

**School Board Candidate Info Sheet 2021**  
**Eastchester Union Free School District/PTA Council**

**1. Name:** *Tara Conte*

**2. Education:** Purchase College, BA in Literature with a Concentration in Drama Studies  
New York University, MA Level Credits in Education

**3. Current occupation/professional experience:** Recreation Supervisor for the City of Yonkers, Recreation and Parks Department. For over twenty years, I have been serving in government positions. Having been employed by the City of Yonkers for over eighteen years, I take great pride in my position. The position entails overseeing all aspects of staffing, funding, grant writing and programming for our special needs population. I also oversee an early childhood year around program and provide staffing for permit holders at historic Untermyer Gardens.

**4. How many years have you lived in Eastchester? Do you have children who are currently attending or have graduated from Eastchester public schools?** My family moved to the beautiful Town of Eastchester five years ago. I have one child in elementary school. He is a proud graduate of Waverly School. One of the main reasons we moved here was the district's stellar school system. My love for our community runs deep and I am always proud to serve.

**5. Have you been elected to any leadership roles in the school district or in community organizations? What have you learned from these positions?** Yes, I was elected in 2018 to the school board in a contested election. So many things have changed in the lives of our children in the last year and a half due to the pandemic. I am elated that our children have the ability to receive in-person schooling four days a week and our remote students have the ability to learn at home. I am equally pleased that an additional teacher was hired so the children would receive more individualized attention remotely. I will continue to advocate on all levels for all of our students. I have also been a member of many committees.

- I served as the Waverly and Anne Hutchinson Liaison for the Eastchester Union Free School District;
- As the Policy Chairperson;
- And as a member of the Community Relations Committee;
- During my son's tenure at the Waverly School, I served on the Wellness Committee via the Waverly PTA;
- New York State Parks and Recreation Member, recognized for my work with the special needs population on the cover page of their newsletter;
- City of Yonkers speaker and event coordinator, advocating for all students in district with emphasis on the special needs population.

**6. What do you see as the role of a School Board trustee?** My role is to continue to work collaboratively with administration, educators and families so every one of our children's' voices can be heard. We need to make sure all of our children receive a quality education and are reaching their social

and emotional goals as well. We have all lived through this challenging pandemic for the last year and a half and need to move forward to ensure all of our children are served.

**7. What skills do you see yourself bringing to the School Board?** My career in public service encompasses a broad range of experience working with youth and different personalities. This enables me to contribute to the School Board with significant insight and empathy. The program I oversee runs throughout the year. In the summer, I manage Camp Pride, a six-week summer day camp for the special needs population, including staffing, transportation, meal coordination, daily trips and special events. I was recognized for my work at the annual camp health inspection conference, where we received accolades for flawless inspections and exceptional care given to our campers. Camp Pride was the first camp to receive this honor, among approximately two hundred and fifty municipal camps. During the year, I oversee a program called Project Friendship, which is an evening and weekend program for our special needs youth and adults. I believe in transparency and accessibility for the students and families in our district.

**8. What is your educational philosophy and how would it inform your work as a Board member?** My philosophy is to provide all students with a quality education. Three areas that are extremely important to me are special education and food allergy awareness. The bottom line is that students should be treated equally, even if they are challenged in some way. The district has many students receiving special help, and I intend to provide advocacy for those students. Since I continually work with local educators, I am sensitive to the needs, wants and priorities of families in the district. I also want our students to reach their highest potential, and to believe that a high-ranking college is achievable.

**9. How do you see the state tax cap impacting school budget decisions in the coming years? What will be your approach to budget decisions?** I am for all of our students to benefit from an affordable increase. Enrollment continues to grow, and all students will benefit from these improvements, both now and in the future. In particular, I believe it will benefit our students to augment our staff of quality educators, enhance the budget to introduce extracurricular programming, and develop new sports teams.

**10. What are your top three priorities for the Eastchester School District? How would you help advance these priorities?** My top three priorities are to be accessible, proactive and determined to have all of our students reach their full potential. I can relate to the youth in-district, since many of my staff are young people. And since I have an elementary school-aged child, I can provide a fresh perspective on the needs of our community's youth population.

**Together we are making a difference!!**