

Horseheads Central School District

Board of Education Election

On May 17, voters will elect three residents to three-year terms on the Board of Education. Below are the four candidates and information they provided to the district. Candidates are listed in the order their names will appear on the ballot.

Daniel Christmas

Employment: Attorney with Corning Incorporated

Educational background: Bachelors, Georgetown University; Juris Doctor, University of Virginia School of Law

Family: Spouse: Wendy Christmas (RN). Children: Abby (Horseheads graduate, freshman in college); Erin (Horseheads senior); Amelia (Horseheads sophomore); Sophia (8th grade, Middle School); Michael (5th grade, Intermediate School)

Number of years living in the district: 15

Reason(s) for running: I am running because I have a strong desire to continue to serve the residents of the Horseheads School District as a member of the Board of Education. I am proud of the work we have done and improvements we have made during my previous six years on the Board. As a longtime resident of the district and a parent of five children who have attended or attend Horseheads schools, I approach every decision and issue as a Board member with the goal of doing what is best for all of the stakeholders in the district: students, parents, taxpayers, teachers, staff, administrators, and others. I care deeply about the success of our schools because I believe a good education is the key to unlocking success in life, whether in college, the workplace, or in the military. I believe my experience on the board will enable me to continue to be a strong advocate for all of the district stakeholders while making decisions in the best interests of our students.

I look forward to continuing my role as a member of the Board of Education in order to continue the work we have in progress -- including facility improvements, curriculum improvements, and enhanced extracurricular opportunities -- all in a cost-effective manner to minimize the burden on taxpayers in the district. Thank you to the community for your support!



Azfar (Azi) Farooquee

Employment: Information Security Management at Lowe's Companies

Educational background: B.S. Computer Information Systems, Chapman University; M.S. Accounting & Information Management, University of Texas at Dallas; MBA, Georgia Institute of Technology

Family: Maria (spouse); Children - Ibrahim (12), Horseheads Middle School - grade 7; Alaaya (4)

Number of years living in the district: 9

Reason(s) for running: I am running for the Board of Education to serve our community, students, teachers, and parents. I believe that good education is essential to shaping a successful future, and our children and students deserve the very best that we can offer to them. As a board member, I will partner with fellow board members to deliver effective governance to meet the needs of our stakeholders.



Liz O'Dell Wehling

Employment: Cornell University

Educational background: Ed.M. from University at Buffalo

Family: William O'Dell Wehling (spouse), Amelia O'Dell Wehling (3rd Grade at Gardner Road), Gabriel O'Dell Wehling (Pre-k at Gardner Road)

Number of years living in the district: 7

Reason(s) for running: My family moved to Horseheads seven years ago, when our first child was just over a year old. One of the biggest reasons we chose Horseheads was the opportunity to be a part of this amazing school district. Over the last few years, I have had the pleasure of witnessing the best in the staff, students, and families in our district. I feel the time has come and I want to be a bigger part of that success; I want to join the school board to help improve the environment of learning and teaching for all students and staff.

With my Masters in Education, I have found myself thriving in the world of nonprofit volunteer management and fundraising. Though my time in the classroom was short and long ago, my passion for supporting the educational needs of my school community has never been stronger. Currently I am serving as a member of the New York State Department of Education's Commissions Advisory Panel for Special Education Services (CAP) representing individuals with disabilities, as well as serving as the Vice President of the Gardner Road PTO.

Throughout my time here in Horseheads, I have met so many unique people. We are such a diverse community. Joining the school board will allow me to be a part of the leadership to foster a stronger community that celebrates our differences. Our schools are here to serve the educational needs of all children. All stakeholders, parents, all district personnel, as well as students must be partners in this endeavor if we are to be successful. I want to be a part of that success.



MaryAnne (Holleran) Corbett



Employment: Retired teacher, Corning-Painted Post School District; currently adjunct faculty at SUNY Cortland and instructor for Rochester Brainery

Educational background: B.S., D'Youville University; M.S., Elmira College

Family: Spouse, Dr. William Corbett; children, Dr. Sean P. Holleran, Matthew J. Holleran, Meghan A. Holleran

Number of years living in the district: 43

Reason(s) for running: My reason for seeking reelection to the Horseheads School Board is trifold and united by the mission of giving back. First, my three children all attended Horseheads schools grades K through 12. Outstanding educational opportunities, including an extensive variety of coursework, prepared them for their individual pursuits after graduation. Diverse extracurricular activities -- music, arts, athletics, and clubs -- allowed them to pursue their interests outside the classroom. Leadership and community service participation fostered their spirit of being community minded citizens.

Secondly, throughout my life education has been my passion. For 34 years, I taught elementary school -- a career I loved. During my tenure as a classroom teacher, I was elected and served on multiple committees, both school and district wide. Upon my retirement, I was selected to join the adjunct faculty of SUNY Cortland to supervise student teachers where I still serve today. Expanding my admiration for teaching, I led an Italian Cooking Class at the Big Flats Community Center for 10+ years. As the world has transitioned over the past few years, I learned new skills and have since been teaching virtual cooking classes for Rochester Brainery. My career as an educator coupled with my continued teaching allow me to contribute meaningfully to the school board.

Lastly, I have been a resident of Horseheads for over 40 years. I have participated in multiple community activities. I am proud to call Horseheads my home. I am especially proud of our school district. The improvements made during the past few years are incredible. Our school district incentivizes families and businesses to move to Horseheads. I would proudly serve on the school board for community members, seniors, teachers, administrators, but most importantly, the children.

Budget Vote/Board of Education Election
Tuesday, May 17 • 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. • High School South Gym

