

**League of Women Voters® of New Castle  
2021 Voters Guide for the  
Chappaqua Central School District Board of Education  
and Chappaqua Library Board**

*Note: The candidates themselves supply candidate information in this Voters Guide. The League takes no responsibility for the content or accuracy of the responses. School Board and Library Board responsibilities are included at the end of this Voters Guide.*

**Chappaqua Central School District Board of Education**

One seat up for election

**Term:** 3 years; volunteer position

**Election:** Vote in-person on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Horace Greeley High School gym, or vote by Absentee Ballot – Ballot due by 5:00 p.m. on May 18, 2021

**Candidates** (in ballot order): Ellen Exum and Cailee Hwang

**Ellen Exum**

**Cailee Hwang**

**Current School Board position, if applicable:**  
N/A

**Current School Board position, if applicable:**  
N/A

**Education:**  
Bachelor of Arts, Business Economics, Albertus Magnus College

**Education:**  
M.A. Literacy Specialist, Teachers College, Columbia University  
B.S. Elementary Education PreK-6 with Math/Science concentration, Nyack College

**Residence: (town only and for how long)**  
Chappaqua since 2009

**Residence: (town only and for how long)**  
New Castle, Chappaqua resident since 2013

**Occupation:**  
Vice President, Total Rewards, Executive Compensation & Corporate/Home Office Reward at Walmart

**Occupation:**  
Teacher-Literacy Specialist, Staff Developer

**Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:**

- Co-authored and published “Multi-Variant Study on the Impact of Wellness” program with the Rand Corporation
- World Economic Forum (WEF) Workplace Wellness Board member, representing PepsiCo
- Former NBGH Global Health Benefits & Institute Board Member

**Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:**  
PTA committee chair- Kindergarten book pack, Publishing  
Chappaqua School Foundation (CSF) Board of Directors  
First Responder for Chappaqua Volunteer Ambulance Corps. (CVAC)  
Member, CCSD Advisory Committee on Anti-racism, Equity, & Social Justice  
Volunteer Parent Workshop speaker on Literacy for various school districts

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former Women’s Economic Development Council (WEDC) Advisory Council Member</li> </ul>	<p>Member, Chappaqua Garden Club Member, League of Women Voters (LWV)</p>
<p><b>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the School Board?</b></p> <p>I bring over 25 years experience gained in the trenches of HR Strategy, Global Wellness and Communications. I’ve been recognized for financial acumen, communication, negotiation, innovation, digitalization and culture building skills. I actively managed billions in IBM’s global budget, leading benefits and health design &amp; strategy. Developed PepsiCo’s strategic health, wellness and lifestyle risks worldwide. I understand the importance of quantifiable data, performance metrics, &amp; innovative sourcing strategies. Most importantly, I am a mother of 3 children with completely different needs across 3 schools - a 7Bridges middle-schooler, Westorhard elementary student, and a multiple disabled special needs son out-of-district.</p>	<p><b>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the School Board?</b></p> <p>I am an educator and teacher by training but my desire for pursuing excellence in education is a passion that comes from deep within. My confidence is in my experiences as a teacher, mother of 3, wife, sister, friend, neighbor, and community member. The many walks of life I have taken and the multiple hats I don each day will enable me to be an effective school board trustee. A board member who is mindful, who actively listens, and communicates clearly with integrity. Your neighbor, in partnership with you because it truly does take a village.</p>
<p><b>2. Why do you want to serve/continue to serve on the School Board? Please include what you consider is/are the main issue(s) currently facing Chappaqua schools and how you would address it (them).</b></p> <p>My purpose is to support students, serve our community and add a new voice to the board. The main 3 issues are: health &amp; well-being, equity, and progress. I would build solutions addressing emotional stress students may have experienced from social unrest, social distancing and pandemic-related curriculum changes. Second, we need to build trust &amp; partnership with ALL district families, administration, and staff with transparency, equity &amp; inclusion. With my background, I can help deliver fiscal responsibility to residents with-or-without kids in the district. Ultimately, our community/schools will be a premier model that nurtures well-rounded children and desirable property values.</p>	<p><b>2. Why do you want to serve/continue to serve on the School Board? Please include what you consider is/are the main issue(s) currently facing Chappaqua schools and how you would address it (them).</b></p> <p>My commitment to serve as a public servant is to listen, represent, and collaborate. To be the bridge of communication to the community. I am dedicated to represent the layers of diversity in our students and families across the district. We all chose to be here and stay here because we care and recognize the importance of great education. We aspire for knowledge and creativity; we seek independent thinking as we persevere with hope and grit to be life-long learners. I’m devoted to be attentive and thoughtful; a sagacious citizen to the tasks at hand and our future endeavors.</p>

## Chappaqua Library Board

One seat up for election

**Term:** 5 years; volunteer position

**Election:** Vote in-person on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Horace Greeley High School gym, or vote by Absentee Ballot – Ballot due by 5:00 p.m. on May 18, 2021

**Candidates** (in ballot order): Shohreh Anand\* and Karin Sobeck

\*Shohreh Anand is an incumbent. Her submission reflects her individual views and not the views of the Chappaqua Library or the Chappaqua Library Board.

### Shohreh Anand

**Current Library Board position, if applicable:**  
Member-at-Large, appointed January 2021 to fill a vacancy on the Board

**Education:**

- Ed.D. in Adult Learning & Organizational Leadership, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.
- Master of Science in Computer Science, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina.
- Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science, New York University, New York.

**Residence: (town only and for how long)**  
Chappaqua, 21 years

**Occupation:**  
Semi-retired; contribute as an Associate at Inceptary, a healthcare and education non-profit startup

**Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:**  
New Castle Council on Race and Equity (CRE)-  
Education Taskforce: Library Subgroup  
Girl Scouts of Heart of Hudson  
Chappaqua Girl Scouts  
Chappaqua PTA  
New Castle Baha'i Community

### Karin Sobeck

**Current Library Board position, if applicable:**  
N/A

**Education:**

University of Colorado

- BS degree in Nursing
- Master of Science Degree in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing

Columbia University

- Master of Science Degree in Bioethics (Medical Ethics)

**Residence: (town only and for how long)**  
Chappaqua, 5 years

**Occupation:**  
Associate Faculty, Columbia University, School of Professional Studies, Graduate School in Master of Bioethics Program

**Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:**

- 1976 –1979 - Established the third Hospice program in the United States in Boulder, Colorado. Director of Nursing for all volunteer RN corps
- 1978 – 1985 – Chairperson and Secretary of the *National Hospice Organization*
- 2007 – present – Trained as a Member of the *NYC Medical Reserve Corps*
- 2016 –2019 - Faculty for *Harlem Clemente* – a program for college education credit for socially and economically disadvantaged adults with Bard College
- 2018 – Medical Panel Member for *NYC Department of Justice for the Surrogate*

	<p><i>Decision-Making Committee (SDMC)</i> – a program for developmentally disabled adults without surrogates to make medical decisions for their health care and/or end of life decision making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2019 – present – Faculty Facilitator – Albert Einstein Medical School – teaching medical ethics to first and second year medical students</li> <li>• 2019 – present - Trained as a Member of the <i>Westchester Medical Reserve Corps</i></li> <li>• 2019 – present – Member of Columbia University Medical Center Ethics Committee</li> <li>• 2020 – Faculty Advisor for <i>The Completed Life Initiative</i> – a foundation that promotes better understanding of end of life choices</li> </ul>
<p><b>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the Library Board?</b></p> <p>Having served on the Board for the last four months, I believe a trustee requires strong critical thinking, analytic, and decision-making skills to discharge their fiduciary responsibility to taxpayers. Additionally, it is imperative to have a broad understanding of technology and envision a greater role for the library in the life-long learning of adults and development of children and teens. Importantly, a trustee should be able to collaborate with and incorporate input from the library director, staff and community stakeholders. With my knowledge and experience in adult education, organizational learning, technology, and community engagement, I have demonstrated these skills.</p>	<p><b>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the Library Board?</b></p> <p>I have a long history of volunteer service while maintaining full time employment and raising two children. Organizational skills and problem solving have been critical in all facets of my career/volunteer activities. I was responsible for oversight of converting an unoccupied building into a licensed dialysis clinic, including structural design, development of procedure manuals for efficient dialysis treatments of 100+ patients and 35 staff, approval of budgets during the construction phase, training a multidisciplinary team, and assuring that patients were treated with compassionate care givers. My board responsibilities included working with multiple constituencies and obtaining federal funding for Hospice coverage.</p>
<p><b>2. Why do you want to serve on the Library Board? Please include what you consider is/are the main issue(s) currently facing the Library and how you would address it (them).</b></p> <p>As a parent, I witnessed the impact libraries can exert on children and teens. As an adult educator, I am keenly aware that life-long learning is crucial for personal development, career advancement, and maintaining mental health. As a minority, I value inclusivity and diversity in the library's collections and programming. By continuing to serve on the</p>	<p><b>2. Why do you want to serve on the Library Board? Please include what you consider is/are the main issue(s) currently facing the Library and how you would address it (them).</b></p> <p>I am passionate about libraries! My desire, “after the pandemic”, is to return to the peaceful setting of our library with a comfortable chair, good lighting and desk space to create publications, review graduate papers, and escape from the noise of the outside world. The small-town library of my youth is an inspiration. The main issue facing the Library</p>

Board, I want to strengthen the role of the Library in building an all-embracing community. I will advocate for content diversity and applying technology thoughtfully to improve accessibility with the goal of promoting our library as a space for meaningful community engagement and learning.

Board is completion of the construction project in a fiscally responsible way. My hope is to offer a library for adults and children that all members of the Chappaqua community will find inviting, inclusionary and invigorating, including robust and informative programs.

## School Board and Library Board Responsibilities

### School Board

#### Role of the Board

The Board of Education of the Chappaqua Central School District is legally responsible for the education of children residing in the District and the operation of the District's public schools and facilities. The Board shall establish policies and practices that ensure a high-quality education for every student and proper governance of all aspects of District operations. The Board shall exercise oversight of and responsibility for the effective financial management, control and reporting. The Board shall seek to interpret community need and formulate short- and long-range plans to meet such need. The Board shall be responsible for presenting to the community a proposed annual operating budget, bond proposals and other matters that require public vote.

The Board shall evaluate the performance and progress of the District versus identified goals and objectives. The Board shall prepare an annual written performance evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools. It shall also evaluate its own performance and progress as a Board.

The Board shall observe all federal, state and local laws and regulations pertaining to education and public agencies.

*From <https://www.ccsd.ws/board-of-ed/policies-and-regulations/policies-and-regulations-2000-governance/policy-2000-board-of-education-principles-and-organization>*

### Library Board

#### Responsibilities of a Board Member

The responsibilities of trustees are few in number but broad in scope. They are:

- Create and develop the mission of the library;
- Regularly plan and evaluate the library's service program based on community needs;
- Select, hire and regularly evaluate a qualified library director;
- Secure adequate funding for the library's service program;
- Exercise fiduciary responsibility for the use of public and private funds;
- Adopt policies and rules regarding library governance and use;
- Maintain a facility that meets the library's and community's needs;
- Promote the library in the local community and in society in general;
- Conduct the business of the library in an open and ethical manner in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and with respect for the institution, staff and public.

*From HANDBOOK FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES OF NEW YORK STATE, 2018 Edition*