



SIX CANDIDATES SEEK FOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION SEATS



Lawrence Lyon

ADDRESS: 3 Hanford Drive, Dryden, NY 13053

EMAIL: lawrencelyon@live.com

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 4

EDUCATION: Master of Divinity,

Talbot Theological Seminary; Graduate work, Geophysics, Cornell University; B.A. in Physics, California State University Fullerton; High School Diploma, Christian Academy in Japan

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE: 24 years waste tire hauling; Physics teaching and English as a Second Language teaching; contracts administration; electro-mechanical and electro-optical engineering; warehousing

CIVIC, COMMUNITY ACTIVITY: 12 years school board member; 28 years Christ Chapel, Ithaca; enthusiastic supporter of Southworth Library; 10 years Board of Directors, Central New York School Boards Association

WHY WOULD I LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED A CANDIDATE FOR THE DRYDEN SCHOOL:

Many external forces, including even the NYS education establishment, are leaning in to our District, seeking to dictate viewpoints to our schools and influence our students to dance to their particular tune. I believe, in contrast, that the Dryden community can make its own sweet music, and is fully up to the task of preparing our youth for their futures in this world. The best response to the ill-winds blowing is to provide the sound basic education guaranteed to our youth by the NYS Constitution.

What does this look like? It means supplying, without distraction, both the knowledge base and the evaluative and analytical thinking skills that best prepare our graduates for their roles in American society. How to think, not primarily what to think, is key.

I stand against the external pressures, and I stand for a return to robust local governance of our children's education.



Ronald Szymanski

ADDRESS: 13 Tanbark Circle, Freeville, NY 13068

EMAIL: rszymanski@frontiernet.net

PHONE #: 607-279-0762

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 3

EDUCATION: College prep at Marcos de Niza HS, Tempe, AZ; BS Mechanical Engineering, Brown University, Providence, RI

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE: 11 years organic farming/tree management on family farm, Dansville, NY; 11 years energy conservation industry; 15 years renewable energy developer/consultant, Freeville NY

CIVIC, COMMUNITY ACTIVITY: Dryden SD BOE; Village of Freeville Planning Board; Tompkins County Environmental Management Council; Town of Dryden Recreation and Youth Commission

WHY WOULD I LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED A CANDIDATE FOR THE DRYDEN SCHOOL:

I am a candidate for the Dryden School District Board of Education because I can continue to serve the voters and be a constructive influence in the Renaissance of this school district during difficult times. I have served almost four years on the Board of Education during a pivotal period of transition. I promised the voters to A. put children first B. support transparency from the board C. be a voice for community communication on the board. My three children were in school during the 2016-2017 school year, and I recognized that these issues were not being met to the satisfaction of parents and the community. With my background in business and problem solving, I thought I could bring a commonsense approach to the board. The commonsense I know exists in this community and I have trusted for almost 23 years of residency. I came with a servant's heart. I came to help this school district become a better place for our children. This is the place my family calls home and a community I love. I have no personal agenda. Since giving my first oath to serve on the board in July 2017, I have played a positive role in the following:

1. Actively participated in the selection of an excellent interim Superintendent
2. Fully engaged in the one-year search for our current outstanding Superintendent
3. Served on the Facilities Committee to help oversee the \$40 million capital project
4. Served as the Dryden School District representative on the TST County School Board Association where I promoted the rebuilding of the Dryden School District to the other constituent school districts
5. Served on the Policy Committee and helped update necessary policies
6. Served on the Audit Committee to help oversee the good financial condition of the district
7. Served as the Legislative Liaison and met with our political representatives to promote the good activities occurring in the district
8. Made myself available to questions from constituents and provided follow-up answers
9. Actively involved in helping the school district survive the COVID-19 outbreak
10. Supports and participates in the recently implemented evaluation processes for the Superintendent and the Board

This is a good school board. We are fortunate to have diversified, caring, intelligent, experienced and hardworking members. I am proud of my participation over the last four years and honored that the voters allowed me to serve with these amazing board members from our beautiful community. I believe I am a valuable asset to the voters because of my experience and working relationship with the members on the board at this time and under these serious circumstances. I am happy to serve another term as per the will of the people. With much respect, Ron Szymanski



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Justin St. Juliana

ADDRESS: 166 Pinckney Rd. Ithaca, NY 14850

EMAIL: jrstjuliana@gmail.com

PHONE #: 607-319-3265

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 3 in Dryden Central School District (7 months old, 3 years old, 6 years old).

EDUCATION: *HS: Wheaton Warrenville South

High School – General Education (Wheaton, IL)

*BS: Iowa State University – Wildlife Biology (Ames, Iowa) *MS: Ben Gurion University of the Negev – Animal Behavior (Sde Boker, Israel)

*PhD: Indiana State University – Biology (Terre Haute, Indiana)

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE: As part of my employment, I have managed budgets, organized people, been on numerous committees, etc. My work experience is primarily in academia and includes but is not limited to:

*Associate Professor – Ivy Tech Community College, Dept. of Life & Physical Sciences (6 yrs.)

*Author and Digital Content Author – Pearson Publishing (8 years)

*Visiting Assistant Professor – St. Mary of The Woods College, Dept. of Science & Math (1 yr.)

*Senior Lecturer – Cornell University, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (5 yrs.)

CIVIC, COMMUNITY ACTIVITY: I have been involved in a wide range of education-oriented community activities as part of my associations with public and non-profit colleges and universities. Throughout my life I have contributed to activities promoting fish/game and wildlife. Aside from those activities I served as the president of a homeowners association before moving to Dryden.

WHY WOULD I LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED A CANDIDATE FOR THE DRYDEN SCHOOL:

My family and I moved to Dryden 5 years ago. We have 3 young children in the school district. I would like to see the Dryden Central School District prosper in the years to come for all the children and young adults in the local community. I would like to be a part of a Dryden Central School District School Board of Education that supports the district in its mission to help educate and empower each learner to achieve excellence and build a better world.

Last year was unprecedented in the ways that the lives of students, faculty, staff, and the local community deviated from normal. I am very proud to be a community member and father of a student attending school in the Dryden Central School District. The district handled a difficult situation with as much excellence as could be expected. Yet there will still be impacts of the pandemic that linger in education for years to come. How we emerge from this situation as we get back to a new normal will be critical in our ability to help all students, at all grade levels, to achieve success in all their endeavors. Furthermore, we must return to normal with policies and budgets that are fair and equitable for the faculty, staff, and local community.

Over the last 15 years I have devoted my life to education. As an education specialist, I feel that I have a perspective and competency that I can draw on in order to make positive and informed decisions. I would like to be part of the team that guides the district in a direction that helps continue and build on its successes, because right now that team will be more important than ever.

Thank you for taking the time to read my information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (607-319-3265, jrstjuliana@gmail.com). I would very much appreciate your vote.



Nancy Crawford

ADDRESS: 353 Main St. Freeville, NY 13068

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PHONE #: 607-351-3003

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 4

EDUCATION: New Hyde Park High School, Cortland (SUNY) Bachelors in Physical Education & Masters in P.E.

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE: Teacher at public, private, homeschooling, substituting & coaching. Managing Editor of The Herald Examiner

CIVIC, COMMUNITY ACTIVITY: Foster Care, Jail Re-entry Program, Volunteer for The Ithaca Jungle Clean-up, Church, Second Wind Cottages

WHY WOULD I LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED A CANDIDATE FOR THE DRYDEN SCHOOL:

Today's students are tomorrow's leaders in the home, workplace and the community. Creating the best schools must be among our highest goals. I appreciate all the community efforts that have brought us where we are, but today's dynamic environment requires us to stay alert and work to do better.

The mission of our schools should be to teach not *what* to think but *how* to think critically about the issues of life. Critical thinking allows multiple positions to be studied while students weigh their decisions by the moral compass that they have developed. We must respect honest differences of perspective and embrace genuine community dialogue. Ideas like "Critical Race Theory" must be thoroughly examined and debated within the whole community.

I'm passionate about young students being given every opportunity to succeed according to the unique gifts and talents they each possess. I have experienced teaching from many perspectives: public, private, homeschooling, coaching and substitute teaching. As a mom of four, I've faced the challenges of single and two-parent child raising.

Dryden High (and TC3) have provided roads for success for each of our daughters in receiving their high school diplomas, as well as college scholarships. I am very grateful for these institutions. Our daughters loved participating in school musicals and were very engaged by the Art department teachers and others who gave excellent instruction as well.

When I was substituting at Dryden High School I encountered students who were clearly discouraged about their chances for success in life. Many didn't feel they fit in with the strong emphasis on 'higher education.' I heard one student rave about working on cars with his father and I encouraged him in that pursuit. We need to adjust emphasizing college to the detriment of those who will be amazing at careers that flourish through apprenticeships and other paths like BOCES and TC3 offer.

Technology has revolutionized the work-world, and is reshaping education. The study of work satisfaction has yielded tools such as the Clifton Strengths for Students program, developed by the Gallup Organization and used campus-wide at TC3. Since recommended for 15 year olds, I would advocate having students understand their talents through this and other means available.

A student's self-worth and identity starts in the home. Parents are always the first teachers and trainers. Martin Luther King, Jr. talked about being "judged by the content of their character" in reference to his own children. An article I read years ago emphasized that no matter how many hours are spent in school, the home will always have the greatest impact on children. As parents we impart our family culture to our children and schools come along side us in character formation and helping our children know who they are and how to succeed in becoming the persons they are meant to be.

Our kids are our Future! If elected I will do my best to uphold these principles and listen to the thoughts and concerns of all parents, students and teachers.

(www.nancycrawford4drydenschools.com)



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Joan Stock

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NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 2

EDUCATION: Early Childhood Development, Level Three Teaching Asst. Certification TC3

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE: Former Parent Advisor to Preschool program, 4-H and Girl

scout leader, Member of the Credit Women's International, Sunday School Teacher, President of DESPA, Active member of the Elks Club of Vestal NY.

WHY WOULD I LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED A CANDIDATE FOR THE DRYDEN SCHOOL:

It has been my honor to serve on the Dryden Central School District Board of Education for six years. I am running for a third term, and I am asking for your support.

Having retired from the Dryden Central School District, I have a deep commitment to the students and staff of our district. While employed with the DCSD I served as the president of the Dryden Support Staff Union, and also sat on the Faculty Associations negotiating committee. After retiring from DCSD, I became a Case Manager at Employment Connections. Here my job was to assist and train people in finding employment in the community. This was a very rewarding experience for me. I am now fully retired.

During my service on the Board of Education it has been my privilege to serve on the Policy Committee, the Safety Committee, and the Dryden Support Staff Negotiating Committee. I have participated in multiple interview sessions with prospective employees. Our Board of Education has been actively involved in the budget process, in writing policies, and has hired an exceptional Superintendent. I am dedicated to being fiscally responsible to our tax payers and strive to make my decisions based on what is best for our students. I am willing to ask the tough questions and willing to fight for fairness, and for dignity for everyone in our district.

It is with great enthusiasm that I wish to continue in my service to the Board of Education. The district's shared vision is: We aspire to be the school district that others strive to become.

I always keep this vision in the forefront of my endeavors as I serve this school community.

Thank you for your support.



Bridget Flanigan

ADDRESS: 88 Bone Plain Rd. Freeville, NY

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NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 2

EDUCATION: BSN Bachelors of Science - Nursing

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE: Registered Nurse for 18 years. 12 years of pediatric nursing

experience. Employed at Cornell Health for the last 6 years, 5 years as a nurse manager.

CIVIC, COMMUNITY ACTIVITY: Dryden school board candidate 2019, Pediatric cancer camp volunteer counselor

WHY WOULD I LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED A CANDIDATE FOR THE DRYDEN SCHOOL:

My husband and I moved to the Dryden school district 7 years ago with excitement and enthusiasm for our children to be a part of a smaller school district and community. We currently have one child in 1st grade and our second child will be starting Kindergarten next year. Both of our children attended Pre K at Dryden Elementary which was an amazing experience. We have a child with special education and speech therapy needs and have been navigating these areas and advocating for him since he was 18 months old.

Like many of you this past year (plus) has been one of the hardest personally and professionally. I have learned so much about the resiliency and adaptability of children, parents, educators, healthcare workers and everyone in between. I have also learned so much about myself and what I am capable of accomplishing under difficult circumstances. My nursing and leadership experience has taught me critical thinking, empathy, integrity, initiative, compassion and acceptance.

I am a strong leader that works collaboratively with others to support a common goal. I love to learn from others perspectives and weigh the pro and cons of decisions. My goal as a school board member would be to promote an inclusive, equitable and welcoming environment for all. While I see the district moving in a positive direction there is still work to be done and I am grateful for the opportunity. I believe my nursing and leadership experience along with having young children in the district makes me an excellent candidate for the school board.