

Candidate Information Sheet for 2021 Eastchester School Board – Christina Geagan

1. Name: Christina Geagan
2. Education: Bachelor’s degree from Pace University, Master’s degree in speech-language pathology from New York University
3. Current occupation/professional experience: I worked as a speech-language pathologist in schools for children with special needs for ten years. I am currently a full-time mother of three children in the Eastchester School District.
4. How many years have you lived in Eastchester? Do you have children who are currently attending or have graduated from Eastchester public schools?

Response: I grew up in the Bronx and have lived in Eastchester since 2012. I have three children in the district: my oldest son is a student at Eastchester Middle School; my daughter is a student at Anne Hutchinson School; and my youngest son is a kindergartner at Waverly School.

5. Have you been elected to any leadership roles in the school district or in community organizations? What have you learned from these positions?

Response: Over the past eight years, I have been heavily involved with the Parent-Teacher Association at multiple schools in the District. I have been very active in both the Waverly and Anne Hutchinson PTAs. I also currently serve on the Anne Hutchinson Executive Board, and have helped organized a number of large PTA events. Through my PTA experience, I have learned how important it is to take an active role in my children’s education.

6. What do you see as the role of a School Board trustee?

Response: A School Board Trustee represents the community and should put the children’s needs first in all decision making, such as budget, safety, and curriculum, to ensure that students are receiving the best possible education.

7. What skills do you see yourself bringing to the School Board?

Response: As a speech-language pathologist, I have experience working with children with special needs in schools in the Bronx and Brooklyn. I worked alongside teachers in classrooms—an experience that taught me the critical need for teamwork and

collaboration when educating children. And I believe that it is crucial to have parents serve on the Board who have children in the schools and who are “living it” every day. That has never been more important than this past year. There are certain things that might sound good in theory or otherwise look good on paper, such as “hybrid learning” or “asynchronous Wednesdays.” But seeing school initiatives in action every day is quite different. As a mom of three children, I have seen what works and what does not work.

8. What is your educational philosophy and how would it inform your work as a Board member?

Response: The children’s social, emotional, and academic well-being are the first priority at all times. In order for children to be successful, they need a safe, welcoming, and positive environment, with strong relationships between parents, teachers, administrators, and board members.

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?

Response: Given our fiscal constraints, the Board will need to be more efficient than ever with its expenditures. I hope to bring a new perspective to the Board, and will work to ensure that we are making every last dollar count. If elected, I would bring a fresh pair of eyes to the school budget over the next few years.

10. What are your top three priorities for the Eastchester School District? How would you help advance these priorities?

Response: My first priority is to ensure that children return to school full-time in September. I will work with administrators and staff to address the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and help establish a return to normalcy.

My second priority is to re-evaluate the budget, particularly since we finally received \$1.5 million dollars that was owed to us from New York State. I will work to use the funds most effectively in order to address the inadequate security, aged buildings, and crowded classrooms.

My third priority is to improve communication between the Board, administrators, teachers, and parents. Lack of communication and transparency over the past year has been a huge problem in our District and has unnecessarily led to a divisive community.

It is critical that we work as a unified front to ensure the best educational experience for all our children.