

League of Women Voters® of New Castle
2021 Voters Guide for the
Ossining Union Free School District Board of Education
and 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.

Ossining Union Free School District Board of Education

Two seats 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 Ossining High School gym, or vote by Absentee Ballot – Ballot due by 5:00 p.m. on May 18, 2021

Candidates (in ballot order): Christine Mangiamiele, Roger Battacharia, Juanda Dabbs, Myrna Forney, and Katherin Crossling

*Katherin Crossling is an incumbent. Her submission reflects her individual views and not the views of the Ossining School District or School Board.

Christine Mangiamiele	Roger Battacharia	Juanda Dabbs
<p>Current School Board position, if applicable: N/A</p> <p>Education: Bachelors: Music Education & Applied Percussion (SUNY Fredonia, 2007) Masters: Humanistic & Multicultural Education (SUNY New Paltz, 2010)</p> <p>Residence: (town only and for how long) 14-year Ossining Village resident</p> <p>Occupation: Teacher</p>	<p>Current School Board position, if applicable: N/A</p> <p>Education: MBA, Entrepreneurship, Babson College, FW Olin School of Business BS, Accounting, New York University, Stern School of Business</p> <p>Residence: (town only and for how long) Town of Ossining, 14 year resident</p> <p>Occupation: Director – Strategic Sourcing and Procurement at Regeneron</p>	<p>Current School Board position, if applicable: N/A</p> <p>Education: I am an OHS graduate of 2003. I then went to further my educational career at Monroe College and Berkeley College.</p> <p>Residence: (town only and for how long) I have been a resident of Ossining for 36 years</p> <p>Occupation: MRI Technologist Aide</p>

<p>Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Made and distributed masks during pandemic -Volunteer for PTA (class parent, event help) -Ossining for Fair Funding Advocate -Parent board member at Circle School -Fundraising organizer at Circle School - Website manager at Circle School 	<p>Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer tutor for underprivileged children in the East Ramapo school district. I tutored over 35 children (ages 7 – 16) in math, reading, writing and science since 1990 • Donated over 15,000 masks to various organizations in underserved communities throughout Westchester, Rockland and Fairfield county • Sourced free computers for Ossining Padres Hispanos and personally donated new printer • Local small business mentor providing free marketing services including creation of promotional videos, web and social/digital marketing • Founder, Clarkstown South Memorial Scholarship since 2014 • Volunteer Head Coach AYSO since 2015 • Midnight Run - Volunteer • Feeding Westchester - Volunteer • Gullotta House - Volunteer • Stash the Trash - Volunteer 	<p>Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:</p> <p>I'm a dedicated member of the Juneteenth Council in Ossining, New York. I've volunteered locally and internationally with a tribal based organization that engaged me in work that was centered around the goal of improving conditions and life quality for people in Senegal and Nigeria. The organization gives back to the children and elders in the Babalawo.</p>
<p>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the School Board?</p> <p>There are currently no educators serving on the school board, and I am the only teacher candidate. I am certified to teach k-12 music and have worked extensively with k-8th grade students, including a year at our own Anne M. Dorner Middle School. Filtering the school</p>	<p>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the School Board?</p> <p>I bring over 25 years of business experience in marketing, financial management and analytics. I have been in leadership roles managing large teams. Being a leader, to me, means actively listening, learning and managing others to create win-win solutions. I am</p>	<p>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the School Board?</p> <p>As someone who is invested in this community, I work in an industry that is cutting edge, always looking for ways to evolve, and had to figure out unknowns, in an effort to save lives during the pandemic. This is the kind of energy that is needed for the Ossining school</p>

<p>district's educational initiatives and spending through the eyes of a teacher is an important way to ensure that our district's programs make sense from the perspective within the classroom. As a parent of a four and six year old, I am personally invested in the long-term health of our district.</p>	<p>a volunteer tutor for children in underserved communities. The children I tutored were struggling in subjects like reading, writing, math and science. These children have excelled through tutoring and mentoring. Additionally, I've invested monetary resources to ensure that these children have the tools (books/computers) to succeed. These experiences combined makes me an effective member of the school board.</p>	<p>district. I want to bring light to issues that I've seen from afar, and strategize collaboratively with the board of education trustees, to ensure that our school system evolves and serves the needs of students who are entering a world that has been re-shaped and re-formed by COVID-19.</p>
<p>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 Ossining schools and how you would address it (them).</p> <p>Serving on the board is the perfect marriage of my desire to contribute to my community and my skill set. Our main challenges continue to be closing the achievement gap and maintaining adequate learning spaces. I support the further expansion of o-prime, increased after school opportunities for homework help and extracurricular activities. I do not pretend to have all of the solutions, but I promise I will always do my homework by reaching out to the people with expertise, valuing the experiences of those closest to the challenges, and considering the needs of each student.</p>	<p>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 Ossining schools and how you would address it (them).</p> <p>The pandemic has created over a year of lost learning time for our children. We must bridge the learning gap for those children who have been adversely impacted. We should harness the summer months and after school hours to develop programming to bridge the learning gaps for all of those children who were affected. With increased foundation aid, we should explore ways to augment learning opportunities. This includes equity in education and programming. As a school district, we should partner with local businesses, nonprofits and vocational education to create equitable learning opportunities beginning in middle school up through high school.</p>	<p>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 Ossining schools and how you would address it (them).</p> <p>I want to serve on the Board Of Education as a Frontline worker. I intend to participate in the building of bridges in order to maximize parent engagement by utilizing all of the new found technological tools that were created during the pandemic. I will push to leverage technology to consistently invite parents into schools for parent teacher conferences, back to school night, and award recognitions.</p>

Myrna Forney	Katherin Crossling
<p>Current School Board position, if applicable: N/A</p> <p>Education: Vanderbilt University Law School, J.D. Owen Graduate School of Management, MBA, Finance Adrian College, B.B.A. Accounting and Finance with minor in Spanish</p> <p>Residence: (town only and for how long) Ossining, 24 years</p> <p>Occupation: Attorney</p> <p>Prior Civic and Volunteer Service: Westchester Children Association, Board Member 14 years Student Advocacy, Volunteer Educational Advocate OHS PTSA, Board member 6 years AMD, Roosevelt, Claremont Brookside & Park School PTA Member OPACC, Past President, Member Ossining Booster Club, Past Member Westchester County Youth Bureau, Past Board Member Mediation Center of CLUSTER, Volunteer Mediator</p>	<p>Current School Board position, if applicable: I was elected in 2018 and I am completing my first term on the Ossining School Board. I serve on the Facilities, Policy, Advocacy, Social Emotional Learning, Grievance and Teacher Center Policy Institute committees and as liaison to the PTA</p> <p>Education: I am a product of Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia. I have a B.A. in Psychology and Criminal Sociology from Duke University and a law degree from Tulane University. I am also a certified therapy dog handler.</p> <p>Residence: (town only and for how long) I have resided in the Ossining School District for thirteen years. I lived in the Village of Ossining for seven years before moving to the Town of Yorktown in an area zoned for Ossining Schools in 2015. I have three boys ages 10, 8 and 3.</p> <p>Occupation: I am a lawyer at a litigation firm Heidell, Pittoni, Murphy & Bach, LLP where I serve as outside legal counsel to tri-state area hospitals, tertiary care centers and medical networks</p> <p>Prior Civic and Volunteer Service: During law school I volunteered with the criminal law clinic to provide pro bono legal defense to indigent defendants. I also interned at the Vera Institute of Justice in New York City. After law school, I served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx for six years. During that time I conducted long term investigations into organized crime with a focus on human trafficking of at-risk high school teenagers in an attempt to expose the criminal enterprises that took advantage of them. I worked with the Hunts Point Alliance for Children to understand many of the social issues facing the community. I also prosecuted violent crimes including some, unfortunately, that took place within the schools.</p> <p>Part of my duties also included coordinating with the NYC Department of Education to handle incidents of staff misconduct that rose the level of</p>

	<p>criminality and working with the Internal Affairs Bureau at NYPD to prosecute cases of police misconduct and brutality.</p> <p>In 2015 I founded the Ossining chapter of Destination Imagination, an internationally recognized STEAM enrichment program that fosters team competition through project based learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. I have coordinated the program for the past six years and it has enriched more than 250 students grades Kindergarten through 8th. I founded an Educational Non-Profit in 2018 called Ossining DI Boosters to provide need-based scholarships to students interested in the program and to help raise funds for post-season competition expenses for all participants.</p> <p>I taught Saturday Academy STEAM workshops open to students grades 3-8 during the 2019-2020 school year. I am co-chair of the New York Destination Imagination committee on diversity, equity and inclusion.</p> <p>I am a licensed therapy dog handler and volunteered at Bethel Nursing Home and Sunshine Children's Home.</p> <p>I have collaborated with Ossining for Fair Funding for four years to help coordinate advocacy and raise awareness of the State's school funding inequities and the impact on Ossining schools.</p>
<p>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the School Board?</p> <p>My experience as an engaged parent (Class Parent, PTA Board Member, committee member) and community member has made me aware of when to listen and when to ask questions to elicit a true understanding of community desires. As an education and employment law attorney and mediator I have developed my ability to listen, interpret and reflect information back to enable effective communication. As a Board member, I will combine my skills and experience to actively advocate for providing our children with a superior public education while working with the administration and teachers to do so in a fiscally responsible manner.</p>	<p>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the School Board?</p> <p>As a current BOE trustee I have spent the past three years devoted to Board service building up a wealth of knowledge and practical experience. I rely on my analytical training and background as an attorney to navigate challenging issues. I am not afraid to ask tough questions or voice concerns in a professional way. My experience in managing coordination of government agencies to achieve a common goal as well as in assessing and analyzing risk make me uniquely qualified. My driving force is the well-being of families and students in our community and ensuring that all viewpoints are heard.</p>

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 Ossining schools and how you would address it (them).

My service on the Board would be as an advocate for the rights of All children and to ensure they have access to growth provoking and life forwarding education supporting the development of their minds through critical thinking. To provide this access we must provide the professionals in our schools ubiquitous and systemic supports to ensure innovative changes that create in each child the ability to master new skills and develop new ideas. I think Ossining faces the challenge of ensuring that its commitment to equity and culturally responsive education becomes integral to the instruction.

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 Ossining schools and how you would address it (them).

When I ran in 2018, I wanted to ensure kids had the best public education possible, never imagining the board would make decisions about how to operate schools under threat from a deadly virus. I have been engaged fully in pandemic crisis planning and have a critical understanding of the challenges Ossining faces as it strives to fully re-open, the most immediately pressing issue. Recently, our state funding changed significantly. As part of the advocacy leading to the change, I want to ensure the funding appropriately addresses the needs of our students balanced against necessary tax relief to the community.

Ossining Library Board

Two seats 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 Ossining High School gym, or vote by Absentee Ballot – Ballot due by 5:00 p.m. on May 18, 2021

Candidates (in ballot order): Alice Joselow* and Shandi Speller*

*Alice Joselow and Shandi Speller are incumbents. Their submissions reflect their individual views and not the views of the Ossining Library or the Library Board.

Alice Joselow	Shandi Speller
<p>Current Library Board position, if applicable: Vice President</p> <p>Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colgate University BS in Physical Science 1980 • Columbia University MS in Metallurgy 1984 <p>Residence: (town only and for how long) Ossining resident for 30 years</p> <p>Occupation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employed by the Open Door Family Medical Center in the Behavioral Health Department • Community Programs Coordinator and the Coordinator of Ossining Communities That Care (OCTC) <p>Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Ossining Public Library Board of Trustee member since 2012 • President 2014-2017: Vice President 2018-2021 • Elected Ossining Board of Education member 1999-2011 • Founding member of Ossining MATTERS Education Foundation • Founding member of Ossining Communities That Care • Ossining Food Pantry Vice President 1999-2007 • PTA Council President 1997-1999 	<p>Current Library Board position, if applicable: Ossining Public Library Board Trustee</p> <p>Education: BA, MS Ed, SBL, Certified Family Support Advocate</p> <p>Residence: (town only and for how long) Ossining, 25+</p> <p>Occupation: Family Support Advocate</p> <p>Prior Civic and Volunteer Service: Ossining School Board, 1998-2007 Greenburgh Eleven School Board, 2007-2010 Children's Village Board, 2007-2010</p>
<p>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the Library Board? Through my involvement in Ossining over the past 20 years, I have partnered with many community</p>	<p>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the Library Board? My previous board and leadership experiences around education/community issues will continue to</p>

<p>organizations. The Library is at the heart of our community as it serves everyone from babies to our most senior residents. I was elected to the board in 2012 and I am currently serving as the Vice President. Over the years I have worked hard on the board to bring in fiscally responsible budgets, support our outstanding staff, build collaborations across the community, assist in the writing of several successful grants, as well as to search and hire a new Director.</p>	<p>support my effectiveness as a member of the library board.</p>
<p>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).</p> <p>The Covid-19 crisis has challenged us as an organization to adapt to providing services remotely. Our staff all worked together to create many new programs that have demonstrated that the OPL can have an effective remote presence as well as being in person. We are currently in the process of created a new Long-Range-Plan (LRP) with a focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and I am eager to stay on the board as the new LRP is developed. I also want to continue working on resolving the infrastructure challenges as well as to continue to build strong community partnerships.</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>The library board is currently working on completing a strategic plan, which I would like to continue to serve on the library board to offer my unique perspective on doing that work.</p>

Ossining School Board and Library Board Responsibilities

School Board

Role of the Board

The Board of Education, as a legally constituted body of elected representatives, bears the responsibility of setting policy for the school district. The Board acts in accordance with authority and responsibility vested in it by federal and state laws, rules, and regulations on behalf of the district citizens.

In order to ensure that its educational programs provide all students with a high-quality education, the Board hereby establishes as its goals:

1. To provide leadership in order that goals and objectives of the district, as set forth by the Board, can be effectively carried out. Board action should be confined to policy-making, planning and appraisal with the Board delegating authority to the Superintendent of Schools for the implementation of policies;
2. To employ a Superintendent capable of ensuring that the district maintains its position as an outstanding school system, and that school personnel carry out the policies of the Board with energy and dedication;
3. To identify the educational facilities and technology needs of the community and industry, and to transform such needs into programs aimed at stimulating students and preparing them for future careers;
4. To work closely with the community to ensure that Board actions and performance take into consideration the concerns and aspirations of the community; and
5. To evaluate the Board's performance in relation to these goals, and to establish and clarify policies based upon the results of such evaluation.

From: <https://boardpolicyonline.com/?b=ossining>

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