

MEET THE WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Lynn Piascyk, Chair



Lynn Piascyk was elected to the Board in 2015, after retiring from BRS in 2013, elected Vice Chair in 2019 and Chair in 2020. She is a graduate of BRS and Amity High School. During her 36 year tenure as a Grade 1 teacher at BRS, she received the Award of

Excellence for Distinguished Service and was the district's 1993 Teacher of the Year. A resident of Woodbridge since 1964, Lynn also serves as a Justice of the Peace and is on the Board of Directors of the Amity and Woodbridge Historical Society. Lynn holds a B.S., M.S., and Sixth Year Professional Degree of Advanced Study as a Classroom Teacher Specialist. In addition to her responsibilities as Board of Education Chair, Lynn is ex-officio of all WBOE committees and actively serves on the Facilities, Finance and Policy Committees.

Maria Madonick, Vice Chair



Maria Federico Madonick, DNAP APRN CRNA, was elected to the Board in 2021 and was elected Vice-Chair. Dr. Madonick moved to Woodbridge in 2015 and has four children who have graduated from or attend Beecher Road

School and our MAG program. She has served the Beecher community as coordinator of curriculum enrichment events and on PTO executive board as Treasurer until this past June. She has served on WBOE ad hoc committees. Dr. Madonick is a graduate of Georgetown University, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, and earned her doctorate at CCSU. She has been in healthcare for 24 years most recently with Yale New Haven Health where she is active on clinical and Quality Improvement initiatives. Dr. Madonick is a clinical educator for the Fairfield University and YNH School of Nurse Anesthesia and she has held an adjunct faculty position at CCSU in the graduate Nurse Anesthesia program. Dr. Madonick is on the Finance Committee and is Chair of the Policy Committee.

Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary



Sarah Beth Del Prete was elected to the Board in July 2021 and elected Secretary. Sarah Beth is a New Haven native who

moved to Woodbridge in 2017. She has 7 children, 4 of which attend BRS. Sarah Beth is affiliated with Seabury Hill Realtors, serving real estate needs of the Yale community, Greater New Haven and Shoreline areas. Sarah Beth holds a Bachelor's degree focused in Communications and Business from Albertus Magnus College. Sarah Beth serves on the Curriculum and Finance Committees.

Jay Dayha, Ph.D.



Jay Dahya, PhD, was elected to the Board in July 2021. Jay is professor of finance at the CUNY Graduate Center, Baruch College, and at Columbia Business School, Columbia University, specializing in corporate

financial markets. Jay has received numerous teaching awards for his instruction at the undergraduate, executive and PhD level and is published in leading finance journals. Jay provides advisory to banking institutions, corporations, governments, public authorities, regulatory bodies, law and investment firms and family- firms globally. Jay has held visiting posts at the universities of Cambridge, Porto, Oxford, Universiti di Bologna, and London Business School. Prior to academia, Jay was vice president in M&A at a top-tier investment bank. Jay has two children and enjoys visiting the Beecher classrooms. Dr. Dahya is Chair of the Finance Committee and serves on the Facilities Committee.

Brooke Hopkins



Brooke Hopkins has been a Woodbridge resident for 13 years and has 2 children attending BRS. Brooke is a social worker with an MSW and has held successful

leadership roles working with diverse populations over the past 30 years. She has a long history of working in the nonprofit sector with a focus on young people. In 2012, she founded the Kelly Ryan Foundation, which raised over \$150,000 for families in need. In 2016 she started CT Youth Resources, which works with at risk youth through a mentoring program and providing support to families. In addition to her role as CEO Of CT Youth Resources, she is currently an Advisor to MSW students at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work. Ms. Hopkins serves on the Facilities and Policy Committees.

Jeff Hughes



Jeff Hughes moved to Woodbridge in 2011 and has two children currently attending BRS. Mr. Hughes is a

UCONN graduate in Horticulture and Agronomy and serves as the Area Manager for Residential Colleges at Yale University with oversight of 92 Yale properties. Mr. Hughes also has extensive business knowledge in landscaping, construction, restaurants, contract negotiations and capital projects. Mr. Hughes is Chair of the Facilities Committee.

Steven Lawrence



Steven Lawrence was appointed to the Board in June 2022. Mr. Lawrence moved to Woodbridge in 2012 and is the parent of two children, one of whom is a Beecher graduate

and the other a current student. He is a graduate of Cornell University and the University of Chicago and provides consulting services to foundations, philanthropy-serving organizations, and non-governmental agencies to uncover new insights and make strategic decisions. Mr. Lawrence currently serves on the Curriculum Committee.

Michael J. Strambler, Ph.D.



Michael Strambler moved to Woodbridge in 2018 and was appointed to the Board with one child at BRS. Dr. Strambler is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and is an

Assistant Professor at the Yale University School of Medicine with an appointment at The Consultation Center at Yale. He is the director of the Child Well-Being and Education Research program and the Partnership for Early Education Research (PEER). Dr. Strambler also serves on the Board of Achievement First Bridgeport Academy. Dr. Strambler is Chair of the Curriculum Committee.

Erin Williamson



Erin Williamson, joined the Board in August of 2021 and has two children attending BRS. Ms. Williamson has over 20 years of direct service, program

management, and applied research experience in the fields of social service and criminal justice, with particular expertise in the areas of human trafficking and child sexual exploitation. Ms. Williamson currently serves as the Chief Programs & Strategy Officer for Love146, an international human rights organization working to end child trafficking and exploitation. She sits on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children & Youth in the United States. Ms. Williamson has a Masters in Public Administration and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Erin serves on the Policy Committee and the BRS Diversity Committee.

MEET THE WOODBRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT / BEECHER ROAD SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Christine Syriac, Interim Superintendent



Ms. Syriac returns to WSD after having served as its Interim from August – December 2020.

Ms. Syriac has 32 years experience and formerly served as a Middle School Principal, Associate Superintendent and Superintendent of the Seymour Public Schools prior to retiring in 2017. Since her retirement, Ms. Syriac has also served as an Interim Superintendent in Region 14. Ms. Syriac has extensive experience in budget development, is a true innovator and problem-solver. The WSD will benefit greatly from her wealth of knowledge, steady guidance, and exceptional educational leadership during the current transition in their search for a new superintendent.

Analisa Sherman, Principal



Ms. Sherman was appointed Beecher Road School Principal in 2020.

Ms. Sherman is a BRS graduate, and prior to her role as Principal, served as BRS Assistant Principal for five years. She was a former teacher in the Fairfield Public Schools for 15 years serving as a math and science instructional coach and interventionist, TEAM facilitator and the SBAC / NAEP / STAR testing administrator. A graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Analisa received a Master's of Education from Boston College and her Certificate of Advanced Studies from Sacred Heart.

James Sapia, Assistant Principal



Mr. Sapia has served as Assistant Principal since July 2021. Prior to coming to BRS, Mr. Sapia

was a teacher in the Stamford Public Schools for 16 years as an elementary and middle school educator. Mr. Sapia received a 2012 Spotlight Teacher Award, and was named 2014 / 15 Stamford Teacher of the Year. In 2016 he was named an ASCD Emerging Leader in Education, as well as a PBS Local Digital Innovator in Connecticut. A graduate of North Carolina / Western Carolina, Mr. Sapia received his Educational Leadership degree from the Univeristy of Bridgeport.

Carolyn Borcharding, Special Services Director



Ms. Borcharding joined BRS in August 2022 from Greenwich Public Schools, where she spent 5 years as a

Special Services Coordinator and 2 years as an Instructional Coach for Special Education. Prior to Greenwich, Ms. Borcharding worked for 9 years as a Special Education Teacher in Washington State. Ms. Borcharding holds a National Board Certified Teaching certificate. She is a graduate of Florida State University (MSEd.) and the City University of Seattle (Ed. Leadership).

Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/ Operations



Ms. Coonan arrived in Woodbridge in July of 2022 from

the Sherman School District where she served as the Director of Finance & Operations for one year. Prior to that Ms. Coonan was the Assistant Director of Finance with the Danbury Public Schools. Ms. Coonan is a CPA and a graduate of Univeristy California – Santa Barbara. Ms. Coonan was the recipient of the CASBO 2022 Rising Star Award.