



New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.
 -BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL-
 Williamsville PTSA Council

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WILLIAMSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
2018 PROPOSITIONS & SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE INFORMATION

THE WILLIAMSVILLE PTSA COUNCIL'S ANNUAL SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES' NIGHT
 THURSDAY, May 3, 2018 at 7:00 PM, in the District Office Boardroom, 105 Casey Road, E. Amherst, NY, 14051

ANNUAL DISTRICT VOTE MAY 15, 2018, NORTH HIGH SCHOOL GYM

PROPOSITION NO. 1 - BUDGET

SHALL IT BE RESOLVED:

That the budget for the year 2018-2019 presented by the Board of Education be approved?

YES

NO

PROPOSITION NO. 2 - VOTE FOR ANY THREE BOARD MEMBERS

Election of three (3) board members, the highest three vote recipients, each for a term of three (3) years beginning July 1, 2018, and concluding June 30, 2021.

1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A
Dr. Robert Campo	Dawn M. Fletch	Dr. Michael J. Littman	Toni L. Vazquez	Shawn P. Lemay	Eric Borenstein	Mark Mecca

<p>BUDGET HEARING THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM In the District Office Boardroom 105 Casey Road, East Amherst</p> <p>VOTING REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 18 years of age ■ Resident for 30 days ■ United States Citizen 	<p>VOTE TO TAKE PLACE AT North High School Gymnasium Tuesday, May 15, 2018 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM Please park on the Hopkins Road Side of the school near the tennis court.</p> <p>NO PRE-REGISTRATION</p> <p>Personal identification is required.</p>
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**This information is offered as a public service to the community.
 Please exercise your right to vote.**

Williamsville PTSA Council DOES NOT SUPPORT OR ENDORSE ANY CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE-
 "The Parent-Teacher Organization takes a stand on PRINCIPLES AND ISSUES, not on candidates or political parties."
 ■ National Congress Handbook

WILLIAMSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD CANDIDATES

This **unedited** information was furnished by the candidates.

Williamsville PTSA Council QUESTION TO ALL CANDIDATES:

Technology dominates our lives and can be an integral part of our children's education. When utilized properly, technology can enhance student achievement and improve engagement. Williamsville has shown a commitment to facilitating the use of technology in ways that support student learning and achievement, improve efficiency of district operations, and encourage communication among all stakeholders within the entire school community. However, there are practical concerns with relying on technology, such as the resources needed to maintain the devices, ensure timely upgrades, operate an adequate online infrastructure and appropriately train faculty and staff. As a school board member, how would you balance students' access to technology with these other (and, at times, competing) considerations — like costs, the need to provide developmentally appropriate learning and concerns of online safety and privacy? What specific technology initiatives would you support and/or implement in Williamsville? What best practices would you propose to effectuate a coordinated approach to integrate technology from K-12 that addresses students' learning needs and ongoing teacher training?

Total word response limited to 250 or less.

CANDIDATES In Order of Receipt

6A – Eric Borenstein

577 N. Forest Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221

Occupation – Retired

Years Resident in the Williamsville School District – 24

Family members and schools your children are attending:

Spouse's Name: Carole Ann Fabian

Children: Corey-attended Forest, Mill & South (04)

Activities/Hobbies:

Music, Woodworking, Community

Other Boards Served On:

University Heights Tool Library, Board Treasurer

Reason for seeking election:

As a proud member of the Williamsville community for nearly 25 years, I am first and foremost motivated to insure that current and future students receive the same quality education that our daughter Corey experienced.

Secondly there is no higher priority than the safety of our children. I want to make certain that our students, teachers and administrators work in a safe environment.

Additionally as a symphony orchestra CEO, I know that arts in the curriculum enriches the learning experience and improves educational outcomes for all students. I hope to continue my advocacy on the school board.

Answer to PTSA Council Question:

We have all seen how technology has transformed our society; moreover technical competency is increasingly an essential life skill. It is incumbent on the district to provide a solid grounding in technologies needed to prepare our students for their futures-in post high school education, the job market, and as informed citizens. To do so, students and teachers need the training, tools and secure online environments to develop needed technology skills and information literacies.

School Board members must stay current on important issues in the information technology arena, including online security and the most effective technologies supporting teaching, learning and skill development. However I believe that teachers and administrators are on the front lines of these issues. I would look to them to provide an annual technology proposal that addresses these new opportunities and suggest solutions to ongoing challenges. The board should vet such proposals, taking into account all the practical considerations such as cost, choice of technologies, oversight and maintenance, and to add the appropriate counter-balance to the myriad competing perspectives. These annual proposals will help the board and school administration to develop, adjust and oversee a sustainable multi-year plan for technology maintenance and upgrades, as well as ongoing technology staffing and training.

1A – Dr. Robert Campo

6682 Westminster Drive, East Amherst, NY 14051

Occupation – College Instructor/Assistant Professor

Years Resident in the Williamsville School District – 20

Family members and schools your children are attending:

Children: Richard Campo-attended East HS (16) – currently student at University of Rochester

Peter Campo-Sophomore East HS and UB Gifted Math

Jocelyn Campo-Sophomore Mt. St. Mary's

Activities/Hobbies:

Referee for Clarence Soccer, Coached Clarence Soccer for 14 years, Coached Clarence Baseball 5 years

Other Boards Served On:

Williamsville School District Curriculum Council

Williamsville School District Transportation & Safety Committee

Co-President PTSA Williamsville East High School

Member of Saint Peter and Paul School Advisory Counsel

Reason for seeking election:

As a doctor of education, professor, parent, I work with developing minds every day. I have taught teacher training courses at Buffalo State, D'Youville, Medaille, science courses at ECC, gifted science courses at Saints Peter & Paul, and St. Benedict's middle schools. In 2015, I was selected by NASA as National Science Education Ambassador. As President of the PTSA for Williamsville East I received 1,100 parent signatures on our successful petition for Transit Middle Crossing Guards.

Answer to PTSA Council Question:

Integrating technology into the classroom is an effective way to engage students of all learning styles and all abilities. If used appropriately technology can help prepare students for advanced coursework and an ever expanding potential of careers. Technology gives students a chance to be active learners and to engage in interactive work and not be passive learners. Technology provides a unique learning experience for every child as each child interacts with digital questions. It provides teachers with immediate data as to student answers, student selections, and student comparisons.

I give lessons every day to both middle school students and community college students and I have a smart board with pictures, diagrams, charts behind me as I am talking. It adds to the classroom experience and it keeps me facing the students instead of turned towards the old blackboards.

However, technology is not a panacea. Technology will never be a substitute for good teaching professionals nor should it be a substitute for good lesson planning. Technology, like a textbook or chalk board, is just a tool. It depends on how you use it, and how you integrated it into a total classroom experience.

We must, as a district, have appropriate filters and limits to prevent student misuse of technology because nationally cyber bullying is increasing---so our parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators must be vigilant to make sure our students are conscientious good cyber citizens.

7A - Mark Mecca

105 Troy Del Way, Williamsville, NY 14221

Occupation – School Psychologist

Years Resident in the Williamsville School District – 17

Family members and schools your children are attending:

Spouse's Name: Stephanie Mecca

Children: Emily – 4 – St. Peter & Paul Preschool

Activities/Hobbies:

Between work, school board, and spending time with my family there is little time in the schedule for hobbies and other activities!

Other Boards Served On:

Buffalo Teacher's Federation Executive Committee

Reason for seeking election:

I would like to continue to serve on the Williamsville School Board as I feel we have made amazing progress in the past three years and believe that continuity in our board is an important element necessary to continue moving forward in a positive direction.

Answer to PTSA Council Question:

Children entering kindergarten in the 2018-2019 school year will graduate high school and need to be college and career ready in 2031. Futurist Ray Kurzweil predicts computer intelligence will reach the level of human intelligence around 2030. Thus, our children will work alongside equally intelligent technology/computers/robots perhaps as body part makers, or time brokers. Increasingly it seems that our children will interface with technology on the job daily. That however doesn't mean that all education should be infused with technology. The right balance of education with technology and traditional education will help our students become logical and critical thinkers. Williamsville achieves this balance via the good judgement of administrators and teachers with oversight from the superintendent and board of education.

The most important use of technology will be to prepare our children to be college and career ready and able to use technology effectively to enhance their learning and overall effectiveness. As a board member I want to be certain that the superintendent and his administration know what fields are likely to be in demand in the year 2030 and beyond and that they know how students and teachers can use technology and traditional pedagogical practices to ensure that students are well-educated logical and critical thinkers.

We need to understand and continually evaluate the balancing of traditional pedagogy and teaching that is infused with technology. We need to place a priority on adequate funding for educational technologies including the manpower to maintain our equipment and systems.

3A – Dr. Michael J. Littman

142 Autumnview, Williamsville, NY 14221

Occupation – College Professor

Years Resident in the Williamsville School District – 20

Family members and schools your children are attending:

Children: Jess and Ezra graduated North High School

Activities/Hobbies:

Family, travel, health and nutrition, physical activities

Other Boards Served On:

Williamsville Board of Education 2006-2015, two term president and two term vp

Amherst Town board of Ethics 2015-2020

Meals on Wheels of Western New York, (6 year Term Limit)

Delegate Assembly: UUP/NYSUT

Williamsville Superintendent's Advisory Board

Buffalo Superintendents Advisory Council for Occupational Education

Morton Lane Federal Credit Union—Vice President

Campus Equity and Diversity Committee and Intercollegiate Athletics Board at Buffalo State

Lou Gehrig Baseball, Manager and Coach, Amherst Youth Basketball, Coach

Special Olympics Volunteer and Coach

Reason for seeking election:

As my son says, I have a passion for education, concerns about school safety, security, mental health and doing the right thing. I believe the Board needs highly competent, experienced leaders, and I feel an obligation to give the voters this choice. As a past School Board President, I have documented contribution in school fiscal matters/budgeting, (saving taxpayers more than \$23 million), in academic achievement, in character development, in arts and music, and in athletics. I believe in a strong Williamsville public education system.

Answer to PTSA Council Question:

A cost/benefit analysis of technology should balance the impact on students and student achievement with financial costs to the District. Williamsville has been a leader in technology in student learning, District operations, and communications.

There is a cost in technological access for students but the community expects that to be a component of their children's education. The cost of faculty/staff training and infrastructure are routine part of the District's budget and should stay that way.

Online safety and privacy are necessary to instill with safeguards in the system and in appropriate student preparation for usage.

Specific technology developmentally appropriate for students is designed and developed by appropriate educational technology professionals. The Board's responsibility is to review the alternatives recommended by the District, ask questions, and supply the budget resources necessary.

Best practices would include use of technology as preparation for college and career while teaching responsibility and safe use. I would make sure students are highly aware of issues such as cyberbullying and privacy. Programs like Schoology, are platforms used in some local Districts to enhance student learning and in preparing for college. I support the technology practices and procedures in our District.

4A – Toni L. Vazquez

82 DaVinci Court, Williamsville, NY 14221

Occupation – Business Owner/Philanthropist

Years Resident in the Williamsville School District – 25

Family members and schools your children are attending:

Spouse's Name: Dr. Raul Vazquez

Children: Saul-6th grader at Transit Middle

Nina-attends Canisius College, graduated from Williamsville East HS 2014

Nadia-graduated Canisius College 2017, graduated from Williamsville East HS 2013

Raul-graduated Amherst HS, attended Country Parkway, Transit, and Williamsville East HS

Activities/Hobbies:

My hobbies and activities include reading, writing, theatre and comedy.

Other Boards Served On:

Elected Member, *Williamsville School Board (president 2016-2017)*

Member, *The Amherst Diversity Commission*

Member, *Buffalo Zoo Board of Directors*

Member, *Visit Buffalo Niagara Board of Directors*

Member, *Buffalo/Niagara Convention Center Board of Directors*

Co-Founder, *The Raul and Toni Vazquez Foundation, 501(c) 3*

Lifetime Member, *The National Black MBA Association*

Former Board Member, *NFJC (National Federation for Just Communities)*

Former Board Member, *The Amherst Senior Citizens Foundation*

Former Board Member, *The American Lung Association*

Former Youth Field Organizer, *First Night of Buffalo*

Reason for seeking election:

If re-elected, I will continue to assist with, and ensure that, fair and quality standards are upheld for our entire district. I will encourage diversity, improved board relations and tri-directional (board/district/community) dialogue. I am committed to sustaining WCSD's dedication to students as indicated in this year's proposed budget, which maintains current level of academic and extracurricular programming. But also supports enhanced safety protocols, increased instructional support, increased professional development, and additional administrative personnel.

Answer to PTSA Council Question:

The endless opportunities and the unprecedented exposure to an infinite plethora of information, and the perils that exist as students attempt to gather, decipher, appropriately disseminate, and conceptualize that information is challenging. Online safety includes knowledge, parental involvement, and the introduction of student-- age appropriate, culturally appropriate, and gender specific resources customized to fit their level of understanding.

In order to impose best practice, I would propose the use of collaborative Educational Technology Integration (ETI) solutions. That includes an ongoing multi-faceted use of our current resources of network communication systems, and associated hardware and infrastructure. While there are foreseen and unforeseen challenges that must be addressed, competent ETs would be able to view the challenges as opportunities. Firstly, their educational goals would include the development of life long thinkers and learners, whom are responsible citizens, and are able to develop basic knowledge through the development of problem solving skills. Highly motivated ETs will deal with challenges head-on and appropriately address them in a multi-cultural approach. Primary challenges include cyber-stalking/cyber-bullying. Technologists must meet these challenges while maintaining regulatory and governmental compliance.

Lastly, the fusion of parental input must take place. The triangular approach to safe learning in the 21st Century includes the roles of staff, parents and students. Filtering devices must be incorporated. Supervision and restrictions must be consistently and continuously imposed. Those restrictions include limiting the amount of screen time, and the appropriateness of search content and search engines, appropriateness of information sharing with online strangers, and social media involvement.

2A – Dawn M. Fletch

2084 Dodge Road, East Amherst, NY 14051

Occupation – New Business Development Manager/Recruiter

Years Resident in the Williamsville School District – 13

Family members and schools your children are attending:

Fiancé's Name: Paul Conibear

Children: Ava-attends Casey Middle

Drew-attends Dodge Elementary School

Activities/Hobbies:

Reading; animal lover; hanging out with my kids, friends and family. We are a big board game family, cards, you name it!

Other Boards Served On:

Treasurer Dodge Elementary PTA 2 years

Co-President Dodge Elementary PTA 2 years

(Co) Chaired multiple school committees

Reason for seeking election:

Prior to having children, I extensively researched area school districts before choosing the Williamsville District. My children have had a wonderful education thus far and I would like to utilize my leadership qualities and share my experiences to contribute to continuing and enhancing a nurturing and child-focused learning environment. I look forward to working collaboratively with educators, parents, and community stakeholders to help shape the future of our district.

Answer to PTSA Council Question:

Although technology can certainly enhance our children's education, I do not think it can compare or replace face to face teacher interaction or a book. I think our children are fortunate to have access to the technology that we have, however, it changes on a daily basis. Therefore, we need to be vigilant in teaching, discussing and constantly learning about online safety, privacy, best practices and the positive and negative impact it can have on children.

An initiative I would support would be further education and training on how social media/technology can negatively impact our children:

- cyber bullying
- lack of adequate sleep
- identity theft
- cyber stalking
- lack of interpersonal skills
- addiction

Through my entire career, my experience has been working with Human Resource professionals. It is of great interest to me to see how these things can directly affect college applications, job applications, interviews, sometimes positively but more often negatively. The goal is to set our children up for success always. I firmly believe there needs to be a balance, but in my opinion, technology cannot replace a teacher.

5A - Shawn P. Lemay

111 S. Cayuga Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

Occupation – President /CEO Sound & Theater/ S & T Enterprises of WNY

Years Resident in the Williamsville School District – 18

Family members and schools your children are attending:

Spouse's Name: Kristin Lemay

Children: Jessica- attended Forest, Mill & South (08), Buf. State- BS (12), U.B. MSW (13)

Madelyn- attended Forest & Mill and is presently at South (19)

Activities/Hobbies:

I enjoy spending time with my family: traveling, biking, camping, boating, going to the beach, attending theatre productions at Shea's and local sporting events. I also enjoy attending various musical and sporting events of my daughters, nieces and nephews.

Other Boards Served On:

Currently President of the Williamsville BoE. Also chair many non-profit committees in my industry all which focus on education and further development of my peers. These include, the Technical Working Group, IT Task Force, Prof. Development Administrative as well as also Lehigh Memorial Trail.

Reason for seeking election:

Through re-election, I'd like to continue working for sensible change in education policies and laws to benefit our students and teachers; such as, flawed testing and APPR. I have many goals if reelected, including: enhancing the emotional and physical security of students, modernizing music facilities through capital projects, strengthening special education services, implementing appropriate classroom technology, securing student data, advocating for sensible student-driven budgets, and when appropriate, creating smaller class sizes.

Answer to PTSA Council Question:

It is imperative that technology be used to achieve a specific outcome beyond doing something "on a computer." A well-balanced technology strategy provides appropriate technology that is both safe and secure. Technology at all levels should focus on creation instead of consumption, while keeping it enjoyable. Fortunately, the district is already doing much of this. As a board trustee, I will continue to support the efforts of the district information technologist as they evaluate new technologies, weigh the potential for upgrades and carefully evaluate not only the costs but security implications as well.

Professional development coordinators assist educators in learning new technology, as well as, offering suggestions for ways to improve student achievement and support curriculum. Students are educated in "Digital Citizenship and Safety" to develop online responsibility. To help support future requirements, the district needs to continue looking for grants and funding from the state and federal government. The Smart Schools project is one example. This project has allowed the district to upgrade its aging infrastructure, install new fiber optic lines and new wireless access points to support the increase in demand. As long as we continue to re-evaluate annually, I fully support the district's efforts in technology integrations and implementation.