the Shenendehowa school system since kindergarten and are now in Middle school. Having worked with the teachers since they started school, volunteered in the classrooms and specialized classes, made foods for classrooms and staff throughout the years, such knowledge is enables me to fully understand and provide insight on the functions thus far and areas of concern moving forward. This is invaluable when seeking such a position as it provides an enhanced perspective on the overall functions within the school system. Furthermore, my special expertise from working at the Federal level in the House of Representatives and State level in the Legal Department of the NYS Thruway Authority gives me a unique perspective on how to deal with staff with opposing views and attempting to resolve issues is also indispensable to working on the Board.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: The role of dialogue an openness is imperative to the process of decision-making on the board of Education. When representing an entire district, Board members have to have an open mind and a willingness to listen to all sides of an issue. A Board member would also have to listen to the other members, as well as those in the Shenendehowa district, and come to an informed conclusion after such deliberation.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: During my term, i would like to first unite the community and set a positive and open approach to all issues and with those in the district and with the other members on the Board. I would work hear from all involved, from teachers, parents, students and the public in an effort to make the most informed and positive decision for all students and those in the community. I would also strive to re-evaluate and amend the technology policy in an effort to find a balance between incorporating the importance of computers in education with the imperative and necessary superior role of teachers in all of our schools. I have seen the diminished role of teachers and contend the issue needs to be reevaluated and changed to ensure the highest level of education and achievement for all students. I would approach all budgeting with fiscal responsibility with a full understanding of our district size and work with the Board to move in an efficient, prudent manner relative to the Budget.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: Parents, teachers, administrators and students can work together to develop policies and programs by beginning any process with an open mind, a positive attitude and a willingness to listen to all comments, concerns, ideas and goals in an effort to create collaborative polices and programs that enrich the educational experience for all students. And having worked with people on all sides of an issue at the Federal and State level, I am confident I could help merge all parties involved and accomplish educational policies and programs which will advance all students and provide opportunities that otherwise may not have come to fruition.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: I unexpectedly lost my husband instantly while he was running in the Philadelphia Marathon five years ago, my children were 6 and 7 years ago, my son had just entered first grade and I intended to re-enter the workforce. However, this enormous loss in our lives, in my children's lives, changed my plans. I focused all of my energies on navigating them through their instant new normal in the midst of their extreme grief, striving to maintain their high achievements and all of their extracurricular activities without falter with lots of love, gratefulness and a positive attitude. Well, they are amazing children and have thrived in Shenendehowa thus far due to some exceptional teachers and staff. So, I feel as though my contribution to the Board would bring another perspective and experience which would compliment an already accomplished Board. I respectfully ask for your vote on May 16th. Thank you.



Naomi Hoffman

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: Professionally I worked for 10 years as manager of audit and compliance for Kitware, Inc., a research and development technology company based in Clifton Park. Prior to Kitware, I served 5 years as asset manager for the NYS Teacher's Retirement System and 5 years as state accounts auditor for the NYS Comptroller's Office. I also have more than 10 years volunteer experience working in leadership positions with the PTA.

Community Involvement: Since 2006, I have volunteered in many areas of the PTA, running programs such as Arts In Education, Shen Inventors, FIRST Lego League (FLL), and Odyssey of the Mind. I teach after school enrichment classes (e.g., makey makey, Scratch, NXT, and EV3 programming) and coach middle school FLL teams and elementary, middle, and high school Odyssey of the Mind teams. I have served on PTA executive boards including as Orenda Elementary PTA (president), High School PTSA (treasurer), and PTA Council (1st and

2nd vice president). I'm actively involved with the Sherwood Forest Civic Association, a civic minded group organizing community events (ice cream social, Halloween parade and fall celebration, and luminary sale). I serve as a volunteer at large for many local charities and events.

Education: Bachelor of Science in accounting and Master's in Business Administration, both from New York State University at Albany.

Campaign Email: naomiforshenboe@gmail.com

Campaign Web Site: <http://sites.google.com/view/naomihoffmanforshenboe/>

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: With more than 20 years of professional and volunteer experience in finance, accounting, auditing, coaching, and mentoring, I bring a unique perspective to the board. I understand how budgets work and have experience developing policy that will contribute to financial stability and educational progress. I plan to use my experience to focus on developing policy and programs that prepare students to become better communicators and problem solvers so they can thrive and adapt in an ever-changing world. My volunteer work with programs such as Odyssey of the Mind and FIRST Lego League requires strong organizational skills and provides me an opportunity to collaborate with teachers, parents, staff, administrators and the community. Most importantly, being a parent of two children in the district (middle and high school) I am passionate about and committed to quality education and would use my experience and skills to be an advocate for all students and teachers.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: Decisions are more easily accepted and likely to have the desired results when stakeholders -- including teachers, staff, administration, parents, students, and the community -- have been included in the process. Openness and dialogue foster an environment of trust and demonstrate transparency and respect for those affected by the board's decisions. The board was accused of lack of transparency because it failed to share details with the public regarding the sale of 34 acres to a commercial developer. The community overwhelmingly voted for the land to remain in the public domain, and I will work with the board to transition the 34 acres to the Town of Clifton Park. Going forward, I will pursue an open dialogue between the board and the public to avoid such missteps and move toward gaining back public trust. With all stakeholders working together, we can ensure our students receive a quality education.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: I decided to run after seeing my children experience pressures from crowded classrooms, high volume homework, and new teaching philosophies. More stress and challenges are expected as students adjust to higher passing requirements for Regent's examinations that will be rolled out in a few years. I have also witnessed problems when seeking support for programs that help our students through these transitions. As a board member, I will 1) work through the pressing issue to transition the 34 acres to the Town of Clifton Park 2) identify resources available to better assist students facing new academic requirements 3) pursue plans to ease pressure from increasing enrollment including revisiting how existing capacity is used in the short term and adding a school in Halfmoon in the long-term 4) encourage cooperation among the district, volunteers, and the community, and above all 5) ensure that the school district continues to pursue a quality well-rounded curriculum.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: Parents, teachers, administrators, and, most importantly, students have a desire to work together when creating education policy and programs. The first step would be to provide a forum for stakeholders to identify areas of concern. This can also be accomplished through initiatives such as partnership committees and surveys. Once an area of concern is identified, stakeholders return to the planning cycle to discuss a course correction. If evidence indicates that a new approach is warranted, stakeholders will need to revisit and if necessary modify their plan. As always, the goal is to help students thrive and adapt during and beyond high school.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: I'm running for the school board because I believe in and value public education. I'm dedicated to serving all children in this district regardless of the abilities and backgrounds. I offer my service to the community as a parent, leader, professional and, most important, an advocate for our children. Please vote for Naomi Hoffman on May 16 and be part of moving Shen Forward. For more information and videos specific to programs I'm currently involved with

please visit my Facebook page Naomi Hoffman for Shen BOE (<https://www.facebook.com/Naomi-Hoffman-for-Shen-BOE-281264238992664/>)

South Glens Falls Board of Education

Description:

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. Three board seats for three year terms are up for election this year. Polls are open from 8 am to 8 pm at Tanglewood Elementary School and Ballard Elementary School. You must be a registered voter and you can register at the Admin Center 8-4 until May 3 and HS lobby 11-3 ON May 3. An absentee ballot is available by request from the Administrative Center and is due by 4 pm on voting day. District telephone number is 793-9617.

Candidates (choose 3):



Christine M. Dawson

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: Currently employed by Skidmore College as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Education Studies Department. In this capacity, I teach multiple undergraduate classes to Education Studies majors and minors, including an introductory course on teaching and learning, a curriculum design course, a course on adolescent literacy, and senior seminar for student teachers. Additionally, in my capacity as Director of Student Teaching at Skidmore College I collaborated with school districts throughout the region (including South Glens Falls) to find placements for Skidmore students as observers, interns, and student teachers; I also supervised the student teaching semester.

Community Involvement: • At the district level, I have participated in Budget Workshops and the Building Study, and I have spoken several times at Board of Education meetings. • I was active in the Ballard HSA meetings in 2009 and 2010, and I volunteered to support HSA activities (Craft Fair, Harvest Night, Ice Cream Social) and school events (field trip chaperone, helping in Kindergarten and art classes, and Ballard Field Day from 2009-2015). • In 2011 I also became a member of the Shared Decision Making Committee at Ballard. I was active with this committee for four years at Ballard, and I co-chaired the committee during the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years. As a committee member and later committee co-chair, I helped coordinate, collect, and analyze two parent/guardian surveys; supported the implementation of the Ballard Buddy Program; and coordinated an initiative to bring a museum educator from the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery to offer professional development in Visual Thinking Strategies and then to facilitate a museum visit by all students in Grades 1-5 to the Tang. • While my daughter has been at Oliver Winch Middle School, I have chaperoned dances and field trips, as well as volunteered with the drama club. • Beginning in 2011, we have attended every Marathon Dance and actively supported the dancers. For the past three years, I have advertised the event at Skidmore College, encouraging faculty, staff, and students to attend and support our students' endeavors. • Much of my service to the broader community occurs through the Capital District Writing Project, which is a local site of the National Writing Project. Through this organization, I volunteer to help plan and facilitate annual events where Capital Region teachers can gather, share practices, write together, and explore teaching strategies. I have been on the leadership team of the Capital District Writing Project for several years, and I have co-facilitated numerous workshops for (and with) teacher colleagues across the region during that time. • I also am a member of the Empire State Writing Project Network, which brings together the seven New York sites of the National Writing Project. Through this umbrella organization, I have worked with other New York educators and teacher educators to share resources and cultivate support from state networks. I am the invited speaker for the upcoming Hudson Valley Writing Project Spring Conference on April 22, 2017, at SUNY New Paltz. • In 2016, I was elected to the Executive Board of the New York State Association of Teacher Educators (NYSATE). In this capacity, I collaborate with other teacher educators across the state to plan an annual fall conference (including presentations by representatives from NY Department of Education, Board of Regents, and educators from across the state). I was also selected recently as Chair of the Special Interest Group for Inclusive Education for NYSATE. • I also present regularly at conferences for literacy teachers and for teacher educators, both in state and nationally. Through these presentations, I have the opportunities to share strategies and learn from colleagues across the state and country.

Education: • High School Diploma: Centennial High School, Ellicott City, Maryland • Bachelor of Arts (B.A.): University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia. Major: Political and Social Thought (interdisciplinary distinguished major) • Masters of Arts (M.A.) in Curriculum and Teaching: Columbia University Teachers College, New York, New York. • Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education: Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Emphasis in Literacy

Campaign Email: dawson23@gmail.com

Campaign Web Site: <http://christinedawson.net>

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 committed my professional life to learning about, participating in, and improving education, schooling, and children's learning experiences. I have taught middle school and high school English and worked as a literacy coach. Since completing my doctorate in Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education, I have worked as a teacher educator, with a focus on curriculum and literacy education. I am actively involved on a state and national level, presenting regularly at conferences related to educational policy, literacy education, student learning, and teacher education. I am on the leadership team for the Capital District Writing Project and a member of the Executive Board for the New York State Association of Teacher Educators. Throughout these experiences, I have maintained a strong stance as advocate for students, teachers, and schools. I am eager to connect my professional experiences with the district goals as a member of the Board of Education in South Glens Falls.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: I believe that dialogue and open communication are essential in decision-making processes, especially in a context that has such far-reaching effects as education. I am committed to seeking and gathering perspectives from varied stakeholders, as well as connecting these experiences to broader research-based conversations about education and learning.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: I hope to collaborate actively with other Board members, as well as administration, faculty, staff, and community members, to consider issues facing our schools. In a time where much is changing in education policy, I also hope to play a role in connecting our local experiences with those of other educators and stakeholders around the region, state, and country, so that we can both learn from others' experiences and share the best practices that are being developed within our district.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: Parents, teachers, administrators, and students each bring specific expertise and perspectives to schooling and program development. Consequently, each voice must be involved and considered in decision-making processes. Students are ultimately at the center of our work in education, and their experiences as learners and community members are significant, both through their voices and through the voices of their parents and guardians, who know them best. Teachers and administrators have the expertise with curriculum, instruction, and supervision to help weigh decisions and strategies in relation to purpose and possible outcomes. I believe a Board member needs to pursue open communication with stakeholders across the district in order to develop or shape policies and programs.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: I have been actively involved in education for my entire career, and truly across my life. As a parent in this district, I have learned a great deal from the teachers and school practices, and I have appreciated opportunities to get involved as a volunteer and active committee member. As a Board of Education member, I look forward to continuing to partner with others across our district, in order to continue to support, grow, and develop our school district.



William Elder

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: South Glens Falls CSD Board of Education member, 1985-1998. Board president 1996-1998. South Glens Falls CSD Board of Education member 2013 – to present. Also Board president 2012 – to present. When I was employed as Director Information Technology for the Bassett Healthcare Network, I oversaw a department of 50 staff members and responsible for a budget of over \$12 million dollars.

Community Involvement: Board Member/Treasurer South Glens Falls Education Foundation, as of my election to the SGF BOE I resigned my position in accordance with the by-laws. Currently serving as a member of their Advisory Board. Southside Cemetery Advisory Board 2012. President 2016 & 2017. Member Church of the Messiah Vestery. 2013 – to present. Past Master (1980) of Glens Falls Lodge Free & Accepted Masons, after the merger of the two local lodges it is now the Queensbury Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons. My wife Donna and I participated actively as volunteers with the SGF Marathon Dance and

members of core committee for 15 years. I have coached 7 helped coach Little League Baseball (South Glens Falls, Glens Falls & Corinth), as well as Girls Softball in South Glens Falls. Was treasurer for the local cub scouts

Education: Graduate South Glens Falls Central, 1961 . SUNY Cobleskill, 1963 – Associates Degree Business Management

Campaign Email: Billder54@Hotmail.com

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 extensive Board of Education experience as well as my professional experience with Information Technology, management of a department of 50 and responsible for our department budget of over \$12 million dollars. Part of my

responsibilities was to work with Senior management regarding IT planning and development as well as meeting regularly with our affiliated hospitals CEO and their IT leaders.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: It is important for all Board members to be comfortable in providing input and asking questions to ensure transparency and open communication. (The open communication needs to be not only at BOE level, also with administration and the communities we represent..)

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: To continue to provide appropriate programs for our students to enable them to be prepared for the workforce, college or military. With this to continue to strive for better student outcomes, continue to encourage and provide opportunities for students to participate in after school activities, music, drama and athletics, as well as working to increase our graduation rates. We are currently involved in a Capital Project that has impact on all our facilities and I would like to be able to be a part of that process and to see it to completion. This project is the result of wonderful community support when we held our building study in 2014, followed by a community capital project planning sessions. These two committees were staffed by community members, staff, administrators and board of education members.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: To continue to provide open communication/transparency within our South Glens Falls School District. To continue to involve our community to participate in district level initiatives as we have done with our Building Study, Capital Project and interviews for open administrative positions. Continue to reinforce with our parents and students that all our administrators and faculty are available for open discussions. Attendance at School Board meetings to bring forth suggestions/ideas. We also implemented having student representatives be part of our BOE meetings, they report out as to the various activities that have taken place to be held across our schools and well as being a voice and contact for our student body.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: If elected, I'm looking forward to continued work with our Board of Education as I feel we have a very effective board that understand our roles and responsibilities. In addition our BOE works extremely well together with each member understanding they have a voice.



Lisa Hogan

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: I'm a South Glens Falls graduate and have lived most of my life in SGF. My husband and I have three children enrolled in the district, all of whom are involved with academics, sports and the arts. This has provided me opportunities to meet many of our district's faculty, staff and administration. Prior to my current role on the BOE, I served as an officer of the Moreau Elementary HSA for a number of years. Additionally, I have been employed in the field of school social work for several years. I work closely with district and community service providers assisting students and families as they navigate the social/ emotional challenges of school. Having served one 3 year BOE term, I believe I also offer the benefit of familiarity with the role.

Community Involvement: Currently, I'm an activity leader with a Saratoga County 4H group. Our group has enjoyed being regular participants in the North Country Festival of

Trees and the Saratoga County Fair. I have coached soccer and softball through our SGF recreation department and have regularly participated in the SGF Holiday parade through sports as well as float competitions. I also support a number of community activities in which my three children have been involved over the years.

Education: South Glens Falls graduate, NYS regents diploma SUNY Plattsburgh, B.S. Psychology, additional graduate coursework in education through SUNY

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 addition to being a mother of three children in our district, I'm also a long-time employee of a neighboring school district. I believe I have become somewhat of an expert at advocating for students/ families and school personnel. I have worked closely with families in variety of situations and am often responsible for facilitating communication between students/ families and the school. I feel I also have a good understanding of some of challenges and limitations schools face when attempting to serve our diverse student body. I've learned to recognize service challenges and deficits in a district and to be instrumental in accessing outside services or bringing new services to the district when needed. I'm interested in working to provide necessary supports to our students and their families as well as our faculty and staff to ensure a positive educational environment for all.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: I believe that dialogue and openness are imperative in the decision making process. Each member may represent a different constituency and often their decisions are based on understanding the interests of their constituents. When making decisions, it is very important to be aware of the feelings of each member while trying to arrive at a consensus. When there is open & honest dialogue, members gain a clearer understanding of issue and the potential ramifications. Most importantly, respect must be shown for differing opinions or open dialogue will be impossible.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: I'm mostly looking forward to the opportunity to be part of the great things coming our way. Our Capital project is well underway and it's exciting to be involved in the decision making process as the plans unfold with improvements in and around our buildings. I'm excited about the opportunities we currently offer students in the areas of academics, sports and the arts. I believe that we need to demand the highest quality instruction and experience in all of these areas to best prepare our students for the future. I want to be part of setting that standard. I'm also pleased with the conversations and plans to implement programs to better support our students' social/ emotional needs and look forward to seeing these plans transpire. I recognize the diversity of our student population and the demands on our educators. We need to strive to support both while maintaining fiscal responsibility. I want to be part of the team as we work towards the goals we've set for our district.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: Communication. Change happens when enough people articulate the need in an organized, productive manner. I believe it's critical to create an environment where people feel comfortable asking questions or suggesting changes. I encourage parents to be confident in talking with with teachers and administrators. I also believe it's important for us as parents, to teach our children self-advocacy and the importance of talking with teachers about changes they would like to see. Educational policies are reviewed and modified on a regular basis. They are designed to reflect the needs of those they govern. It's very important that parents, teachers, administrators and yes... students, work to recognize common goals and ensure their needs are addressed in our policies. Our community is rich with people resources. We have families from a variety of backgrounds and professions. Their input is invaluable. Whether it comes through conversation, email, BOE meetings, etc... the input has to be there!

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: I would like to thank the many people who had the confidence to support me as a "write-in" candidate three years ago. I have to be honest when I say that it's a bit more work and time than I anticipated but I have truly enjoyed it. I hope I can count on your continued support. We have an amazing community and whether you currently have children in school or not, it's very important that our community be proud of our school district. Please be a part of the process. Talk to teachers and administrators, come to board meetings. Be solution focused. Most importantly - VOTE! Thank you.

Stillwater Board of Education

Description:

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 for voters with a valid reason by calling the Superintendent's office 373-6100, ext. 30022. Polls are open at the Stillwater Middle School Gymnasium from 12 noon to 9 pm. District telephone number is 373-6100.

Candidates (choose 1):

Brian McNeil

A: - Candidate has not responded -

Waterford-Halfmoon Board of Education

Description:

The Board of Education for the Waterford-Halfmoon Union Free School District is responsible for the general supervision of the schools. Three seats for three year terms are up for election this year. Polls are open from 12 pm to 8 pm in the HS Auditorium Lobby. Voters must be registered either through the Saratoga County Board of Elections or at the office of the district clerk before May 10th. Absentee ballots are available in the office of the district clerk between 8am and 4pm when school is open. District telephone number is 237-0800.

Candidates (choose 3):

Richard Charron

A: - Candidate has not responded -

David Lee

A: - Candidate has not responded

-

Jamie Maloney

A: - Candidate has not responded -

Niskayuna Board of Education

Description:

The Niskayuna Board of Education is a seven member board elected by the community that is responsible for the governance of the school district. Members serve three year terms without pay. Two seats are up for election this year. Polling will take place at the High School from 7am to 9pm. You must be registered to vote but you can register the day of the vote. Absentee ballots are available in the District Office. School telephone number is 377-4666.

Candidates (choose 2):

David Apkarian

A: - Candidate has not responded

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Rosemarie Perez Jaquith

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: Present Niskayuna School Board President, 3 years school board experience, 17+ years leadership roles in PTOs, booster club and other district committees and organizations

Community Involvement: Event founder, co-organizer, and volunteer, St. Baldrick's Shave Event, Schenectady. Volunteer at Bethesda House. Member, St. George's Episcopal Church, Schenectady.

Education: Syracuse College of Law, J.D. cum laude, 1993 SUNY IT, B.S. Business, magna cum laude, 1990

Campaign Web Site: <http://facebook.RosemariePerezJaquithforNiskySchoolBoard.com>

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 actively involved in the Niskayuna School District for 17 years, as my children have gone through elementary, middle and high school, and have experienced much of the wide range of Niskayuna's programs, from AP courses to summer school, plus extracurricular activities involving music, art and sports. For the past 8 years, I have served in leadership positions in PTOs and as school board vice-president last year, and this year as board president. I average 2-3 nights per week at district meetings/functions and will continue to do so because I feel it is essential to see, first hand, how the policies the BOE establishes affect they children they are intended to support. As Administrative Counsel to the Legislative Bill Drafting Commission I also bring a talent for reviewing and drafting policy and contracts, and experience with procurement and personnel matters. Nevertheless, my greatest asset is my passion for the Niskayuna children and community. This is a labor of love!

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: Transparency and accountability are absolutely essential for the effective operation of the Board of Education. Over the past three years as a member of the school board, I have worked with my fellow board members to establish practices and procedures that promote transparency and accountability and have restored the public confidence once lacking in this district. If reelected, I will continue to promote careful consideration of different perspectives as issues are evaluated, as well as community understanding of all board decision-making.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: If reelected, I will commit to continuing the work that the board has begun as we have refocused our attention on students, teaching and learning. This will include a continued focus on the quality of education and fiscal responsibility; evaluation of issues with careful consideration of all perspectives and the applicable rules; promotion of community understanding and accountability; and continued development of our newly implemented strategic plan to promote long-term stability and advancement for all learners.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: We are all partners in our children's development. In Niskayuna, community input is paramount. We must continue to collaborate through the community forums, student forums, panel discussions, professional development and other

forms of multi-way communication we have established in order to arrive at thoughtful and fully developed policies and programs for all of our children.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: It has been an honor to serve on the Niskayuna School Board and I remain dedicated to our children and our community. Education is a deeply personal cause for me. My parents are Cuban immigrants, and I began school speaking on Spanish. Education has enabled me to live the American dream. I want every child to have that opportunity, and it is that—and the joy in community collaboration to make it happen—that inspires me onward. Please vote for me on May 16th. Thank you.



Yu (Jennifer) Zhao

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: Leadership Skills Impactful career as lead engineer at GE managing million \$ projects Co-founder and past president of GE we c...green - an environmental sustainability group at GE Global Research. Past president of the Young Professional Club of Chinese Community Center Passion for Education Cornell Alumni Admissions Interviewer for 10 years Educational Consultant at Usborne Books and More partnering with local organizations such as SICM, Schenectady Public Library, and Reading is Fun to provide books for kids in need Volunteer college admission essay coach BOCES substitute teacher for Capital Region schools Presenter at Hudson Mohawk Valley Area Mathematics Conference 2016 and 2017

Community Involvement: Niskayuna resident for over a decade Sunday School teacher and small group leader at Chinese Fellowship Bible Church Niskayuna Craig Elementary PTO Member, Homeroom Parent, and Learning Centers Helper Active Member of the Niskayuna

Moms Group

Education: Graduate of Cornell University (B.S. Material Science 2005) University of Michigan Ann Arbor (Masters of Engineering 2008) Mayfield High School, Cleveland OH (2001) Elementary and Middle School in Tucson, AZ

Campaign Email: jenniferzhaoschoolboard@gmail.com

Campaign Web Site: <http://zhaoforschoolboard.blogspot.com>

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 experienced a variety of educational styles and have developed unique skills that I believe would make me an asset to the board of education and the school community. Experiencing schools in urban China, multi-age cultural and economically diverse classrooms in Arizona, as well as suburban college-prep high school Cleveland gave me first hand experience in the pros and cons of various education styles. Bringing up my two boys have taught me the importance of tailoring teaching methods to learning styles of each child. Being an scientist at heart, I value evidence based techniques that have shown significant improvement student outcomes. In my career at GE was responsible for building a solar lab on budget and on schedule. This experience would be essential as the school district consider upcoming renovation projects. Having my finger on the pulse of rapid technology advancement, I'm in a position to inform our district curriculum to prepare kids for jobs of the 21st century.

Q: *How do you see the role of dialogue and openness in the process of Board of Education decision-making?*

A: I believe the Board of Education should be as open as possible with all stakeholders regarding decisions and the process of decision making. The Board should reflect the sentiments of the community and act with due diligence to make the best possible decisions to benefit the students and all members of the community. I would like to see more involvement from community members at board meetings including local leaders such as representatives from the Town of Niskayuna, non-profit groups, and the local library etc. I would also support making digital videos of board meetings available for the benefit of all community members to watch after the meeting. Other districts such as Bethlehem already does this, and I think with today's technology, there's no practical reason why videos of meetings can't be made available. Of course some conversations that involve confidential and privacy of individuals need to be kept private, but I believe all public dialogues should be as open as possible.

Q: *What do you want to achieve during your term if elected?*

A: I will work hard to address the issue of stress and substance abuse in our middle schools and high schools. N-cap does a survey of students every two years, I would like to see movement in the positive direction in the 2018 survey. Stress for students can come from many sources, family, friends, academics, sports etc. We can't solve all problems, but our schools should take the lead to address this pressing issue. We can focus on what we can do, such as provide education for parents, work with community organizations such as the Town, the library, and non-profits. Many schools have faced the same issues and have developed best practices from which we can learn from; we don't need to reinvent the wheel. I will also work with other board members to setup our district for success as our population grows and student body becomes more diverse. We will work on policies and strategic planning to ensure funds are spent responsibly while providing the best possible education for all students.

Q: *How can parents, teachers, administrators, and perhaps, students, work together to develop educational policies and programs?*

A: I'm encouraged to see that the district has established advisory committees involving parents, teachers, administrators, and community members to inform policies and programs. The IPAC focuses on curriculum vision, there is also the environment and culture committee, as well as the nutritional programs committee. I believe folks

are also working on forming one on technology and media. I'd like to see these newly formed committees continue to develop their expertise and influence. I would also like to see the Board and the superintendent take the recommendations from these advisory committees seriously and act on their recommendations. Similarly the student forum that meets monthly is an excellent venue for the voices of high school students to be heard. I would like to see more involvement in these committees from students as well as community members from diverse backgrounds. We should widely publish the discussions and findings of these committees to engage the community.

Q: *Do you have any additional comments?*

A: I always knew that Niskayuna was an excellent school district, and I am convinced of it throughout my campaign as I have talked to many community members. I want to serve this community by providing my expertise, consensus-building skills, and educational philosophy insights to make our schools even better. Our world is changing faster than ever, and our kids will have careers that don't exist yet, and face challenges that we can't even imagine. Our school district needs to learn and adapt and move forward in both curriculum content and method of delivery. We need to empower teachers collaborate and innovate, and give them the professional development opportunities they need to be at the cutting edge of their field. We also need to ensure that our environment is loving and accepting of all students regardless of background, race, or ability. Being a stay-at-home mom, I pledge that if elected, the board position will be my highest priority other than my family.

Schuylerville Library Trustees

Description:

The Schuylerville Public Library is holding elections for three seats on its Board of Trustees this year. The two candidates who receive the highest total number of votes cast in their favor shall each fill a three year term ending in 2020 and the candidate who receives the third-highest total number of votes cast in his/her favor shall fill the balance of a term ending in 2018 .

Candidates (choose 1):



Amy Carpenter

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: School Librarian 2006-present

Community Involvement: 2014-present, Member of the Board of Trustees for the Schuylerville Public Library (President 2016-present); 2010-present, member WSWHE BOCES School Library System Council (President 2011-present); 2010-present, member of the Eastern New York School Library Media Association; 2006-2014, President, Advocates for the Schuylerville Public Library; 2006-present, member of the New York Library Association

Education: Bachelor of Arts Degree in Anthropology; Master of Science in Library Science from SUNY Albany

Campaign Email: amycah@gmail.com

Questions:

Q: *What is your motivation for running for this office ? What special skills, knowledge, experience or training do you bring to this position?*

A: I am passionate about libraries. I have a degree in Information Science from the College of Computing and Information - University at Albany, and have been a practicing school librarian since 2006. I also hold certification to be a public librarian, though I've never actively pursued that role. While I am a life-long patron of the Schuylerville Public Library, for the past decade I've played an active role in supporting the library, first as an active member of the Board of the Advocates for the Schuylerville Public Library group and most recently on Board of the Trustees. I believe that libraries are and should be a vital part of our community and want to help ensure a strong, healthy library for our children and grandchildren. I'm committed to helping to keep our library moving forward.

Q: *Any additional information*

A: "Libraries are innately subversive institutions, born of the radical notion that every member of society deserves free, high-quality access to knowledge and culture." — Matt Finch



Kiersten DeLisle

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: Elementary Library Media Specialist for 14 years

Community Involvement: Served as Schuylerville Public Library interim board trustee 2016-2017

Education: Bachelor of Arts Degree with dual majors in History and French from Arizona State University and University of Grenoble, France; Master of Science in Library Science from SUNY, Albany

Campaign Email: kikidelisle322@me.com

Questions:

Q: *What is your motivation for running for this office ? What special skills, knowledge, experience or training do you bring to this position?*

A: As a mother and citizen of Schuylerville, I am committed to the well-being and success of this community and people who comprise it. I believe local libraries should be strongly integrated into the fabric of the community and to some extent the school district they serve in order to enable public access to life-long learning, technology and to encourage a forever love of reading.

Q: *Any additional information*

A: 'The public library, the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups.' (IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, 1994)

Stillwater Library Trustees

Description:

Nine Trustees serve on the Stillwater Library Board. There are three three year terms to be elected this year.

Candidates (choose 3):

Mary Herlt

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: 35 years of teaching at HVCC, with MS degree from Fordham University. 9 years on the Library Board of Trustees

Community Involvement: Currently on the Board of the Stillwater Public Library, serving on several Library committees. Active on various committees at All Saints on the Hudson church.

Education: Graduate Catholic Central High School, BA from Ladycliff College, MS Fordham University

Campaign Email: Glp449@yahoo.com

Questions:

Q: *What is your motivation for running for this office ? What special skills, knowledge, experience or training do you bring to this position?*

A: I feel the spirit of a town develops through the services and interactions of its citizens. Books, computers, wifi, and electronic media are only part of the Stillwater Public Library. Through book clubs, craft activities, story hours, summer reading program and tutoring, our quaint facility serves the needs of all age groups of our community. Having spent my career in education, I believe in "Life Long Learning". Our library is an ideal setting to foster this practice. Previous service as a Board Member has helped me understand what is involved in running a Library. Recently my Board colleagues and I have gone through the laborious task of changing our funding mechanism. With the support of the voters, we have been granted an increase in funds, a new charter, and are now a more democratic Board. I wish to be part of the Board who guides the future changes at the Stillwater Public Library to continue to serve the needs of our citizens

Q: *Any additional information*

A: Please vote on May 16, at the Stillwater Central School, from noon to 9 pm (along with the School Budget, and election of School Board Members).



Emily Nadler

Biographical Info:

Experience and Qualifications: One plus years running a small business out of my home requiring extensive computer skills, photography, accounting, team-building, salesmanship, and customer service. Ten plus years of customer-based retail and insurance experience requiring sophisticated problem-solving skills. Have organized fundraisers for community organizations.

Community Involvement: Stillwater Elementary PTA member, Friends of the Stillwater Library member

Education: Bachelors degree in Psychology from the College of Saint Rose; Masters degree in Criminal Justice from SUNY Albany.

Questions:

Q: *What is your motivation for running for this office ? What special skills, knowledge, experience or training do you bring to this position?*

A: The library is such a vital part of Stillwater, and serves as an invaluable resource to all residents. My family participates in many of the weekly programs offered, my husband and I are members of the Friends of the Library, and he runs a monthly drop-in drawing class right in the library. As a Board member, I would strive to help the library achieve its long-aspired goals. An expansion is necessary to accommodate the community's growth, as well as the ability to offer more programs, meeting space, and books of course! We need to foster awareness in Stillwater of everything that the library has to offer, and as a board member, I would work to accomplish this.

Meghan Stevens

A: - Candidate has not responded -

Linda Tracy

A: - Candidate has not responded -