

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

1. Name: Christie McCloskey
2. Education: Attended Yonkers Public Schools and graduated from Manhattan College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance
3. Current occupation/professional experience: I am currently an electronic banking consultant and have worked in the financial services industry for over 30 years.
4. How many years have you lived in Eastchester? Do you have children who are currently attending or have graduated from Eastchester public schools?

I have lived in Eastchester since 2003 (18 years) and have three children who have attended the Eastchester Schools. My daughter, Meghan, graduated from EHS in 2020, my son Ryan, is a soon to be graduate of EHS this June 2021 and my youngest son Kieran, is now a freshman in EHS.

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

I have been elected to hold several PTA positions since my children first began attending school, including:

- Waverly - PTA President 2008 - 2010
- Greenvale - PTA President 2010 - 2012 and 2015 - 2017
- EMS - VP Programming 2017, Chairpersons for Grade Level Events for 6th, 7th, 8th from 2014 - 2017
- EHS - Membership Officer 2019
- EHS - Co-Chairperson for the Senior Class of 2020 Fashion Show, Co-Chairperson for Sophomore fundraiser Dancing with Our Stars 2018 and 2019
- PTA Council Secretary 2012-2013
- Eastchester Irish American Social Club Co-Chairperson for Grand Marshal Festival Events for several years
- Eastchester 5K Race - volunteered as "Race Central" roving reporter for the last 5 years

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

The role of a School Board Trustee is to be an active participant in setting the vision and goals for the school district. A Trustee works to ensure that the goals established meet the needs of the students and each of its school communities. For example, analyzing curriculum and assessing school safety across our district schools, as well as ensuring a fiscally sound annual budget is proposed and adhered to, are just a few of the critical components that a Trustee participates in. The Trustee collaborates with other board

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members to ensure that the goals are achievable, and then works to adopt policies in support of the agreed upon goals so that each district school can then set their respective priorities in order to establish its goals. A deep understanding of each district school's mission is critical to the process so that a holistic, cohesive plan can be developed and adhered to. A Trustee takes on the role of being an active advocate within the school community while also having the agility to make the recommendation to pivot to an alternative approach when unexpected extenuating circumstances arise which could prevent goal achievement. Being responsive to the school/parent community and overseeing annual budget decisions are critical to ensuring fund allocations are fair and reasonable and that they are in support of the school district's goals and mission that were agreed to at the onset.

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

I have always been an active parent leader and supporter of our school community. I bring a broad perspective given the leadership positions I have held within each of the schools. Partnering with various school leaders has enabled me to attain insights and learnings from these perspectives. Years of collaborating with parents across the district has helped me develop a deep understanding of the dynamics and uniqueness of each of our district schools. This knowledge and experience, coupled with my finance and electronic banking background, has positioned me to take the next steps in lending my expertise to positively impact the school community.

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

My educational philosophy is based upon the fundamental premise that school is a place where children are continually nurtured from the time they enter kindergarten until the time they are seniors graduating high school. As a parent and a school community member, it is each of our individual jobs, each teacher's job, each school administrator's job, each guidance counselor's job and each board member's job to care for and encourage the growth and development of all of our district students. This not only pertains to ensuring that we have a robust curriculum that meets the needs of all students, but also to creating an environment of health and wellness while encouraging and advocating for socialization.

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?

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The introduction of the state tax cap has helped the district develop a discipline around budget planning. Continuing to examine current spending with an eye toward allocating funds toward future needs, without detrimental impact to current allocations, will be critical. As a Trustee, I have a responsibility to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being allocated in the most efficient way while also ensuring that our current operations are continually reviewed for stability and improvement. It will be most important to continue to advocate for additional state funding in these upcoming years. Deferral of such funding has held the Eastchester School District behind and it is time to get our fair share from the past. Conducting due diligence of the foundation aid formula that is used could be a step in the right direction to securing regular funding for our district. Continuous and persistent appeals to NY State to secure the funding we are entitled to is more critical now than ever before.

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

1. Safety and Security - Bring our students back to a full-time, 5-days-a-week, in-person learning environment. Conduct a review of each district school's safety and security needs in an effort to develop a district-wide plan to execute the necessary program components to sustain a safe and secure learning environment for years to come. Focus on executing a "back to normal" plan keeping State requirements in mind, but advocating for control at the local level as needed.

2. Communications - This is a key ingredient in the recipe for success for our school district. I am excited to help bridge the communication gaps that exist; among the Board of Education, our parents, our administrators and school community members. Often, information is lost in translation. I will make it my job to ask questions and to tease out the intricate details of information and will communicate information that can be easily understood by all. Our District students rely on our collective efforts to ensure that we create a path for their future success as key contributors to society. Working together, in the spirit of partnership, we can accomplish this for all of our District students.

3. Financial Health - Our school budget is the heart of the district as it relates to ensuring school operations are sustained while also making sure the budget includes the necessary building blocks for our future. We walk a "tightrope" when preparing the budget. However, CoVid-19 has forced us to question the status quo, even in our own everyday lives. This same diligence needs to be redirected to formulating our school budget. What may have been needed before, may not be needed for the future and vice

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versa. We must plan for change in key areas, such as building space, technology needs and security requirements.