



**2024 Voters Guide for the
Chappaqua Central School District Board of Education
and Chappaqua Library Board of Trustees Election**

**Tuesday, May 21 from 7 am to 9 pm,
Horace Greeley High School Gymnasium**

For information on voter eligibility, early mail and absentee ballots, visit the [LWVNC website page](#) dedicated to this election

Responsibilities of Office

School 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: [Policy 2000: Board of Education – Principles and Organization - Chappaqua Central School District](#)

Library Board

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of a New York State Public Library. According to the NYS Education Department, library trustees play a keenly important role in shepherding the dedicated and prudent use of library resources. Always striving to provide the best service which benefits and supports the entire community, trustees must make policy, personnel and fiscal decisions crucial to a positive direction for the library. While delegating the day-to-day activities to competent staff, the library trustees must always be mindful of how their decisions impact the lives of people and the future of their community. As public officers, library trustees carry an essential and vital set of fiduciary and legal responsibilities. (<https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/trustees/>)

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,
<https://nyslibrary.libguides.com/Handbook-Library-Trustees/duties-responsibilities>

Chappaqua Central School District Board of Education Candidates

One seat up for election; 3-year term; volunteer position
Top vote getter will take the seat upon the expiration of the current terms on June 30, 2024

Note: Candidates are presented below in the order in which they will appear on the ballot. The candidates themselves supply their personal information; the League is not responsible for the content or accuracy of the responses.

Candidate: Cailee Hwang

Background

Residence: (town only and for how long)

I have been a Chappaqua, New Castle resident for 11 years. 2013-present.

Occupation:

Literacy Specialist

Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:

Three-year Chappaqua School Board Trustee, 2021-present, One-year Chappaqua School Board Vice President, 2023-present, CCSD Board liaison to: Facilities Committee, Health & Safety Committee, Sports Boosters, Horace Greeley Scholarship Fund, Policy Committee, Chappaqua Volunteer Ambulance Corps (CVAC), Chappaqua School Foundation (CSF) Board of Directors, PTA member & committee chair for Publishing & Kindergarten Book pack, member of Chappaqua Garden Club, member, League of Women Voters (LWV)

Question 1: Why do you want to serve on the school board?

As a longtime educator, pursuing excellence in education has been my passion throughout my career. During my tenure on the Board of Education, I have served the community while keeping the well-being of every student at the forefront of the decisions we make each day. I will continue to build bridges within the community by considering the perspectives of students and families across the district. I hope to continue to serve the community by listening, collaborating and representing. We all choose to live here because we deeply value a high quality education. I know my experience will be valuable as we rise to meet our goals and challenges in the years ahead.

Question 2: What do you think are the main issues facing the Chappaqua Schools

Our triumphs and struggles are entangled with the world around us. School leaders and students navigate not only academic pressures but also the complexities of mental health issues, security concerns, and a pervasive sense of competition.

Many students face societal expectations due to the constant barrage of social media.

Finding a balance between academic achievement and mental wellness is crucial for schools and critical for all our students. We must foster a sense of purposeful connection for our entire school community while ensuring physical and emotional safety and providing support for our students and teachers to thrive.

Question 3: What about your experiences and skills listed above will make you an effective member of the school or library board?

Over the past three years on the school board I have worked hard to build new relationships and strengthen existing relationships across the community. I was able to do that by taking the time to listen deeply to a diverse range of perspectives. I've engaged with our community, collaborated with our administration, and worked hard to set policies that support the needs of every student in our district. I will continue to think deeply about what is working and what is in need of change by having open and honest conversations. I am passionate about serving on the Board of Education and excited to continue my successful partnership with our community and serving our students.

Candidate: Kimberly Carey

Background

Residence: (town only and for how long)

Chappaqua/New Castle; since 12/1993

Occupation:

Attorney

Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:

Member, Greenburgh-North Castle Board of Ed (Special Act School District); Church Counsel for First Congregational Church ("FCC"); Town of New Castle Cmte on Race, Equity and Inclusion ("CREI"); Police Reform Committee; CRE; Co-Chair Christian Ed and Sunday School teacher at FCC; school volunteer; co-chair Bus Safety Cmte (Grafflin)

Question 1: Why do you want to serve on the school board?

The education of my children has always been incredibly important to me, like all of the parents here in this school district. Both of my children have had special learning needs which required IEPs, so it has been necessary for me to be very focused on the educational programs available or needed. In addition to the knowledge that comes from education, our children also learn how to become good people and citizens by what they are exposed to, which I think is just as important as the academic aspect of education.

Question 2: What do you think are the main issues facing the Chappaqua Schools

The Chappaqua School District has come a very long way in their Special Ed program. It was quite awful when my oldest child entered the district in 2004. However much needed change has come in recent years, and I am ecstatic about that progress made; the true priority is now on addressing the actual needs of the students- their academic, emotional and physical needs, which all work together in the making of a successful student. As good as the program is presently, there is always room for improvement and I am excited to explore options in contributing to that improvement.

Question 3: What about your experiences and skills listed above will make you an effective member of the school or library board?

My past experience has given me the ability to see what deficits may still exist in the special education area and how I may contribute to helping resolve them. Furthermore, my past experiences have also given me insight into the importance safety, security and communication has to a student's well-being and maturity. I am already quite familiar with the purpose of the board of education, having already been serving on one for approximately two years along with the NYS-required training that comes with that position. Therefore, there would be no drastic learning curve that could slow my effectiveness as a new board member. I have also lived in Chappaqua since 1993 and am very familiar with the community and the school system.

Candidate: Timothy McNamara

Background

Residence: (town only and for how long)
Chappaqua, 17 years (1985-2000; 2022-present)

Timothy McNamara, con't

Occupation:

Battalion Chief, Fire Department of the City of New York

Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:

AYSO soccer coach, New York City Waterfront Construction Code Managing Committee, National Fire Protection Association Energy Storage Systems Technical Committee

Question 1: Why do you want to serve on the school board?

I want our children to develop the skills and traits to lead authentic and fulfilling lives. I want them to learn to think critically, to question, and to develop the social confidence and communication skills to be leaders in their own lives and in their communities. We need to continue to attract amazing teachers, and to empower those teachers to inspire a lifelong love of learning in their students while also modeling the qualities of critical thinking, self-direction, and audacity that we hope for our children.

I want our school district to remain focused on preserving and even improving upon our core strengths, while we simultaneously develop new capabilities and adapt to changing environments. Of course there are things we can do better, but overall, I believe this is a wonderful community and a fantastic place to live!

Visit my website for more about me and please reach out!
www.TimChappaqua.com

Question 2: What do you think are the main issues facing the Chappaqua Schools

Issues facing our students include social emotional development, empathy, sense of belonging, mental health, and the challenge of critical thinking in an age of significant misinformation.

Funding and the continued availability of high-quality teacher candidates are the long-term, organizational-level issues facing all public education in our region. How do we continue to provide a world-class education when high inflation has caused school expenses to increase at a greater rate than our budget? Will we face increased competition among peer school districts to attract high-quality teachers if fewer individuals pursue education as their vocation due to state pension changes and changes in societal work/life norms?

We need to find an effective forum for productive discourse to successfully address disagreements within our community. Everyone should feel that their voice is heard so we can work collaboratively toward our shared goal of raising our children to become kind, caring, and confident adults.

Question 3: What about your experiences and skills listed above will make you an effective member of the school or library board?

Timothy McNamara, con't

Empathy, active listening, genuine curiosity, and collaboration are the qualities that have most benefited me in leadership and management roles within the Fire Department of the City of New York, as well as on strategic planning committees at the city and national levels.

My skill in these qualities has grown throughout my career because I have learned quite a lot along the way. I've learned to lead with curiosity and to ask very specific questions when assessing system or individual performance. I've learned to be very precise when setting goals and timeframes for interventions or initiatives. I've learned that I need to communicate more clearly and directly to ensure that others receive my intended message. I've learned the importance of fully engaging with all stakeholders to achieve a collaborative vision.

I hope to contribute these skills to help Chappaqua continue to be a wonderful place to raise our children!

(These views are my own and do not reflect the views of the FDNY)

Chappaqua Library Board of Trustees

One seat up for election; three-year term; volunteer position

Note: Candidates are presented below in the order in which they will appear on the ballot. The candidates themselves supply their personal information; the League is not responsible for the content or accuracy of the responses.

Candidate: Jennifer Fahey

Background

Residence: (town only and for how long)

Chappaqua, 28 years

Occupation:

Retired 12/31/2023, previously a Managing Director with Marsh (MMC). AB, Duke University; MBA (Finance), Columbia University

Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:

I have served as a Trustee for the Chappaqua Library since May 2022. I was elected as a write-in candidate when we faced Trustee resignations and had no official candidates step forward. I served as VP, then President and am now Secretary for the Library Board. I chair the Building & Grounds committee and am a member of the Personnel Committee. I have been honored to serve on the board of the Chappaqua Summer Scholarship Program, The Spencer Education Foundation and Duke University's Advisory Board for its law and business schools – all focused on education. I have volunteered with the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival and various school and town committees and participate in Earth Day activities to help keep our town beautiful.

Question 1: Why do you want to serve on the library board?

Response pending

Question 2: What do you think are the main issues facing the Chappaqua Library

Response pending

Question 3: What about your experiences and skills listed above will make you an effective member of the school or library board?

I have learned a tremendous amount in my partial term of 2 years on the Board and have developed effective relationships with the current Board to facilitate ongoing collaboration. We currently have an extremely strong Board who all work diligently for our community. I also bring a deep knowledge of our community, financial expertise, personnel management experience, a personal commitment to diversity, and organization skills. Primarily, I bring passion for our town and all that our Library stands for, has been and can be. I would be honored to continue the excellent leadership tradition the library has benefited from across the decades.

Candidate: Allyson Jacobs

Background

Residence: (town only and for how long)

Chappaqua, 9 years

Occupation:

Nurse

Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:

Former member of Chappaqua Friends Nursery Committee and as much as possible with our amazing PTA programs.

Question 1: Why do you want to serve on the library board?

I want to serve my community at my favorite place in Chappaqua, the library! The Library is a vital public resource which brings us a wide range of programming, allows us to expand our minds, learn new ideas and so much more. It is a safe space for tweens and teens, works hard to represent diversity and challenges our own stereotypes. I would work hard to be a steward of this amazing institution.

Question 2: What do you think are the main issues facing the Chappaqua Library

The Library continues to stay relevant and necessary. The Board will maintain this strong resource through fiscal responsibility, collaboration and building maintenance.

Question 3: What about your experiences and skills listed above will make you an effective member of the school or library board?

As a nurse and mother of four, I work hard at bringing all voices to the table, deep listening, and collaboration. I deeply value the library for myself, my family and my community. I believe that public libraries support our democracy, enrich our vitality and broaden our horizon.

Candidate: Sean Maraynes

Background

Residence: (town only and for how long)

Occupation:

Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:

Question 1: Why do you want to serve on the library board?

Question 2: What do you think are the main issues facing the Chappaqua Library

Question 3: What about your experiences and skills listed above will make you an effective member of the school or library board?