

# Lake Shore CSD Candidates' Night 2021

**Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6 p.m.  
Lake Shore Middle School Auditorium**

## **Conducted by the League of Women Voters**

Individuals who do not wish to attend in person can submit questions for candidates via email to [BOEpubliccomment@lscsd.org](mailto:BOEpubliccomment@lscsd.org) **no later than 12 noon on Monday, May 3, 2021**. Individuals attending in person may submit their questions via this avenue as well, or via cards available to the audience prior to the start of Meet the Candidates Night. Questions should be worded so all candidates can answer. Questions directed to one candidate will not be asked. Questions will be screened and used based on appropriateness, non-redundancy and time constraints.

## **Lake Shore Board of Education Candidates 2021**

The candidates who receive the highest number of votes at the Annual Meeting will fill the expired terms of the two incumbents and will serve on the Board of Education for three-year terms to commence on July 1, 2021 and expire June 30, 2024. The seats are currently held by Jennifer Michalec and Kathleen Chiavetta. The biographical sketches below are submitted by the candidates and are presented in the order they will appear on the ballot. The opinions expressed are those of the candidates. Background information, as stated in the profiles, has not been verified by the school district.

### **Biography submitted by candidate Arlene DeJoy-Meckes**



My name is Arlene DeJoy-Meckes and I am running for Lake Shore Central School Board. I have over 15 years of experience in the field of education and have 3 children in the Lake Shore District at the elementary, middle and high school levels. After graduating from Lake Shore, I attended both SUNY Fredonia and Nazareth College in Rochester to obtain a Secondary Education Degree and a master's degree in Educational Technology. I went on to become a middle and high school social studies teacher in Pittsford, NY. My family and I moved back to Brant 6 years ago. Since moving back to the area, I obtained my master's degree in English as a Second Language and have been teaching and advocating for children in that capacity. My volunteer work includes Girls on the Run Coach, organizing toy and clothing drives for families in need and leading a campaign to increase recess and physical education for students. As a board of education member, I will always put children and families first and I hope to work towards a positive community, school relationship.

## **Biography submitted by candidate Jennifer Michalec**



Jennifer Michalec is proud to be a current member of the Lake Shore Central School Board and is currently in her 15th year of service. She currently serves as the Board President, and has held this position since July 2012. To enhance her knowledge of public education, she has completed numerous hours of board development opportunities such as, fiscal oversight training, law conferences and various other workshops. She has successfully completed the requirements of the NYSSBA's School Board Institute. Additionally, she serves as a NYSSBA Alternate, and an Erie County Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly Alternate. Jennifer has continued to show her dedication by attending regular monthly board meetings and work sessions and has served on our Policy Review Committee, Code of Conduct Review Committee, Budget Committee, Audit Committee and Administrative Leadership Committee. She currently sits on our, Athletics Committee, Board Recognition Program Committee, Professional Development/Shared Decision Making, and Safety Committee.

Jennifer is the office manager at Bell Chiropractic and oversees all operations at both of their locations. She has been with the practice for 17 years. Jennifer is married to Paul Michalec and they have five children, all of whom are Lake Shore graduates. Jennifer and Paul have always been active in their community and volunteer many hours of service to both school and town initiatives. Jennifer continues to be an advocate for children and for quality programs within our district and has worked hard to maintain stable taxes within our community. She wishes to continue to proudly serve the Lake Shore taxpayers and the children of this community as a member of the Lake Shore Central School Board.

## **Biography submitted by candidate Guy Canonico**



As a lifelong resident of Evans, I have had the privilege to serve our community for many years in the volunteer fire service. I currently serve as the Disaster Coordinator for the Town of Evans which is a title I have held for the last nine years. I am the parent of a child at AJ Schmidt elementary school and a Lake Shore Central alumni, class of 1998. I am running for school board because I am invested in this community and I have firsthand understanding of the struggles many parents and students face today.

## **Biography submitted by candidate Kathleen Chiavetta**



Kathleen Chiavetta was born and raised in the Town of Brant and graduated from Lake Shore in 1994. She is the Director of Business Development and Chief Operating Officer of Chiavetta's Catering, a graduate of UB's Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, and in 2020 was named one of *Buffalo Business First's* 150 Most Powerful Women.

A fierce advocate for public education, Kathleen represents Lake Shore as co-chair of the Erie County Association of School Boards Legislative Team, and meets with elected officials, at home, in Albany, and in Washington DC to support the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner, advocating for issues like full and fair funding of public education, student social-emotional and mental health support, and equitable access to internet and technology, particularly in underserved communities, such as the Seneca Nation territories.

Kathleen serves as Fundraising Committee Chair of the Academy of Business and Finance, and has served on numerous committees, including Budget, Administrative Leadership, School Counselors Advisory Committee, Professional Development, Shared Decision Making, Policy, and Code of Conduct.

Kathleen is the recipient of multiple Erie County Association of School Boards Awards, including the Rising Star, Shining Star, and Medallion Star, the Board Achievement Award and Board Excellence Award from the New York State School Boards Association, and the Lake Shore Academy of Business and Finance Outstanding Commitment to Education Award.

Kathleen lives in her hometown of Brant with her children, Alex, Grace, and Katie. They enjoy traveling and spending time together as a family.

## **Biography submitted by candidate Tiffany Eckles**



My name is Tiffany Eckles and I am a candidate for the Evans-Brant Central School District (Lake Shore Central Schools) Board of Education on Tuesday May 18, 2021. I am a lifelong resident of Angola. I am the third of four children, the mother of two and an aunt of six. I am the daughter of retired Town of Evans Police Lieutenant Frederick K. Eckles Sr and Gwendolyn Eckles. I am a military veteran, and a special education advocate. I am a graduate of Most Precious Blood School, Immaculata Academy, Empire State College. If elected I will work to advocate for all of the children in the Evans-Brant Central School District. It is imperative that I always have an open ear and listen to all of the suggestions and comments that would come my way and treat them with dignity. I believe that every point of view and perspective must be respected and considered. I believe that having good communication is one of the most important keys to be successful in an environment such as this.

# ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE, VEHICLE PURCHASE REFERENDUM & BOARD ELECTION

**Tuesday, May 18, 2021  
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Lake Shore High School Gymnasium**

**PLEASE NOTE: Parking will be available to voters in the lower and upper parking lots located by the District Office.**

**VOTERS will NOT be permitted to enter the polling site if they:**

- Have symptoms of COVID-19, including fever greater than or equal to 100.0°F, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pains, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell.
- Have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days and have not been cleared by a medical professional or the local health department to appear in public.
- Had close or proximate contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days.

All individuals at the polling site must undergo a COVID-19 health screening and will be **required to wear a mask**. If any voter anticipates not being able to enter the polling site, we strongly encourage you to submit an application for an absentee ballot. Applications are available on our website and in the District Clerk's Office located in the High School. The Application for Absentee Ballot must be received by the District Clerk at least **7 days before (May 11, 2021)** the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee Ballots must be received by the District Clerk **by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election (May 18, 2021)**.

**Qualifications of Voters at District Meetings (Pursuant to Education Law §2012)**

- A voter must be a citizen of the United States
- A voter must be eighteen (18) years of age or older
- A voter must be a legal resident within the District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the meeting or election at which he/she offers to vote.
- A voter must not be otherwise prohibited from voting pursuant to Education Law Section 5-106.

Native Americans residing on the Seneca Nation Territory are eligible to vote in this annual vote if the majority of their children attend the Lake Shore Central Schools. The above qualifications must also be satisfied.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Voters should bring a valid photo ID to all District elections as they may be asked to show proof of name and/or address.