

CANDIDATE PROFILES

Voters will elect three School Board members from a field of six candidates on Tuesday, May 17. The board members elected will serve three-year terms commencing July 1. The candidates provided the information that follows.

Kelly Hunter



Address: 18 Huntington Ct., Hamburg

Family: Children, Willow (14), Meadow (12) & Red (7). Next year I will have a child in elementary, middle and high school.

Occupation: Former public school teacher (10 years); current owner of Revolution Personal Coaching and Athletes Unleashed, Inc.

Community involvement:

- Hamburg Class of 1996
- PTSA member and yearbook creator
- Member at Life Church Buffalo and Serve Day volunteer
- Corporate fundraising for local charities – 7 years
- Parent participant in School Board meetings – 2021-22

Reasons for seeking a board seat: “As a teacher, the premise that parents are a child’s first and most important teacher was paramount to my teaching philosophy. I knew that in order for a child to be successful, I must have an understanding of the family’s needs, desires, culture and values. As a board member, I will give parents a seat at the table so that every child is seen, heard, valued and successful. My mission is two-fold: build empowering communication between the Board, teachers and families, and ensure responsible spending on quality education; keep a tight leash on the capital improvement project budget.”

Richard G. Schneider, MBA



Address: 3496 Lakeview Rd., Hamburg

Family: Married 30 years to wife, Beth; daughters, Jessica (28), Heidi (26) & Erica (24), all graduates of Hamburg Central School District

Occupation: Business owner of Crane Home Care, Inc. and ATC Healthcare Staffing

Community involvement:

- Hamburg School Board member since 2015
- Founder – Hamburg Fine Arts Foundation
- Hamburg Oktoberfest – Officer/Treasurer
- Medaille College – Past Alumni Association President
- SS. Peter and Paul Church – Past Parish Council President

Reasons for seeking a board seat: “In 2015, I decided to run for a seat on the Hamburg Board of Education to help provide a stable, professional presence and return the focus to children. Since that time, our unified board has done exactly that! We want to continue moving our district forward every day by continuing to support our ‘culture of kindness,’ while providing our children with modern education opportunities and maintaining the fiscal integrity of our district. It has been my honor and privilege to serve our community in this way and I humbly ask for your support as I seek re-election for another term.”

David Yoviene



Address: 95 Alexander Way, Orchard Park

Family: Married 37 years to wife, Karen – we both graduated from Hamburg; 3 children attended Hamburg K-12; 3 grandchildren not yet of school age

Occupation: 43 years as business owner related to the building trades

Community involvement:

- Nine years on the Hamburg School Board
- Nine-year member of Erie County Association of School Boards (ECASB) Legislative Committee
- Nine-year member Parent Child Connection Committee
- Member of Hamburg Counseling Plan Advisory Council
- Twenty-year member of Hamburg Transportation Committee
- School Board representative for Hamburg PTSA
- Received ECASB Laura Burns Advocacy for Children Award
- Received NYS PTA Advocate in Action Award
- Received ECASB Shining Star Award and Rising Star Awards 3 times each
- Member of ECASB Medallion Club

Reasons for seeking a board seat: “I am seeking re-election to continue my efforts advocating for students. Student achievement is my principal focus — the primary mission of all school boards. Decisions should be based on what is best for students, NOT on party affiliation or political ideology. We are focused on the big picture, thinking long-term. We have a plan for the class of 2034, our current Pre-K students. It has been a pleasure to serve our community and advocate for students for the last nine years. I wish to continue this work, together with my fellow board members and our outstanding administration, in our constant efforts toward academic advancement for ALL students.”

Tammy DeLong



Address: 3775 Mill Rd., Hamburg

Family: Sons, Michael Anthony Jr. (11) & Matthew Anthony (9), both students at Union Pleasant Elementary

Occupation: Real Estate Professional with an office in the Village of Hamburg; prior experience as Erie County Sheriff's Deputy

Community involvement:

- Team manager of Hamburg Hawks Hockey Association Squirt Mix Team
- PTSA member volunteer/event coordinator from 2017- present
- Volunteered at Buffalo Habitat for Humanity and the Buffalo United Way
- Revive Wesleyan Church MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) hospitality family activities coordinator

Reasons for seeking a board seat: "To focus on the educational needs of the children, collaborating as a team. My extensive work in Erie County wraparound programs, experience sitting on cultural sensitivity boards and education, coupled with involvement with families and teachers in our community, will help me represent the whole of Hamburg, not just a single constituency. I am a dedicated hard worker who strives to live the value of integrity. Empowering teachers who will teach how to think, not what to think, will ensure that the students get the best education. To represent the community fiscally and care for the community as a whole."

Jacqueline (Jackie) Best



Address: 4859 Meadow Ln., Hamburg

Family: Married since 2015 to husband, Ben (Hamburg High School Class of 2000); children, Mason (14), Aubrey (5) & Benny (4); seven nieces & nephews, all in Hamburg Central School District

Occupation: General Manager & Director of Business Development at Renewal Claim Solutions of Upstate NY & Greater New England (Fire & Water Restoration)

Community involvement:

- Hamburg High School Class of 2003
- Attended last 12 months of Hamburg School Board meetings
- Co-organizer of "Operation Shoe Drop" at Hamburg High School
- Insurance Club of Buffalo Board Member 2012-15, Vice President 2015
- Buffalo Chapter Member of "Climb out of the Darkness," raising awareness & funds for perinatal mood & anxiety disorders

Reasons for seeking a board seat: "As a parent, I want a School Board that is responsive to parents, listens to concerns & conducts itself in an open & honest way. That is not what I have experienced these last 12 months. In May 2021, I attended my first School Board meeting to urge the board to take action to allow mask choice in our schools. I spoke every month not just about forced masking, but student mental health. I have never heard back from any current board member about my concerns, which I think is unacceptable. If parents can't advocate for their own children, who will?"

Laura Heeter



Address: 66 Highland Ave., Hamburg

Family: Husband, Shawn, Director of Manufacturing, Curbell Medical; children, Emily - 2012 graduate/Air Force - active duty, Samuel - 2014 graduate/High School math teacher, Caroline - 2017 graduate/Social Worker at New Directions/ Air Force Reservist, Seth - 2019 graduate/ Associate Degree in Social Sciences/Junior Varsity soccer coach, Lynae - 2021 graduate, Anna - 11th grade

Occupation: Restorative Justice Coordinator at Randolph Academy

Community involvement:

- Parent Child Connection
- Counseling Committee
- Strategic Action Plan Committee
- Restorative Justice Outreach
- Erie County Association of School Boards member
- New York State School Boards Association presenter

Reasons for seeking a board seat: "I am extremely passionate about education and that's what drives me to seek another term on the Hamburg School Board. It's my goal to ensure that ALL students receive opportunities that are unique to their academic and social emotional needs. As a parent and educator, I understand the integral part schools play in a community and want to continue moving in a positive direction. We strive to honor every learner and to ensure that our schools are safe, kind and welcoming. It would be humbling to once again serve on a School Board where students' interests are first and foremost, and the reputation of the district is impeccable."

**BUDGET VOTE
& SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

Tuesday, May 17
7 a.m.-9 p.m.
Hamburg High School, 4111 Legion Dr.