Meet the Clinton CSD Board of Education Candidate: Rachael Clark

I moved to Clinton in 2018 with my husband Justin and my daughter Nora, when Justin was hired to work in the Philosophy department at Hamilton College. Justin and I met in 2001 as undergraduates at the University of Iowa where I was studying vocal performance and music education. Since graduating in 2004, we have lived in Iowa, Michigan, California, Illinois, Utah and now finally New York. I have held teaching credentials in four different states and have held teaching positions in six different districts! After giving birth to Nora in 2015 I took two years off to stay home with her. When I returned to work, it was to a position at Utah State University mentoring and facilitating professional development for arts educators in Northern Utah.

I found that I enjoyed working in higher education and shortly after moving to Clinton I applied to work at Hamilton College. I am currently the programming coordinator for the Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center and Community Outreach office. The things I have enjoyed most about my work at Hamilton have been collaborating with other members of this wonderful community and planning and facilitating outreach opportunities for Hamilton students to work with the larger surrounding communities.

My daughter, Nora, is now in second grade at Clinton Elementary. Justin was recently awarded tenure at Hamilton and so we are grateful and proud to be staying put and putting down roots here in this lovely village.

During my tenure as a music educator, one of the most rewarding parts of my job was being a part of the teacher leadership team and collaborating with the school board and administration to promote transparency, open communication and trust between the faculty, administration, school board, parents and students. I believe my extensive experience as a K-12 educator makes me uniquely qualified to serve on the Clinton school board. I am not only a deeply committed parent and member of the community, I have taught in six school districts across the country including one of the poorest school districts in the state of Michigan as well as one of the wealthiest districts in the state of California and will therefore bring a valuable perspective that is not currently represented on the board.

The Clinton Central School district is in good financial health and the current board and administration have been working hard to make sure that continues. The current board hired our new superintendent Christopher Clancy which has proven to be an excellent decision from all accounts. I look forward to joining a board that is functioning well and making sound decisions about the future of our school district.

Through my work, both as an educator and in higher education, across six vastly different states, I have had the opportunity to collaborate and communicate with a wide range of individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds. I am passionate about creating and cultivating relationships. I am an excellent communicator and listener and I believe that these skills will add value to our board.