

Candidates for Board of Education Seat

One seat to fill the one currently held by Don Edwards. The new term will expire on June 30, 2020. Candidates' autobiographies are presented with no alterations by the district and in the order they will appear on the ballot.



Judy Warner

My name is Judy Warner; my husband Walter and I have been resident home owners in the Chenango Forks School District on Cloverdale Road for over 30 years. We are both graduates of Chenango Forks as well as our two children, Nathan and Brodrick.

I am committed to serving the educational needs of all the children in the district regardless of background or abilities. It is important to me that our students' school experience is positive and they are offered a curriculum that will help them achieve their life goals. I would like to see programs available and expanded in the future for students, both during and outside the regular school day. I believe the extra-curricular experience is an important part of a balanced education.

I served on the Chenango Forks Board of Education during some of the hardest fiscal times in recent history of funding cuts. I believe we maintained a core of respectable programs and extra curricula's for our students that fit in the budget. To maintain a professional staff, I feel competitive benefits and salary are important while maintaining a budget that is fair to the tax payers in the district. I feel as a board member we should continually look for ways to economically and educationally improve our district.

As a past employee with over 20 years of service in the Chenango Forks District, it has given me a clearer understanding, perspective and knowledge of the needs, challenges and strengths of the district. One of my favorite assignments was the Adult Computer Classes offered to residents after the regular school day. These classes were well attended and enjoyed by the district residents. I left Chenango Forks to pursue an opportunity at another school district. I am currently employed by BT BOCES Regional IT Department. It would be my honor to serve the Chenango Forks community as a Board of Education member. Thank you for your consideration. Make your vote count May 19th.



Mary Collins

I'm eager to represent our children and our community by joining our School Board team. As a former Chenango Forks elementary teacher, I am fully vested in all of the children of our school community. I retired 3 years ago when my husband and I became grandparents. My career spanned over 30 years, 24 of which were at the Forks. I'm accustomed to communicating with parents, assessing the needs of our students, and working as a team to address those needs with the resources we have. My personal mantra is to remain focused on a solution when reacting to a problem or concern. This position on the board will allow me to be a part of that. It is about addressing all of our students, all ages, all levels, and all aspects of their educational experience. We need to balance the needs, with the restrictions our budget affords us. A difficult task, but one I have been addressing my whole career. We have a fiscal responsibility to our taxpayers. Supporting our teachers and staff will directly benefit our children. I am keenly aware of what it takes. As a member of the Teachers Association Scholarship Committee for over 15 years, I was fortunate enough to have celebrated our senior's successes. Chenango Forks has always been on top of the learning curve!

My husband Tom and I raised 3 children in Chenango Forks, where we've resided for 30 years. We moved here solely for the quality of education CF was known for in the region. Our own children's successful career paths are a direct result of the quality education they received. That Forks education provided them with a multitude of opportunities. Our son Devin went to Babson College and is now the Assistant Director for Business and Entrepreneurial Development at the University of NC at Charlotte. Our daughter Caitlin is employed locally as an Occupational Therapist after attending Ithaca College. Megan went to The University of Scranton. She is employed locally as a Speech Pathologist. These opportunities should be available to all of our children.

I want for your children what we had for ours...a quality education!

Vote on Tuesday, May 19, Noon to 9 p.m., HS Auditorium



Don Edwards

My name is Don Edwards and I live on Jason Drive with my wife Linda, our sons, Jonathan and Stephen, both graduated from Chenango Forks in 2004 and 2010. I am retired now, after working as an Asset manager for 38 years with the responsibility to maximize product performance and to minimize expenditures.

During my 26 years in the district I have coached many youth sports and volunteered on many school sports teams. For the 4 years before being elected to the board, I was a member of the facility advisory committee resulting in the move of the CKE to the main campus.

During the last 15 years I have had the opportunity to serve as a member of the Chenango Forks School Board. During that time we have had to face many challenges as a school district, from additional state mandates to increasing health care costs along with a large downturn in the economy. We have had to adjust to large reductions in state aid due to the Gap Elimination

Adjustment (GEA). We just finished a consolidation study with Chenango Valley that was defeated, but, we are working to find areas where we can partner with the Valley to enhance student opportunities and share costs.

Now we are getting back on our feet and heading in a good direction. We have been able to implement a new STEAM academy that will give our students the opportunity to intern at some world class companies (Lockheed Martin, Raymond Corp.). We are also able to offer college courses from Syracuse, Albany, and BCC. We are currently working with Chenango Valley to be able to offer Bio Engineering and Engineering Science so that students from both districts will have the opportunity to take courses that will benefit them and start to prepare them for college.

We have also received a commitment from the state to fund an expansion to our Science rooms as well as add a Technology floor to our High School as part of the new capital project. This, in conjunction with the STEAM Academy, alliance with Syracuse, SUNY, and PLTW (Project Lead The Way) and the partnership with local businesses that will make Chenango forks a premier school district in the region as well as in the state.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the district tax payers, students, faculty and staff, and for that I say "Thank-You."

Through it all, it has been my desire to maintain the educational standards and opportunities for our students that they have come to expect and deserve and I believe we are on our way. At the same time, I have worked to minimize the additional funding required from the district residents to maintain these standards, and implement new programs.

The district is back on a path to restoring electives and reducing class size, however, we must do this in a controlled and steady manner and continue to look at sustainability as we proceed and not over extend our resources to the point of breakage.

It is my desire to see the Chenango Forks School District continue to provide our students with the best education we can, improve performance in all areas of education for all students and continue to be a place where the community feels welcome. My goal has been, and continues to be, to balance the best education with good stewardship of the monies made available to the district through state aid and local taxes.

Over the last 15 years on the board I have seen a lot of ups and downs and changes in the way public schools are treated and perceived. Through it all, I know the students at Chenango Forks are well prepared for whatever they choose to do after graduation and the district has given them the tools they need to succeed.

I truly appreciate the support of the community as we continue to push for excellence as a District and prepare our students for their future.

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