

# Board Candidate Information

Please consider completing this form. The information gathered will be posted on our website for the community to review. This is **voluntary**.

The respondent's email ([lsantillanes@tufsd.org](mailto:lsantillanes@tufsd.org)) was recorded on submission of this form.

Please provide us a biography (250 words). \*

I have called Sleepy Hollow home since 2015 and am the parent of a third grader and a kindergartner in TUFSD schools. A former communications and brand strategy professional, I was elected to the TUFSD Board of Education in 2025 to fill an unexpired one-year term. In that time, I logged over 164 hours of in-person board work—touring every academic building, serving as PTA liaison, contributing to the Advocacy and Communications Committees, and attending meetings, events, and school programs from Pre-K through high school.

Outside the boardroom, I teach an elementary extracurricular Fashion Lab, introducing children as young as five to illustration, sewing, and design thinking. I serve on the Sleepy Hollow Tourism Committee and support the Foundation for the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns Spring Auction Committee.

I am seeking a full three-year term because I believe deeply in public education—and in the power of community voice to shape it.

Why are you interested in becoming a Board of Education member? (limit to 250 words) \*

I have always been someone who builds things – projects, campaigns, connections – and I am driven to leave things better than I found them. That instinct brought me to this board, and a year of service has only strengthened it.

In classrooms from Pre-K through AP, I have seen students doing real work—using technology as a tool, not a distraction, and filling hallways with art, research, and writing that reflect genuine effort and thinking. This district is doing meaningful work, and I want to help sustain and strengthen it.

I came to this role with professional experience and community relationships. I now bring something equally important: a working understanding of how this district operates and where a board member can make a difference. Good governance is not about having all the answers—it is about asking the right questions and staying committed to the work.

What is your connection to the school district? (limit to 250 words) \*

My connection to this district began the way most things do for me: I found something worth caring about and got to work.

Before joining the board, I served as a class parent, PTA grade representative, and Spirit Wear Coordinator. Since then, I have shown up across the district—inside every building, in classrooms at every level, and in conversation with administrators, educators, coaches, union leaders, and staff. I have been present for the moments that define a school year, from championship send-offs to performances, competitions, and celebrations.

This is the community where my children are growing up and where my neighbors teach and work. As a Sleepy Hollow resident, I am proud to be part of this community and committed to families across our entire district.

What skills and/or attributes would you bring to the Board of Education? (limit to 250 words) \*

Fifteen years in strategic communications and organizational leadership have trained me to manage complexity, ask strong questions, and communicate clearly. A year on this board has added something equally important: a practical understanding of how policy translates into practice—and how to be effective within real constraints.

I bring curiosity and follow-through, along with a willingness to stay engaged with difficult issues until they become clearer and more actionable.

What do you consider the most important issue(s) in the school district? (limit to 250 words) \*

Student opportunity. Every student deserves pathways that reflect their goals—not only honors and AP tracks, but diverse options that meet them where they are. A student's trajectory should be shaped by their potential and ambition, not by circumstance or timing.

Our investments. We have made significant commitments to this district – in our buildings, our programs, and our people. I want to see those investments pay off in meaningful, lasting ways for every student and family.

Transportation. Reliable transportation affects access to field trips, athletics, and enrichment. We have made meaningful progress, and I want to ensure that momentum continues as we grow and integrate new systems.

Underlying all of it is communication. I believe in honest, proactive engagement – and I will keep showing up for those conversations.

This form was created inside of Public Schools of the Tarrytowns.