

## 2016-2017 Board of Education Elections

The board of education is a uniquely American institution. It keeps the country's public schools flexible and responsive to the needs of their local communities. A member of a board of education in New York State takes on one of the most important responsibilities that can be assigned to any citizen: helping to plan the education of the community's youth (source: NYSSBA).

There are nine residents who serve, without pay, on the Wappingers Central School District's Board of Education. The Board of Education is the governing body of the school district. The Board is entrusted with the responsibility of developing policies under which the district is managed.

### Meet the candidates

On May 17, 2016 voters will have the opportunity to elect three (3) members to the Wappingers Central School District Board of Education from the following candidates (listed by ballot position). School board members serve a three-year term. Meet the candidates in person at **Meet the Candidates Night on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at Wappingers Junior High School at 7:00 P.M. sponsored by the PTA Council.**



#### Paul Galletta

I am a parent of two sons that are students in our school district. I graduated from Roy C. Ketcham in 1988. I enlisted in the military and served 5 years, active duty, in the U.S. Navy. I currently work as a Fire Captain in the Arlington Fire District where I have been employed for 21 years. I earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education/social studies from SUNY New Paltz in 2002.

When my oldest son started kindergarten at Myers Corners ten years ago, my wife and I joined the PTA and volunteered at many school events and met a great group of people. I decided to get involved at the District level and began attending Board

of Education meetings on a regular basis. Over the past several years, I have been a member of our school district's Strategic Planning Committee, District Advisory Facilities Committee, Audit Committee, and a school Safety Team. I was also a panelist at our District's Common Core Forum where I advocated for improved implementation of the Standards.

As a member of our Strategic Planning Committee, I participated in developing our core values, objectives, and mission statement. I saw, first hand, the professionalism and dedication of the team members over the entire first year as we worked to develop the foundation of our strategic plan. But a strategic plan is only words on paper if we do not have the vision and will to support it. My goal is to achieve our mission with the guidance of our strategic plan. I know that is easier said than done and it's an ongoing work in progress. We will always face difficult decisions and challenges, but I intend to work toward that goal by contributing to an environment of cooperation, understanding, and respect.



**Barbara Goodman**

I am a homeowner in the Village of Wappingers Falls and have taught high school Social Studies for 18 years for Newburgh School District. I am also a proud single parent of two children who are out of college and in careers, and step-mother to two Roy C. Ketcham graduates. I am running for the school board because as an experienced teacher I believe it's about time someone consulted teachers and parents about education.

We can maintain and even improve education without spending a great deal more money. We can start by improving communication between the board and

members of the school community – the taxpayers, teachers, district employees and parents who together make education happen.

We should use the expertise of our teachers in making education decisions, because they are far more knowledgeable about our kids and our classrooms than outside

“experts.” We could appoint a board liaison to our teaching staff and hold forums for teachers, administrators, and school-related-professionals to speak directly to the board about issues they face. The district benefits from their experience and expertise. Our children will benefit from their input.

Maintaining school quality in order to protect the value of our homes in a challenging real estate market is smart. Investing in our children and our community now and for the future is more than smart – it’s wise. I want to play a part in that. I hope you’ll join me.

As a teacher, I know what works in classrooms. I have experience in successful grant writing, designing and teaching courses for teachers, school budget review, and communicating with parents, teachers, and administrators.

Residents, taxpayers, and parents can be proud of their support for Wappingers students. I’m running for the school board because that’s where the focus of education belongs.



**Eddy A Sloshower**

My wife and I have lived in East Fishkill for the past 13 years and our daughter is in fifth grade at Fishkill Plains Elementary School. I am currently an independent insurance broker and a small business consultant. Before this, I spent over 25 years in the real estate, finance and mortgage industries working as an Area

Sales Manager for such companies as AIG International and Bank of America. I was also elected six years in a row as Vice President/Treasurer for a Coop Complex in Westchester County. During my tenure, I was instrumental in revitalizing an almost bankrupt complex to one that was financially thriving. As a result of my time with the complex, I am very familiar with capital improvement projects and how to best utilize funding.

For the past three years, I have attended 95% of all school board meetings. I am a member of the District Audit Committee, Smart Schools Bond Act Committee, District Strategic Planning Committee, Capital Improvement Committee—community participant and District Policy Committee—community attendee.

I am an active member of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce. I have established relationships with community based organizations, local politicians and local government.

My wife has been a teacher and educator for over 25 years and a quality education is extremely important to my family. I want to ensure that our district maintains the highest of educational standards for all students while remaining within budgetary constraints. I want to make sure that our teachers and other district employees have access to the very best resources needed to successfully do their jobs. I support our teachers as professionals and want to move decision making back into the individual classrooms. Academics is only one part of a child's education; extracurricular activities help develop well rounded students and I will work to protect and maintain full scale extra curricular activities in sports, music, drama and the arts. Only working together can we guarantee the best education for our children.

As a self employed taxpayer, I am acutely aware of the need to be fiscally responsible. I want to spearhead the effort to restore financial accountability to this district. I will address current and future school tax burdens as a result of unfunded mandates and will make certain there is improved communication between the WCSD Board of Education and the district which it represents. I look forward to serving this community and hope you will support me on May 17<sup>th</sup>.



### **Roisin Druta**

I have lived in Wappingers Falls for most of my life. Both of my parents formerly worked for the district and were union members for their respective positions. I am a graduate of Roy C. Ketcham Senior High School. After earning a Bachelor's degree at Eastern Nazarene College, I lived in Romania as a volunteer missionary. I worked with youth and their families, while also providing other volunteer aid and social work services in the town I resided in. Upon my return to the United States, I went on to earn a Master's of Social Work from Roberts Wesleyan College.

For the last nine years, I've worked as a Behavioral Intervention Specialist, specifically working with adults with Intellectual Disabilities and various psychiatric diagnoses. I earned my NYS licensure in February 2015. In my free time, I volunteer at the Veteran's Miracle Center in Albany. I also work with other grassroots organizations primarily focusing on constitutional rights.

If elected as a board trustee of the Wappingers Central School District, I'd like to assist with maintaining fiscal responsibility by way of reducing or eliminating unfunded mandates and working with the community on their tax money is spent, assist in applying research-based and tested education reform and remove Common Core with the high-stakes testing and APPR rating system. In doing so, our teachers will be able to better utilize their education and training to instruct our children in sound and developmentally appropriate curriculum. Finally, I'd like to help create a more transparent environment for community members, parents, and teachers in working closely with their school board.



### **Stacey Rogan**

Stacey Rogan has been a resident of Wappingers Central School District (WCSD) since 2000. She lives in Wappingers with her husband and three children, all of whom attended or attend WCSD schools. Stacey attended WCC in Valhalla, and Fairleigh Dickinson University with a concentration in Business Administration, Marketing. Stacey is founder of Moxee Social, a social media agency. Her experience includes sales, administration, real estate, and healthcare. Stacey prides herself on sound business decisions and strong

ethics. Family is Stacey's priority. Time is spent with her children watching football; watching RCK cheer capturing the national title. She's been a coach, a Girl Scout leader, a PTA President, PTA Council Rep; as well as a classroom mom. The wellbeing of the students should be the unquestioned focus of the BoE. But that has not been the case over the last several years. Schools should pursue innovative strategies, but also preserve programs with a winning history. A challenging and safe environment is expected. The Board of Education should demand that our schools be nimble and quick to respond to the learning needs of all children; and direct all administrators to make

that effort a priority. Lately, the performance of this Board has become disturbing. They are dismissive of parents and disrespectful of those who voice legitimate concerns. The BoE should never be the antagonist. We need to replenish the good will between the BoE and the community. We need responsive administrators as well. And most of all, we need a commitment from every adult, parent, teacher, administrator and Board member; that children come first. Our children live here in favored circumstances. We are fortunate to have these wonderful schools and committed teachers. But we must remain attentive to the details. Our schools must sail straight and true into the important years ahead.