



Lewiston-Porter Central School District

One Purpose, Your Pathway, Our Promise.

Board Candidate Savana Bevacqua

Education: Lewiston-Porter Class of 2003
AAS in Humanities & Social Sciences from NCCC
BS in Urban & Regional Planning from Buffalo State
Currently attending graduate school at University at Buffalo -
Masters of Urban Planning

Employment: US Navy Veteran
Former Finance & Business Manager at Joe Cecconi's Chrysler
Village of Lewiston Planning Board member



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

I have built a life around serving my country and community. As both a US Navy Veteran and a Village of Lewiston Planning Board member, I believe that it is our responsibility as community members to represent the standards and values of our district. We are responsible for setting goals and enacting the changes we wish to see. I understand that not everyone has the time available to commit to the community, yet still deserve their interests represented. I also understand that teachers and staff need to have full support and backing from a cohesive, dedicated Board of Education.

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

To put it simply: I believe wholeheartedly in serving my community, and I want an active role participating in the changes the district both needs and wants. I am a lifelong community member and a mother of two young children in the Lew-Port school system. I believe that supporting our teachers and staff at Lew-Port is integral to the educational health of our children and community. I am here to listen and participate!



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Board Candidate Chuck Barber

Education: HS graduate of Niagara Wheatfield (92);
Associate Degree, Niagara County Community College
Bachelor's in Business, Buffalo State

Employment: 20 years' experience in non-profit work, working with individuals with developmental disabilities at Heritage Christian Services. Left there in 2015 to co-own/run Apple Granny restaurant. After 6 years of this, due to some increased family needs, I left this and currently work with the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce.



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

I believe my work experience and education makes me an excellent candidate for the school board. I have three children currently in the school system who are active in a variety of the school functions/sports. I have extensive board experience serving on the boards of the Lewiston Kiwanis, Hanci, Anchoring Hope and others in the past. I have been active in the boards/running of youth sports that my kids have been a part of as well.

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

I would like to join the school board as it is important to me to be involved in both the school system and the community that my family is a part of. I have always tried to remain active in the community and my work with Apple Granny's and the Chamber has helped with that. I am a member of the Lewiston Kiwanis and have helped support many of their activities, including being the chairperson for the Peach Festival in the past. I feel I can add my professional work experience and love of this community to the school board.



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Board Candidate April Saks

Education: Master's degree in Education, Mills College, Oakland, CA
California Teaching Credential, Mills College, Oakland, CA
Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, Stanford University,
Stanford, CA

Employment: Freelance editor



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

I've always been interested in the education and well-being of children. After college, before becoming a credentialed teacher, I took on a variety of jobs that were education-related, from dissecting cows' eyes at San Francisco's hands-on Exploratorium museum to facilitating children's groups through Kids' Turn, a support program for children whose families were going through separation and divorce. I also collected data for a nationwide educational research project. I later earned my teaching credential and Master's degree in education, working as an ESL and reading specialist at several elementary schools in northern and central California. While teaching, I worked on the school site plan as a Leadership Team member, and I served as a coordinator of a K-12 student writing initiative as part of the Bay Area School Reform Collaborative.

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

In 2010, I moved with my husband and twin toddlers to Lewiston. When my kids entered kindergarten at Lewiston-Porter, I was excited to continue being involved with education—this time as a parent. I volunteered in classrooms, and helped with multi-age events and special programs like One District One Book. I believe these activities reinforced the importance of support for our students' academic, physical, and emotional wellbeing. At the same time, I became involved in education in new ways by volunteering to interview local applicants to Stanford (where I went to college), and becoming a college essay editor, working with high school seniors to express their ideas effectively as they apply to colleges across the country. Working with high school seniors, in combination with my work in other grade levels has given me an appreciation of the K-12 experience overall.

Last July, I eagerly became a part of the Lewiston Porter Board of Education when there was an open position. Since that time, I have learned a lot while participating in board meetings and work sessions, attending committee meetings, completing the necessary school board training and attending school events. Since moving to this area, I've enjoyed being a part of the Lewiston Porter community, and as an educator, a parent and a current school board member, I would welcome the opportunity to continue this work. Thank you for your consideration.



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Board Candidate Anika Fetzner

Education: Bachelors of Human Resource Management,
UMUC

Employment: Panera Bread Associate



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

I am a mom of four kids in the district ranging from 1st to 9th grade. My two older children are in orchestra at different levels. My oldest daughter is also involved in multiple Lew-Port athletic programs. This has given me a deeper level of commitment to the Lew-Port community.

I have been a member of the PTSA for 7 years. In the past 2 and a half years, I have been active on the PTSA Board as the chair for spirit wear. As a friend of mine pointed out, I am not afraid to ask questions.

I also have spent some time volunteering in classrooms as well as worked as a substitute teacher in all four buildings, which I believe offers me insight into the life of our teachers and students.

This past year as a Board of Education member offered me the chance to learn a lot about what it involves to be part of our children's education. It definitely was and is a lot to learn. I plunged into several meeting committees and learned that it takes a lot to be well informed about each step it takes to run our school.

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

I have learned a lot this past year and would like to continue to learn all I can about how to keep our district successful.

These past few years have not been easy for any of us. We've had to adapt and overcome a lot of new situations. I think a positive attitude, forward thinking and gentle guidance for our children in the district will help ease the turmoil we've had to face. I would like to continue to be part of the Board of Education to help keep our district on this path.

I'm interested in the continued success of our district. I think it is important to focus on our children's education in order to help them succeed in the future. Lew-Port is an all-around great environment for our children (grandchildren), teachers and supporting staff. The academic performance, diversity of athletics, arts and enrichment programs are some of the best in Western NY. My goal is to not only maintain that standard of excellence but also support future development that is both fiscally responsible and targeted towards our children's best interests.