

Melinda Leising

What do you see as the most pressing issue to the district in the 2018-2019 school year?

Board of Election terms cover three years so we need to think not just about 2018-19 but the years after that as well. We're nearing the end of the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan (adopted in 2014) so the board should evaluate what progress has been made toward implementing the goals outlined in the plan. The remaining objectives that have not yet been achieved should be the primary focus for 2018-19.

Why do you want to be on the board?

Before my older son started kindergarten, my husband and I chose to move to Clinton for its excellent schools in a small-town setting. I want to be on the board to give back to this community that I love, to be a part of a greater cause, and to help shape the future of the Clinton Central School.

Where do you think the Clinton Central School can improve?

Two areas come to mind: communication and collaboration. There are so many great things going on in the district, I think CCS needs to continue to work on sharing this information with parents and with the community. I know that the Parent Portals in the Middle School and High School are popular with parents but more can be done. The district newsletter is informative but is only published a couple times per year. Perhaps more frequent updates could be shared via email. There is also a lot of good information on CCS website but I'd like to see even more updates.

I would also like to see continued efforts to engage the community: Hamilton, retirees, other residents, and businesses. When budgets are tight, volunteers can make a difference in classrooms or clubs and groups. There may be experts in our community willing to help if only they were asked.

Where do you see the role of the school board in maintaining the quality level of a CCS education?

The school board needs to ensure that the superintendent and principals have the resources they need to implement the policies and goals outlined by the board. It also needs to make sure that teachers have supplies and support they need to be successful in the classroom, which translates into student achievement and progress. Second, the school board should make sure that successes (as well as opportunities) are communicated to parents and the community in a timely manner.

What do you feel you will bring to the Board of Education table if elected?

Working full-time from home has honed my organizing and prioritizing skills. If I'm not organized and focused, deadlines would be missed! Through my involvement on the CCS PTA executive board as PTA secretary, I've had the opportunity to work together with a group of individuals with the same common goal: supporting students and teachers. Although we don't always agree, we work well together as a group to come up with solutions, compromising when necessary. I possess many skills that have served me well on the PTA and would be useful as a member of the school board: persistence, dedication, resourcefulness, and enthusiasm.

Biography:

Originally from Minnesota, Melinda graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a BA in History and Computer Applications. She works for a national grocery store chain as a systems analyst and developer. She and her husband, Gary, relocated to the Mohawk Valley in 2005 and moved to Clinton in 2014. They have two sons: Jude, age 9, and Ewan, age 6. When not running for school board, Melinda can be found on the soccer field (as a supportive parent and assistant coach), backstage at KAC

dance performances, or at various PTA events. Melinda loves to travel with her family and enjoys baking.