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I graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a BA in History and Computer Applications. I am currently a Senior Software Engineer for The Kroger Co. Originally from Minnesota, I met my husband Gary in Cincinnati. We relocated to the Mohawk Valley in 2005. In 2014, we moved to Clinton and have been active at St. Mary's Church. My sons Jude and Ewan are in 6th and 3rd grade. Pre-pandemic, their activities kept my evenings and weekends busy. However, this past year, we've enjoyed playing board games and taking walks around the village. In my free time, I love baking and enjoy traveling, which I look forward to doing again in the future. I am completing my first term on the Clinton School Board and am currently serving as Vice President.

Why are you running for the Board of Education?

I ran three years ago to give back to the community I love and help shape the future of the Clinton Central School District. This is still true and my desire to provide a positive impact on the board has grown in the last three years.

The board acts as a whole. Therefore, it's important that there's mutual respect and trust among all board members and between the board and administrators. In a respectful environment, there is room for constructive conversations. I ask questions about board meeting materials and district policy to get information, gain clarification, and help drive the decision-making process.

Throughout my time on the board, I have educated myself to fully understand my role and to be able to participate in thoughtful discussions with administrators and my fellow board members. I attended the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) annual convention in 2019 and 2020 as well as several other training sessions offered by NYSSBA and the Oneida-Madison-Herkimer School Board Institute (OMH-SBI). After all that I have learned in the last three years, I would love the opportunity to continue using my new knowledge as a collaborative member of the Clinton School Board.

In what activities are you involved in the district?

I am finishing my third year on the school board. I served on the Finance Committee the first two years to learn the school budget process. This year, I am on the Policy Committee and serving as board vice president. Through my role on the board, I was invited to be one of the guest judges in the Middle School's Creative Freedom Friday Think Tank in 2019. Also in 2019, I attended CCS's annual Multicultural Dinner.

Over the past three years I attended multiple OMH-SBI events with such topics as school safety, Every Student Succeeds Act, fiscal planning, and legislative forums. Through NYSSBA, I attended a one-day law seminar, a workshop about policy implications post-COVID, and the annual convention twice. I have attended several webinars this year. In fact, I recently received the NYSSBA Board Achievement Award in recognition of time and effort spent expanding knowledge and skills for better board governance.

Furthermore, since my older son was in 1st grade, I have been a member of the PTA, serving as secretary before joining the school board. I continue to attend PTA meetings and support their events, acting as a liaison between the board and the PTA.

In what activities are you involved outside the district?

When we moved to Clinton in 2014, my family joined St. Mary's Parish and we have been active members since then. I serve as a Eucharistic Minister and my husband and I were part of a group of volunteers who took turns leading Children's Liturgy (until COVID).

Even though my job keeps me busy (working 50+ hours most weeks), I still find time to be involved with community organizations. My family has packed meals as part of the annual community-wide volunteer project Rise Against Hunger for the past three years. I am also a canteen volunteer (serving snacks to donors) during the Clinton Red Cross community blood drives.

Both of my sons are active in Scouts. My younger son is currently a member of Clinton Cub Scouts Pack 9. Through Scouts, my family has participated in volunteer opportunities in the community. Additionally, I've been involved with AYSO, first as a parent but I also had the opportunity to coach my younger son's team for two years. Finally, I'm in a local book group and enjoy reading and exchanging ideas and opinions with the group every month.

What do you believe are the top 3 issues CCS is facing in the next few years?

1. In the immediate future, there needs to be extra focus on helping students "catch up" after COVID. Students need additional resources to support them academically, socially, and emotionally. (This ties into Goal 2.2 of Supportive Learning Environment in CCS's Vision 2025 5-year Strategic Plan.)
2. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). In the last year, NYSSBA provided guidance and webinars on this topic. DEI goes beyond race. It includes socioeconomic status, religion, etc. Even though CCS is predominantly white, students will be graduating into an increasingly interconnected global society. It is important that the school board go beyond the resolution against racial discrimination passed in 2019 to implement policies that encourage culturally responsive teaching and professional learning around implicit bias and cultural differences. (This ties into Goal 2.1 of Supportive Learning Environment in Vision 2025.)
3. Making sure students are ready for life after graduation – college or career. Not all students go to a 4-year college and we should ensure Clinton's curriculum allows all students to thrive after graduation. This includes utilizing programs available through BOCES as well as career days, job shadowing, and mentorships. (Goal 3.1 of Educational Equity and Excellence in Vision 2025.)

In your opinion, what is an area in which the District needs to improve?

Even though there have been some strong collaborations in recent years (one notable example being Hockeyville), I think there is even more opportunity for the district to grow relationships and partnerships with various community groups: local businesses, Hamilton College, the PTA, the CCS District Foundation, the village of Clinton leadership, Kirkland Town Library, and the Kirkland Town Board. Occasionally, the superintendent has brought together a group of administrators, teachers, parents, and community leaders to examine a specific topic. Perhaps this should become a more formal

Superintendent's Advisory Board that meets on a regular basis to bring the community and district together to align on common goals that benefit both the students and community members. (This ties into Goal 4.2 of Family and Community Engagement in the Vision 2025 Plan.)