

# 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 ([jpaine@tufsd.org](mailto:jpaine@tufsd.org)) was recorded on submission of this form.

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

Raised on a farm near Columbus, Ohio, I joined the United States Navy in 1990 and became a nuclear reactor operator in the submarine service with the Pacific Fleet. Honorably discharged in 1996, I moved with my wife to Chicago, and worked as an electronic field engineer until our move to Tarrytown in 2002, when I moved into management. Hired by the state power authority in 2008, I have worked successively in customer relations, power allocation, municipal electric utility regulation, and governmental contracting. Since my time in the Navy I have completed a BS in Management from Fordham University, graduating Magna Cum Laude, and a Master of Science in Management with a concentration in Nonprofit and Governmental Operations from SUNY Empire State. I have three children (one from a prior marriage), one who graduated from SHHS after 13 years in the district, and one child who is still a student in the district. I also now enjoy the title 'grandfather'. I am currently the sexton of the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow, and participate in various historical activities and research in the local area.

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

Like many trustees, my interest in joining the Board of Education was initially prompted by concerns regarding my own child. As the parent of a child with special needs, I was worried about obtaining the supports they needed to be successful in school. I attended board meetings regularly to provide my thoughts on their needs, especially during the budgeting season. Intrigued by the possibility of contributing to the deliberations as more than a community member, I thought I could bring my financial/business/security background and interest in representing the needs and perspective of the special education community to the board.

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

I have lived in the district since 2002, and both of my children have or will have attended the TUFSD schools for their entire elementary, middle and high school years. After regularly attending board meetings as a community member for three years, I have served on the Board for 4 successive terms (12 years in June). As a regular volunteer for the SH Performing Arts Boosters, I have helped wash or direct the washing of too many cars to count. I served on the board's Audit Committee for ten years, the Facilities Committee for twelve years, and am now learning the ropes of the Policy Committee (one year). I had the honor of serving as Board President for three years (2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23).

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

In addition to my twelve years of service on the board, and my institutional and historical knowledge from those years; I have extensive business and managerial experience with both private and nonprofit/governmental organizations. As a consequence of my engineering background from my Navy training, and its focus on security and technology, I bring significant knowledge to the table in terms of cybersecurity, safety and security, and facilities management. Finally, my lived experience as the parent of children in the district provides the most essential contribution to my work on the board.

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

The first and foremost consideration is the health, security and safety of our children, staff and faculty. Though not a significant concern on a daily basis in our district, every choice we make needs to be evaluated through this lens first. We are currently facing several important challenges in the district. First, managing our extensive and large facilities construction and renovation across the district with the needs of our students being kept in mind (class size, air monitoring, and exposure time are recent concerns raised by our parents). Second, there remains a periodic issue with hate speech and symbols observed within our schools requiring continued attention and remediation. Third, we continue to face difficulties in hiring and maintaining transportation personnel. As a widely acknowledged regional challenge, further efforts in supporting and developing not only adequate staffing but working toward having more than adequate staffing is necessary. Finally, maintaining district fiscal discipline is absolutely essential to preserving and increasing the educational opportunities for our students in safe spaces, with good teachers, and in keeping with our district goals and mission.

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