

**School Board Candidate Information Sheet, 2022
Eastchester Union Free School District / PTA Council**

Name: Matthew Fanelli

Education:

- BA in Mass Communications, Iona College

Current occupation/professional experience:

- I am the SVP at Dotdash Meredith responsible for profit and loss, budgeting, team building and development

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 and I have lived in Eastchester since 2014. I have five children. My oldest attended Eastchester Middle School as well as Eastchester High School, and currently attends Sacred Heart University in CT. My six-year-old and five-year-old are current students at Waverly. I have a unique perspective now having experienced virtually all facets of the Eastchester Schools through the eyes of a parent.

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

I serve and on and have served on several different boards including:

- Ardsley Swim and Tennis Club: Elected Position
- Rutgers University Leading Disruptive Innovation Board: Appointed
- Fairleigh Dickinson University Advisory Board: Appointed
- IAB Local Committee: Elected Position

As an active participant on several boards, the core foundational skills that I have learned are communication, collaboration and inclusion. I believe that creating an environment of polarization is detrimental to the entire board. Having the ability to see things from multiple perspectives and think outside of our own purview is quintessential to any board position. I have also learned the value of agreeing to disagree while exhibiting the utmost respect for fellow board members, as well as the understanding that it is impossible to make everyone happy. Being levelheaded and working with facts, not emotions, is also key.

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

I believe the role of the School Board trustee is to help craft and shape the District with clear vision and goals, while staying informed of any policies and governance pertaining to public education. I also believe the role requires the trustee to be an advocate for all students and the District while staying on track within the approved budget.