



# Lewiston-Porter Central School District

One Purpose, Your Pathway, Our Promise.

## Office of the District Clerk

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## Board Candidate Newsletter Biography

Name: Susan Rhodenizer

Education: BA, 1983 Maryville College (TN)  
MA Education, 1990 Brock University  
(St Catherine's, Ontario)

Employment: Retired Teacher



### **Please identify previous and/or real-life experiences, which you believe qualify you to serve on the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education.**

One of the first things you should know about me is that I am a fierce supporter and advocate for public schools. I strongly believe in the benefits, value, and experiences that public schools provide all students. Public schools are one of the foundational elements of a successful society and a strong public school system benefits all of us whether we have students currently enrolled or not.

I am a retired third-generation teacher who attended public school. I taught high school Spanish for thirty-three years serving also as department chairperson and on numerous committees. For twelve years I served as the director of the Teacher Center for the Niagara Falls City School District. This staff development program is funded by state monies outside of the regular state school funding with the intention of providing staff development beyond what the school district requires focusing on special content areas as well as teacher-suggested and requested training. After my retirement, I served on the Policy Board of the Orleans-Niagara Teacher Center to which Lewiston-Porter belongs.

In these work roles I became familiar with academic standards, exams, student achievement data, and the demands upon teachers. I also learned about creating budgets, creating and evaluating strategic plans, communicating with stakeholders, implementing workshops, creating reports, working with district administration and NYSED. I also learned about regional and state content area organizations and networked with other educators in many roles across our region and state. I feel that all of these experiences would allow for an easy transition to the Board.

### **Why do you want to be/become a member of the Board of Education?**

I am a parent of a Lew-Port graduate. Our son enjoyed his academic and extracurricular experiences and he received a solid foundation for him to obtain his degree at RIT and secure gainful employment after graduation. I want this outcome for all of our students.

In reviewing the district's goals in the Strategic Plan, I found myself aligned with goals for Innovative Learning Environments and the activities around collaboration and peer coaching among teachers and the International Education Initiatives. In our current global society, our kids need to have an awareness of and to know how to function in a world beyond just our own country. I also gravitate to the goal of improving School Culture and Climate. Establishing a safe and supportive environment for learning is a top priority for student success.

Our district has many admirable qualities, but there are always areas to improve to meet the current challenges and to evolve to meet the needs of future students. I believe strongly in high academic and behavior standards, accountability, and being good stewards of the tax money that is entrusted to us by our community. We must use our collective energy to ensure our students' academic achievement, and to continue to offer experiences and opportunities that will allow them to find their passions and path in life.