

Sweet Home Board of Education Candidates...

District residents will elect two (2) members to the Board of Education on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at the Annual Budget Vote. The terms of Amy Battaglia and Marianne Jasen expire June 30, 2022. Four candidates seek election to the two open board seats: Amy Battaglia, Marianne Jasen, Jonathan Makeley and Jessica Stephens. The two top vote getters will be elected to a five-year term expiring on June 30, 2027. District residents can vote between the hours of 7am and 9pm on Tuesday, May 17 in the Norman C. Vergils Community Center of Sweet Home High School.

AMY BATTAGLIA



My name is Amy Battaglia. I am running for reelection of the Sweet Home School Board. Sweet Home has been my home for over 20 years. My husband, my oldest daughter and my step-son are Sweet Home Alumni. My youngest daughter is in ninth grade at our high school. I work full time at Daemen University in the education department. Preparing teachers to fulfill their dreams of teaching and being a bridge to our district, has proven to be insightful for both entities. I have served the Sweet Home district in many ways. First, through our PTA/PTSAs, then, as an employee of the district including serving on several committees. During the pandemic, everyone has faced challenges, especially our children. Working with my fellow board members on several aspects of the regulations has been tough and trying at times. While we are beginning to get back to something that resembles normal, we are not there yet. It is important to help all of our community members move forward. Our students deserve the best education and experiences that we can provide. In addition to keeping our kids safe at school and supporting continued rigorous instruction, I would continue to encourage transparent communication to our community members. It is very important to me that all community members have their voices heard and even more important that our students have every fulfilling experience that we can offer, including more social events. I will continue to gather information by asking informative questions and maintaining a focus on whole-child education. I know that I can continue to make a difference by working hard as a strong advocate for our children and collaborating as a team member on the Sweet Home Board of Education. I will continue to be committed to our community's health, safety and education as we continue to build Sweet Home's excellent reputation together.

MARIANNE JASEN



For the past 15 years, I have had the pleasure of serving the community as a Sweet Home School Board member. I am seeking re-election so we can continue to provide the best education possible to our students. I have seen first-hand the commitment our staff has to our children, and through our partnership we will continue to strive for excellence.

During my years of service, I have remained steadfast in my goal to effectively, efficiently and responsibly use the financial support of our community to ensure that all our students are prepared for their future endeavors. With recent inflationary pressures, focusing on cost-effectiveness will be critical.

I have worked and will continue to work collaboratively with my fellow board members to ensure the district's tradition of excellence in the public education it provides.

The past two years have been difficult. There will be more challenges ahead. Moving forward, we will need a special focus on the emotional needs of our students. I will work energetically to ensure that the resources needed are provided for their academic, emotional, and physical development.

I began my involvement in the district by participating in the Maplemere PTA, and I believe parental involvement is crucial for the success of our students. I am always open to receiving input from parents and guardians because you know your children best.

I am a nurse in the Surgical Care Unit at Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital with 37 years of experience and have also been a resident in Sweet Home for 32 years. I bring the same care and compassion to the School Board as I do for my patients.

I ask for your support so I can continue to represent you and our children in fulfilling our district mission: Every Student, One Community, Ready for the Future.

Sweet Home Board of Education Candidates...

District residents will elect two (2) members to the Board of Education on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at the Annual Budget Vote. The terms of Amy Battaglia and Marianne Jasen expire June 30, 2022. Four candidates seek election to the two open board seats: Amy Battaglia, Marianne Jasen, Jonathan Makeley and Jessica Stephens. The two top vote getters will be elected to a five-year term expiring on June 30, 2027. District residents can vote between the hours of 7am and 9pm on Tuesday, May 17 in the Norman C. Vergils Community Center of Sweet Home High School.

JONATHAN MAKELEY



Greetings, my name is Jonathan Makeley. It is an honor to run for the Sweet Home School Board.

I have lived in Sweet Home School District for several years. In my time, I have seen many great things in our community, and I wish to contribute to the future success of our students. I have cared about education and civic involvement, ever since I was a teenager, and have continued to be civically engaged to this day.

I am a historian, with a focus on American reform movements. As a historian, my work involves researching and analyzing past events, developing a detailed understanding of the topic, and writing about them in a way that helps others to understand them. As a school board member, I would seek to use these skills to better understand the issues affecting the district, to look for good approaches, and work with other members of the board and the community to help ensure that the children of this district receive a quality education.

As a historian, I have been involved with several different historical organizations, from which I have had experience serving on organizational boards, working with others to plan events, creating publications, designing policies, and planning budgets.

In 2016-2017, I served as a representative on the Curriculum and Teaching Committee of the College for Liberal Arts and Sciences at Alfred University, where I provided perspective and input on decisions regarding curriculum, teaching practices, and the operation of academic programs.

If elected, my goal would be to work with the other board members, staff, parents, and teachers, to navigate the challenges we face, improve the quality of education, support our teachers, and make sure that the children of this district develop the knowledge and skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.

JESSICA STEPHENS



I'm Jessica Stephens and I'm running for the Sweet Home Board of Education. My goal is to be a voice for ALL stakeholders in the district. Students, teachers, parents/guardians, service workers, and tax payers all have a stake in Sweet Home's future. I believe there is room at the table for all points of view and voices to be heard.

I was educated in public school, and attended the University at Buffalo for Environmental Geography/Chemistry. I worked as a technical writer/environmental scientist before starting a family with my husband, Todd. Together we have two children attending Willow Ridge Elementary - Sally and Cora. Cora will be attending Sweet Home Middle School next year. I started a successful business during the pandemic that is continuing to do well. We are involved with dog rescue work, and we welcomed our dog Archimedes (Archie) into our family in July 2020.

I have served on the Willow Ridge PTO board for six years, in roles including Treasurer, Membership, and co-President. I brought both Science Night and Multicultural Night to Willow Ridge, and I ran the Scholastic Book Fair for four years. In 2021, I was awarded the Leon C. (Sid) Oberacker Award, presented annually for "Outstanding Voluntary Service to School and Community," and was a finalist for the WNY InfoTech Good Neighbor Award. I served on a sub-committee for the district's 2020-2021 Re-Opening Plan, and on the June 2021 Re-Opening Committee as a parent representative. I served on the Willow Ridge Building Leadership Team (BLT), as well as the Remote Academy BLT (during remote learning).

I believe we can always strive to be better, to learn better, and to do better. That is why I am confident that my hard work and dedication will be an asset to our Board of Education.