

Peggy Kelland

I was elected to the Wappingers School Board in 2014, and for the past two years have served as its president, participating in all Board committees and many school events. My aim has been to increase clear two-way communication and cooperative efforts both within the Board and between the Board and the community.

In this I have used my 35 years experience on non-profit and public boards, including AAUW Poughkeepsie (President), Dutchess Interfaith Council (President), League of Women Voters (President), Junior League of Poughkeepsie (Vice-President), Dutchess Child Care Council (Vice-Chair), Mid-Hudson Institute (Vice-President), Zion Episcopal Church, Town of Poughkeepsie Zoning Board, and Dutchess County Planning Federation.

Our son and daughter attended Oak Grove, Myers, Kinry, WJH, and RCK, and we currently have a grandson at Oak Grove. I was a PTA room mother for 9 years and a parent representative on the Site Leadership Team at RCK. I also served as a Girl Scout and Cub Scout Leader, and am Director of a nondenominational Vacation Bible School in Wappingers Falls.

This experience as a parent and volunteer complements my professional background as an educator. I earned my bachelor's degree from Smith College and my master's from Teachers College, Columbia University. After training teachers as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras, I taught high school social studies, elementary school, reading improvement, and math remediation. As a full time teacher, long term and per diem substitute in all Wappingers school buildings, I am aware of the needs of students of all abilities and grade levels, including the importance of art, music, and athletics.

In the past three years we have reduced overcrowding and class sizes, restored many extracurricular activities and field trips, and improved our facilities, while keeping down administrative costs and staying within the tax cap.