

**Board of Education Members Serving February 2019 – June 30, 2022:**



**PHILIP H. MERO**

**Residence:** Westport

**Education:** Bachelor of Science; Bachelor of Arts; School Administrator coursework.

**Occupation/Relevant Experience:** Business teacher, 17 years at Westport Central School. Middle School Principal, 13 years at AuSable Valley Central School; student, parent, teacher, coach, club advisor, Title 1 Coordinator, internal auditor, Chief Information Officer, Curriculum Committee,

Professional Development Committee, Technology Committee, Teachers' Union co-president; Facilities Committee, carried out all day-to-day administrative duties of a Middle School principal; curriculum development, participated on Committee on Special Education; worked with school counseling office and outside service agencies; administered state assessments; development of teacher contracts; development of APPR, Code of Conduct, Student Handbook; faculty and staff evaluations, etc.

**Civic Organizations:** Sisco Lodge #259, Free and Accepted Masons; Elizabethtown Kiwanis Club; Keeseville Elks Club #2072.

**Why I am running:** The merging of the Elizabethtown-Lewis and Westport School Districts gives the new district an exciting opportunity to continue with and build upon the traditions of educational excellence that both districts are known for. I love this area and I love kids and I would love to be a part of making this happen. I have been involved in education for over 30 years and I believe that my experiences and knowledge make me an excellent candidate for the new board.



**HEATHER REYNOLDS**

**Residence:** Westport

**Education:** Master's Degree, Nursing Leadership and Administration.

**Occupation:** Registered Nurse, Director of Quality & Risk at University of Vermont Health Network -- Elizabethtown Community Hospital.

**Relevant Experience:** Budget development, volunteer board member Westport Youth Commission and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

**Civic Organizations:** Board member, Westport Youth Commission; Board member; Cornell Cooperative Extension.

**Why I am running:** I have played an active role in the Pro-Merger group advocating for a better education for my daughters (ages 13 and 10, both Westport students), as well as all of the children that attend Westport and Elizabethtown schools. I am committed to making this merger successful and moving forward in a positive manner. It is important to me to include a student voice in decisions when possible as well as to maintain traditions and history of both schools as we join together as one. I have learned a lot through this merger process related to reimbursement and will be diligent in making sound fiscal decisions. I have professional experience with affiliations and acquisitions and, therefore, a lot to offer in the way of integrating cultures to create a new culture together. I would be pleased to serve both communities to create an incredible school system for our children and future children of our district.



## SUZANNE B. RUSSELL

**Residence:** Westport

**Education:** Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

**Occupation:** Veterinarian.

**Relevant Experience:** Member, Westport Central School Board.

**Why I am running:** As a mother and present school board member, it is evident that we as a community must ensure the smoothest transition from our separate districts to a new united one. Our new district will be facing many emotionally

charged issues that must be addressed fairly and in open forums. I believe these forums need to involve everyone of all ages to help guarantee that smooth transition. This is not a time for our district to have a candidate with a personal agenda, but candidates who will pave the way with civility and openness to work towards providing positive educational experiences for our students. To achieve these goals and have a fluid working school environment, we must first find a way to merge the educators and staff members for our new district. As well as working towards the reinstatement of the driver's education program, we must also work towards diversifying course offerings and helping students to find their ideal career paths whether or not it's college-bound.

### Board of Education Members Serving February 2019 – June 30, 2021:



## ALAN JONES

**Residence:** Elizabethtown

**Education:** Associate's Degree, Business Administration, Paul Smith's College; Bachelor's Degree, Management, Clarkson University; Family Development Leadership Credential, Cornell University.

**Occupation:** Executive Director/CEO Adirondack Community Action Programs, 2007-present; previous director of Business Affairs, CFO, director of Employment and Training at Adirondack Community Action.

**Relevant Experience:** Member, Elizabethtown-Lewis Central School Board of Education, 2011-present; board member, New York State Early Care and Learning Council (Albany), 2011-present.

**Civic Organizations:** Senate appointee, NYS Department of State Advisory Council, 2018-present; NYS Certified Foster/Adoptive Parent, 2000-2007; budget officer, Elizabethtown/Lewis Chamber of Commerce, 2009-present; board member, previous president, NYS Community Action Associate, Albany.

**Why I am running:** To support partnership with our Adirondack community in providing excellence in education that enables all students to achieve their full potential in an every-changing world.



## KARIN DEMURO

**Residence:** Elizabethtown

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree, French and Education, SUNY Fredonia.

**Occupation:** Yoga instructor; local business owner; former public school educator.

**Relevant Experience:** ELCS Board of Education, 2010-present, current vice-president, two-term president.

**Civic Organizations:** Westport Library Children's Program, 2000-2004; board member, Elizabethtown-Lewis Youth

Commission, 2005-2010; member, Elizabethtown Community Hospital Auxiliary.

**Why I am running:** I believe that we as a society should always invest in our children. The children of today will be the adults running our world of tomorrow. That is a fact, no matter where you live. I have worked very diligently, serving our community on the ELCS Board of Education, particularly through the recession and painful budget cuts and programmatic changes. It is important to gather information, listen to the needs of the community, employees and students, and find balance between fiscally responsible and high-quality education.

### Board of Education Members Serving February 2019 – June 30, 2020:



## SARAH BODE KULLMAN

**Residence:** Lewis

**Education:** Bachelor of Science, Calvin College.

**Occupation:** New York State Forest Ranger.

**Civic Organization:** Member, ELCS Merger Committee.

**Why I am running:** To participate in forming a new school district for our area and maximize opportunities for both communities' students.





## DINA L. GARVEY

**Residence:** Lewis

**Education:** Elizabethtown-Lewis Central School; Syracuse University.

**Occupation:** Deputy Clerk, Essex County Board of Supervisors.

**Civic Organizations:** Vice-chairperson, ELCS Parent-Teacher Organization; member, ELCS EPIC Committee; previous member, Elizabethtown Community Hospital Auxiliary; member, Elizabethtown-Lewis Youth Commission; chairperson, Town of Lewis Playground Committee.

**Relevant Experience:** Member, Merger Study Committee; I was born and raised in Elizabethtown, having moved away for college and returning home to marry my husband and raise our children here. I have two sons enrolled at ELCS, a senior and a 5th grader.

**Why I am running:** I want to ensure that while we establish our new school we are cognizant of the needs of everyone in the district, not just the students, but the faculty, staff and taxpayers. I believe there is a need to make this school a viable part of all the communities. There is much to do in a very limited amount of time. I want to hear what the voices of the students, teachers and community members, and I want them to be a part of the planning and building of this new district.