



# Candidate for Board of Education Seat



(Candidates' autobiographies are presented with no alterations by the district and are in the order they will appear on the ballot.)

## Rich Rooney

**M**y name is Rich Rooney and I live at 19 Chris Court, Binghamton, N.Y. with my wife, Kathe, and two daughters Lauren and Colleen, who both attend Chenango Forks Schools. Having recently served as a member of the Chenango Forks Central School District Budget Advisory Committee, I have a thorough understanding of the many financial challenges faced by the school district, including reductions in state aid, unfunded education mandates and a tax levy that has increased by more than 50% over the past 10 years. These financial pressures will only worsen in future years. This is a critical period for the Board of Education that requires engaging the community to make effective future-oriented decisions that balance the best interest of students with what is affordable to taxpayers. If elected to the Board of Education, I will use my 18-years experience in the private sector (engineering, management and budgeting) to focus on the following:



**Transparency:** The need to make difficult decisions by the Board will be the norm for an extended period. It is vital that the Board establish an open teaming relationship with the community and clearly communicate rationale for decision-making to all stakeholders – students, taxpayers and teachers.

**Accountability:** I will commit to being responsible for making decisions in the best interest of district constituents and expect other board members to do the same. I'll ask the difficult questions and expect informative answers.

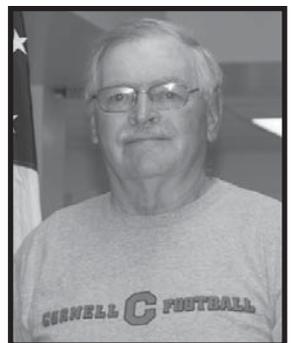
**Long-Term Budget Planning:** Work closely with superintendent and business office, with input from the community and teachers, to improve the long-term budget planning process with strategy and goals that are in alignment with the current economic climate, projected enrollment and state aid.

**Superintendent Search:** A major priority for the Board of Education in 2012 will be to perform a superintendent search to replace Bob Bundy when he retires. The board's search process should be clearly communicated to the community and should include opportunities for the public to provide input, such as public surveys on desired superintendent qualifications, as the search progresses.

Although I am a relative newcomer (2006) to the area, those who know me as a friend, co-worker or neighbor would describe me as approachable, trustworthy, hard-working and objective. I ask for your vote so I can use these strengths as a member of the Board of Education to maintain the outstanding educational opportunities that Chenango Forks students have enjoyed for years. ■

## Donald M. Vredenburgh

**M**y name is Donald Vredenburgh. I have been a district resident for 49 years and have served on the Chenango Forks Board of Education for over 14 years, from July 1, 1993 to June 30, 2001 and from January 05 to the present. In addition, I served on the CF Facility Advisory Committees that led to significant improvements to our facilities and educational programs. I also am a current member of the BOCES Board of Education, serving from 1999 to the present and for the last three years have served as a director of the New York State Rural Schools Association.



My wife and I have four children, all Forks graduates, with two presently attending New York state colleges. I worked for the State Police for over thirty years, retiring as a New York State Police Investigator.

During the time I served on the CF Board of Education, my goal was to balance the educational needs of our students with difficult financial constraints. I believe the students' educational programs should be of primary importance when budgets are drawn and adopted. We also need to be sensitive to employee concerns and district residents' ability and willingness to fund the programs. Retaining quality teachers, administrators and employees is also a priority.

As a school board member, I feel strongly that we need to ensure that we are meeting the educational, vocational and social needs of all our children. If re-elected, I will serve the students first and foremost. Thank you for your support. ■

*More on reverse side.*

# Stephen Parmeter

**M**y name is Stephen Parmeter (Steve). I live at 735 Brotzman Road with my wife Deb and daughter Kelly. I have lived in the district for 23 years. My wife, Debra Bosket, is a lifelong resident and 1974 graduate of CFCS. I retired from Broome Public Transportation on October 30, 2010, where I spent 22 years as a Coach Operator (bus driver). During the last three years I have volunteered for the Budget Advisory Committee. Last year the committee was not formed due to lack of volunteers. It was during the budget advisory board's meetings two years ago we discussed and promoted the installation of the school's multi-purpose field, which is working very well. During this year's Budget Advisory Committee, I recommended to Mrs. Blackman, Business Executive, that Chenango Forks look into adding Outdoor Supplemental Wood heat. Mrs. Blackman told me the idea has been turned over to the school's architect for evaluation.



I have also volunteered for the District Wide Health and Safety Committee.

It is important to maintain academic quality to prepare our children for college and the workforce. I am also interested in maintaining as many of the extra-curricular activities as possible with reduced Albany funding. We need to maintain a dialog with Senator Libous and Assemblyman Crouch to turn ideas into funded state support for educational programs. We need to continue requesting unfunded mandate relief.

Chenango Forks has provided an outstanding education, and I am interested in seeing Chenango Forks Central School excel, while working to spend tax money wisely.

I am asking for your vote on May 17 for School Board of Education. Thank you. ■

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# Spyros Dimatos

**M**y name is Spyros Dimatos. I am a business owner, a CF graduate, and I have three children in the Chenango Forks School District. This gives me a unique perspective, which will enable me to balance the needs of our children with the financial realities of our community. As a business owner and employer in the area, I have a stake in what happens here; the Dimatos family has owned and operated the Spot Restaurant since 1973. As a CF graduate and the father of Nick (6th-grade), Alexandra (5th-grade) and Daisy (kindergarten) I want to see our strong CF traditions flourish. As a taxpayer who married 20 years ago into a family of educators, I know how schools work and I have some ideas on how we can make ours work more effectively. My unique perspective as a taxpayer, a businessman, a CF graduate, and the father of three Forks students will make me an excellent school board member. Please vote for me on May 17. ■



## Meet the Candidates

Tuesday, May 3, 6 p.m.

Middle School Library

Sponsored by the CF PTA

## Budget Hearing

Thursday, May 5

7 p.m.

Middle School Library

## Annual Vote

Tuesday, May 17

12 noon - 9 p.m.

High School Auditorium

## Ice Cream Social

After you vote

4 - 7 p.m., High School Cafeteria

Sponsored by the CF Teachers' Association