

LaFayette Central School District

Board of Education Candidate Biographies

Amy Roe-Ryan

I grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where I graduated from Sault Area High School and Lake Superior State University, with a BS in Biology. I earned my MS and PHD from Clemson University in Environmental Toxicology with a focus on Wildlife Toxicology. After graduate school, my husband and I moved to central New York in 2004 and we have lived in LaFayette for 16 years. In my spare time, I like to read, garden, hike, and kayak with my family.

I love my job as a habitat restoration biologist, but now that I am a parent with 3rd and 5th graders, what really inspires me is giving presentations to school age children about our natural resources: fish and wildlife and their habitats. Watching children have moments of connections and inspiration truly motivates me.

Through my work as a biologist, I participate annually in the Cortland County Conservation Field Days and Envirothon, hosted by the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District. These outreach events expose 5th and 6th graders and high school students, respectively, to natural resource related topics. In my personal time, I have worked with my children's teachers to give presentations to the classes on erosion, bird migration, habitat requirements of New York State wildlife, and chatted with Big Picture students about a career as a biologist. I have also participated in the District Comprehensive Improvement Plan meetings and in the School Reopening Plan meetings. Additionally, I am a current member of the Grimshaw Association of Parents and Staff. Most recently, I have been appointed to complete the remaining 2020-21 term of a mid-year vacancy on the LaFayette Board of Education. I also serve on the LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission. Hobbies and/or Avocations.

My goal in serving on the board is to advocate for our children wherever and however I can. The holistic education of our children will allow them to succeed academically, athletically, socially, and emotionally in whichever endeavor they choose. Our children's opportunities can be limitless with a solid educational foundation. As a new board member, my initial plan to support and advocate for the students is to listen and learn from current board members, our Superintendent, Principals, Teachers, Staff, Parents, and Students. While I am listening and learning, I will keep in mind that each child is someone else's dear child. I want the best for each child, from pre-Kindergarten to High School Senior, and to nurture, challenge and inspire. My overall plan is to be an advocate for a solid educational foundation for all our children. I believe that everyone can be at their best when they are treated with dignity and respect and are given the proper resources. I understand the need for a cost effective approach to efficiently run a school district and I do not take the duties of a potential appointment as a Board member lightly.

Ronald Shawn Reyburn (Shawn)

I attended and graduated from Pinebrook Junior College (A.A.) and from Lancaster Bible College with a B.S. in Bible degree. Additionally, I received a M. Div. from Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education and I have completed all the course work but still need to write a dissertation for a D.Min. from Denver Theological Seminary in marriage and family counseling. Before attending seminary, I was a chef, working in restaurants and in camping/resort locations. I have worked in camps for almost thirty years and have done everything from being a summer camp counselor to the director. Cooking, making beds, teaching environmental education and leading adventure programs were all part of my experiences. I was certified as a basic first aid and CPR instructor, and was a wilderness first responder. I served the Presbytery (district or diocese) as the moderator and am now on the COM (Committee on Ministry).

I am currently the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in LaFayette, NY. We moved to LaFayette in the summer of 2011 from Virginia where I served two rural congregations. We have enjoyed being part of the community of LaFayette and participating in the activities of the community. I coached the youth recreational league soccer one year and have played a part in the tree lighting, Halloween parade, and Memorial Day events since our arrival.

I spend a great deal of my time outside. I like to hike, snowshoe, cross country ski, canoe, bike, and the like. I garden for pleasure and grow a few vegetables. I still love to cook and try new recipes from other countries. I have traveled as part of my work to visit with other Presbyteries with whom the Church is in partnership. It has been amazing to see the ways that other nations educate their students. I enjoy reading as much as I can for both pleasure and work. Soccer is the sport I enjoy the most. I have played throughout my life and have coached on several different levels.

My family is part of the community as well. Daphne and I have been married for over twenty-five years. Daphne is an educator and has worked at Big Picture, Grimshaw, and now at the Onondaga Nation School. She has worked as an aide, classroom teacher, and as a reading specialist. We have two children: Rebekah and Ronald. Rebekah is a senior at the Jr/Sr. High school and has plans to attend a local college in the fall. Ronnie is a freshman (101) at the Big Picture and is excited for when he will be able to go on an internship and learn more about future occupations.

I was elected President of the LaFayette Central School District Board of Education for this current year and have been a trustee for the last four years. I was initially appointed to the Board to fill one year of an un-expired term. I serve on the Health and Safety committee and on the BOCES board as a representative for LaFayette, Tully, and Fabius/Pompey.

I would like to continue to serve on the board. Sometimes this aspect of local small community politics is hard because we are limited in our ability to affect real change. Much of what we do

is guided by the state and federal mandates, but I believe where we can, the BOE for LaFayette has tried to look after the needs and desires of our staff and students, while making the schools a central hub of knowledge and activity. I really enjoy the small and rural communities where I have served and feel I bring a unique perspective to the table with two children in the system who are not typical students. While in Virginia I coached soccer for the Middle and High school teams. I was the first coach as the sport was new to the county and my teams were co-ed to comply with Title IX. I hope to continue to serve the community in this way as we move into a new way of teaching and learning, post pandemic.

Nicholaas Moltion

My name is Nicholaas Moltion, and I currently reside in Jamesville. I moved to LaFayette as an 8th grader and finished my high school career here, graduating in 2001. Soon after high school, I married my wife, also a Lafayette alumna, and moved to Pompey, NY. where we started our family. In 2015, we moved our family back to the LaFayette school district so our boys could attend the same school we both graduated from.

After high school I attended the CNYJATC local 43 electrical apprenticeship, which has given me a fulfilling career and many friends. I'm an avid hunter, sports fan, and political enthusiast. I absolutely love science and am always eager to learn something new.

I wish to be a member of the school board because I feel it's important to take an active role in the way in which not only my own, but my children's peers are taught, and to make sure that the curriculum accurately represents the values of our community. By achieving these goals, I feel that I, along with the other board members, will be able to adequately prepare the students for their futures.

Jennifer Morgan Ortlieb

I am a lifelong resident of LaFayette School District and still reside in the district with my husband, Rick, and our 14 year old daughter, Ryan. I graduated from LaFayette High School in 1987. While attending Onondaga Community College, I held numerous jobs in the Syracuse area. I sold payroll and HR services for Paychex, Inc. for a few years before I began my career in healthcare insurance at Reagan Insurance Agency in 2002. I transitioned to UnitedHealthcare 16 years ago and am currently the Sales Director for UnitedHealthcare Government Programs in Upstate NY. Many of the skills that I have attained in my career would be useful in serving on the LaFayette School District Board. Daily, I collaborate with groups and stakeholders who do not always share the same opinions as I do. I remove obstacles and solve problems diplomatically and I frequently put myself in the shoes of others to better understand how decisions and policies impact us all.

My daughter is now in eighth grade at the LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School. Our roots run deep in LaFayette where most of my family and friends still reside, as they have for generations. As a family, we love to camp, travel, attend plays and watch/play sports. I love being a part of a community that is so compassionate and caring. I have great memories of playing community council and school sports, working the "blue pizza bus" at the Apple Festival each year with my parents and brothers, and always getting a shout out from Mr. Graney in the school hallways as I rushed on to my next class.

This school district is facing challenges now that didn't even exist when I attended. I curiously watched how the school weathered the pandemic and is still functioning at a high level while other schools cannot seem to get it together. I am proud to be in this school district. I wish to serve the district and use my skills to help overcome the inevitable new challenges that are yet to come. Please consider voting for me for LaFayette School District board member. I am committed to the success of our school - and our town.

Rusty J. Haas

Our family farm/homestead has been around for over 125 years. As note of interest, my grandfather taught in the original one room schoolhouse on the corner of what is now Bull Hill Road and Sentinel Heights Road. While life has taken me "There and Back Again" as the movie quote goes, I have lived most of my life in LaFayette and the rest of the Central New York area. I graduated from LaFayette High School in 1987. I then went on to graduate with a degree in Animal Husbandry from SUNY Morrisville and later, a degree in nursing from Crouse School of Nursing. While attending college, I was a member of the US Army Reserves as a combat field medic and also served the community as a NYS EMT. Currently, I am a nationally certified Emergency Room Nurse and have been at Crouse Hospital's Emergency Room Department for the last 14 years.

I am an Alumnus Member of the Music Fraternity Alpha Delta Mu that was at Morrisville College. I was the official (and unofficial Chaplain) and held the position of quartermaster. I was a member of Delta Psi Omega drama fraternity and held the office of President for my senior year. We spent 300 hours preparing shows each semester. We also organized a fund-raiser/talent showcase that ran successfully for years after I graduated.

My wife, Wendy, and I have a daughter attending LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School. Locally, Wendy and I were very busy members of the local Imagination Lab at the LaFayette Public Library. There we helped with crafts and activities, including the Pirate Themed Scavenger Hunt. We have helped in years past at the LaFayette Apple Festival working at the Apples and Cider booths. Most recently, I helped organize last school year's 6th grade "Moving Up Ceremony" parade, and have been very active on the Task Force to open our school to in-person learning

for this current school year. I was a parent and community member on this group discussion, and researched medical web sites to be helpful to the group.

I love woodworking and art - especially when the two can be combined! I love music and playing games of all kinds, bon fires, BBQ's, and anything my daughter takes an interest in, and I love teaching my patients about their health. I enjoy problem solving for healthy solutions for better quality of life - at home, work and for my community.

I am interested in serving on the board partially because I have a daughter in the high school as mentioned. I want to bring my knowledge of the traditions of our community to the mix on the board. I want to know more about how our education system works, and to help in any way that I can to keep quality in the education, support our students in their endeavors, and to look for opportunities for them to excel in life. As the board motto states, "I want to foster self-respect and a sense of community with the students."

I want to support all of the students in whatever ways are needed, so that any barriers to their successes can be removed. I want to encourage their self-confidence, knowing they have every chance possible from their education at LaFayette to go as far as they wish to go in life. I plan to participate actively within this community to support this plan's success.

I believe the traditions in LaFayette enrich this community, and new traditions can bring new experiences that can further enhance those experiences for the students at all of the schools in the LaFayette Central School District. If elected, I hope to participate and help in every way possible to make these students time here both successful and memorable. Thank you for your time.

Sarah Stanton

My name is Sarah Stanton and I live in LaFayette. I graduated from LaFayette Jr/Sr High School after being part of the district since the second grade. Shortly after graduation, I went on to meet my husband who was born and raised here as well. I continued on with my education and attended college for a degree in Business Administration.

I now run an established daycare in LaFayette and am an active member in the community. With our four children attending LaFayette School District, I am very active in extracurricular activities. I help out in their classrooms, I have volunteered to coach numerous sports every year since my oldest daughter was in kindergarten and I step in whenever I can. At home, we raise a family of outdoorsmen. We love to hike, camp and go four wheeling to take advantage of all the landscapes that LaFayette has to offer.

I would like to serve on the school board for many reasons. First and foremost being that I have young children in the district. I want to have a say in changes that will directly affect, not only my own children, but those that I coach or have coached, and those I care for during the day. I want to bridge the gap between parents and administrators. I want to improve communication between administration and staff/faculty. It is of the utmost importance that the school faculty

collaborates with parents and caregivers to establish consistency in children's lives. With new generations come new challenges. We are key adults in their lives; it is important that we address issues with each other with the same thoughtfulness as if it were our own child we were talking about every time. I will advocate for the teachers, I will advocate for the parents and I will advocate for your child.