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How many years have you lived in the district? All my life.

What is your occupation? Professor and Graduate Psychology Program Director at Roberts Wesleyan College

Do you have children attending Churchville-Chili schools? I have two children Two: Trent (CC graduate), and Olivia a tenth grader.

Please share

I have volunteered as a Churchville-Chili School Board Member for the past 15 years. While serving on the board, I have actively participated with the Monroe County School Boards Association by serving on various committees, and I have been a member of the District's Dignity for All Committee, which focuses on diversity and respect for all students and staff. I also volunteer at my church and at various levels within my children's schools. I also volunteer at the National level as a Lead Program Reviewer for NASP (National Association of School Psychologists) and have also served on the NYS Board of School Psychologists.

Why do I want to be a school board member?

My entire career, volunteer work, and passion throughout my life has been dedicated to attending and caring for the work that is done in schools. My resume begins as an elementary teacher, then school psychologist, then professor and licensed psychologist supporting children and families with children ages birth to 21. My work in higher education centers on training those that will one day work in the schools. Simply put, I love public education and working with those that are dedicated to the work within public education. I see being a school board member as an extension to the internal work, serving in the capacity of external oversight. It is important work on behalf of the community and has many moving parts. I enjoy all aspects of this volunteer work and remain very committed to this local community where I grew up.

What do you think are the two top issues facing Churchville-Chili over the next three years?

In the 15 years I have served on the school board, I would have never guessed that we would be faced with the challenge of picking up the pieces in the aftermath of a pandemic that has hit the educational community so hard. I often say, it has hit the education community and our children the hardest. In my own job, I see some of the collateral damage of the pandemic in terms of academic decline, increased mental health challenges, and family financial stability. These will be issues that our community will be faced with over the next two years if not much longer. We must remain dedicated to this work on behalf of our local families and board oversight will include supporting and attending to the work in this area.

My second greatest area of concern is the fiscal strain in our State budget, which greatly affects the funding streams for our local school districts. This places the potential for an even larger burden on our local taxpayers. We must find ways to both advocate for proper funding during a time when we are experiencing a turnover in legislative advocacy partners, while also earning the trust of our taxpayers and providing evidence that we are in good faith upholding our fiduciary responsibilities to our community. Churchville-Chili is a great place to live and we remain proud of our school district and the dedication and expertise of our staff. We must ensure that we continue to protect this reputation even in a climate of financial uncertainty.