

League of Women Voters® of New Castle 2017 Voters Guide for the Chappaqua Central School District Board of Education and Chappaqua Public Library Board

Note: The candidates themselves supply candidate information in this Voters Guide. The League takes no responsibility for the content or accuracy of the responses. School Board and Library Board responsibilities are included at the end of this Voters Guide.

Chappaqua Central School District Board of Education

Two seats up for election

Term: 3 years; volunteer position

Election: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm at Horace Greeley High School

Candidates (in ballot order): Victoria Bayard Tipp*, Dean Rock, Rhonda Kaufman, Sanford M. Benardo, Leah Heiss, Jane Kimmel Shepardson

*Victoria Bayard Tipp is an incumbent. Her submission reflects her individual views and not the views of the Chappaqua Central School District and School Board.

Victoria Bayard Tipp	Dean Rock	Rhonda Kaufman
<p>Current Office: School Board Vice President</p> <p>Education: Harvard Law School, J.D., 1986 Barnard College, A.B., Political Science, 1983 United Nations International School (1967-1979), International Baccalaureate. 1979</p> <p>Residence: I've lived in Chappaqua for 17 years</p> <p>Occupation: Lawyer: Past experience includes work in large NY law firm on legal aspects of banking and international finance transactions, including restructuring rollover of Argentine debt and other international project finance transactions.</p> <p>Mediation: Mediation of contractual and family law disputes referred by NYS court system.</p>	<p>Current Office:</p> <p>Education: B.A. University of Michigan (Economics)</p> <p>Residence: Chappaqua, N.Y. (4 years)</p> <p>Occupation: Current: Soccer Dad (10 years) and Husband (16 years) Previously Head of Interest Rate Derivatives Trading Derivatives Trader and Managing Director over the span of 17 years Responsible for Trading, Quantitative Research, IT Integration and support teams across the globe. Employers: DRKW, BNP Paribas, SBC Warburg Dillon Read</p> <p>Prior Civic and Volunteer Service: Board Member and Director of Communication: Crew Juniors - Michigan</p> <p>Volunteer team managing a large youth soccer organization. General responsibilities: staff management, fund raising,</p>	<p>Current Office: Candidate for the Chappaqua School District Board of Education</p> <p>Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Western Reserve University, Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) Cleveland, Ohio • Case Western Reserve University, Bachelor of Science, Cleveland, Ohio • Albert Einstein School of Medicine, General Practice Residency, Bronx, N.Y. • Mount Sinai School of Medicine, General Anesthesia Residency, New York, N.Y. • Roosevelt High School, Yonkers N.Y. <p>Residence: Chappaqua</p> <p>Occupation: General Dentist</p> <p>Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Westchester Hospital Patient and Family Advisory Council • Chappaqua Education for the Future Foundation (CEFF) • Friends of Greeley Theater

<p>Prior Civic and Volunteer Service: Westchester Putnam School Boards Association: Vice President, Board of Directors, 2015-present Chair, Legislative Advocacy Committee, 2015-present Board of Directors, 2013-present</p> <p>Chappaqua PTA: President, Chappaqua PTA 2007-2008 Vice-President, Chappaqua PTA 2006-2007 Chair, PTA District, Bell, and Grafflin Cultural Enrichment Committees 2003-2006</p> <p>Citizens' Non-Partisan Candidate Committee for the Chappaqua Board of Education: Co-Chair, 2008-2009, 2009-2010</p> <p>League of Women Voters of New Castle: Board of Directors, 2004-2006 Nominating Committee, Chair, 2008-2009</p> <p>Chappaqua Youth Soccer Club: Team Manager 2008-2011</p> <p>Chappaqua Orchestra: Board of Directors, 2004-2006</p>	<p>facilities management, tournament organization, scheduling, P.R., finance and charity projects. Primary focus was intra club communication, press interaction and P.R. Of note was handling the roll out and rebranding of the club when it became the Michigan youth affiliate of a professional MLS club.</p> <p>Loaves and Fishes -Michigan</p> <p>Food Bank Plus for SW Michigan servicing 24 pantry sites and feeding 750 people daily in a dignified manner.</p> <p>Innovation Food Pantry –active client pantry attached to the centralized warehouse experimenting with new menus, nutrition combinations and simple recipes to utilize current and forecasted food resources. Designed special packs for homeless and itinerant clients providing appropriate and nutrition whilst additionally providing useful food tools, sanitary items and personal hygiene supplies.</p> <p>PTA STEM -Chappaqua</p> <p>Volunteer</p>	<p>Board Member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Westchester Hospital Foundation Board Member • Lawrence Farms South Board member and Past President • Putnam Valley Rotary President, Earned the Presidential Citation Award
<p>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the School Board? Worked collaboratively with our community: through our crisis I spoke out strongly and publicly reinforcing our values, being respectful and available to the public; I implemented solutions in a transparent and inclusive process, creating Community Advisory Committee, working collaboratively for independent</p>	<p>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the School Board? The board is a primary conduit for the community to voice its needs to the school system. Its members should have a variety of skills and be especially good at communicating. My background is diverse. I have run a global business in rapidly changing technological and regulatory environments and</p>	<p>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the School Board? I have three boys in Chappaqua schools and have resided here for the past 23 years. I have an informed perspective on the evolution of leadership in our district. I bring an entrepreneur's understanding of running a service business in a suburban community. As a volunteer on several community</p>

<p>review and best national practices maximizing student safety and restoring confidence in our district.</p> <p>Worked with administrators setting educational goals and sustainable budgets; with WPSBA/regional/state constituencies, advocating for school funding and ending unfunded mandates; prior work with PTA and other community organizations.</p> <p>My legal/mediation and school board background is important in review of all contracts and union negotiations.</p>	<p>engaged in crisis management. I have been director of communications for a youth organization. When I consider the responsibility of the board, the most important skill I reference is my last decade of front line parenting. I think daily about the environment and skills my children need to succeed as adults.</p>	<p>boards I appreciate the power of board level collaboration to drive positive change and proactive decision-making.</p> <p>This is the second year I am running for the school board. I have spent the last year attending as many board meetings and events as possible. I remain passionate, committed and steadfast in wanting to serve the school community.</p>
<p>2. What do you consider the main issue(s) facing Chappaqua and how would you address it (them)?</p> <p>1. The \$42.5 million Bond: Creates new spaces with specific educational purpose. I have background on goals/methods for successful implementation in time of transition.</p> <p>2. New Administration: Superintendent - successful transitions are with Board that hires. Head of Curriculum – my background on key educational initiatives/strategies are important for transition.</p> <p>3. All Union Contracts Expiring (except administrators): Considerable future fiscal impact. Negotiations will begin immediately with no time for learning curve. My legal/mediation background and Board experience will be key.</p> <p>4. Healing the District: I created Community Advisory Committee for inclusive transparent process and will continue this important work.</p>	<p>2. What do you consider the main issue(s) facing Chappaqua and how would you address it (them)?</p> <p>Rapidly evolving global workplace environments and requirements are the main issue facing CCSD. Our community's schools have led peers in the U.S. admirably. Our peer group is increasingly global and education in this country has been playing catch up (STEM). It is essential to continuously reevaluate the practical skills that our children need and to create new networks to deliver them. Teachers are at the sharp end of the curricula and those who can anticipate and effect change despite rigidity in public education systems need to be given resources and elevated roles. CCSD has the community and resources to lead.</p>	<p>2. What do you consider the main issue(s) facing Chappaqua and how would you address it (them)?</p> <p>Our schools suffered from a leadership void that has called into question the trust, transparency, communication and accountability of our school board to parents, students and taxpayers. These challenges have created time-consuming distractions that have put at risk our district's coveted status for excellence. While some healing has begun, the community remains scarred.</p> <p>My goal as a school board member is to re-energize our focus on building for the future. This means, regular, open and honest communication. It means re-uniting the community around goals, making sure that we regain our lost momentum so that the district can continue to be at the forefront of public education.</p>

Sanford M. Benardo	Leah Heiss	Jane Kimmel Shepardson
<p>Current Office:</p> <p>Education: B.A., English - New York University J.D. Fordham</p> <p>Residence: Chappaqua – 5 years</p> <p>Occupation: Assisted reproduction and adoption lawyer</p> <p>Prior Civic and Volunteer Service: -Children and the Law Committee, New York City Bar Association - Bioethical Issues Committee, New York City Bar Association - Committee on Professionalism, Ethics and Grievance, American Bar Association - Past President, American College of Assisted Reproduction and Adoption Lawyers [ACARAL] - Legal Professionals Group, American Society for Reproductive Medicine</p>	<p>Current Office: N/A</p> <p>Education: MS, Applied Mathematics, University of Washington '99 BS, Engineering & Applied Science, Caltech '98 Phillips Academy '94</p> <p>Residence: Our family moved to Chappaqua in 2011</p> <p>Occupation: Homemaker, formerly a Software Engineer in both research and corporate environments</p> <p>Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Committee (Treasurer) at Briarcliff Nursery School 2012-2016 • Board of Directors of the Obstruction Island Club 2003-2007 • PTA volunteer at RBS 2012-Present 	<p>Current Office:</p> <p>Education: J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1986 B.A., Franklin and Marshall College, 1983</p> <p>Residence: 19-year resident of Chappaqua</p> <p>Occupation: Former Assistant Attorney General for the State of New York, Consumer Frauds Bureau (currently non-practicing)</p> <p>Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair of After School Enrichment, Roaring Brook PTA • Recording Secretary, Seven Bridges PTA • Recording Secretary, Chappaqua PTA • Executive Committee Member, Greeley PTA • Vice President-Grants and Board Member of the Chappaqua School Foundation • Board Member of the Horace Greeley Scholarship Fund • Member of the Chappaqua Volunteer Ambulance Corps
<p>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the School Board?</p> <p>As a lawyer, my field of concentration is assisted reproduction and adoption law and my career has been dedicated to protecting and expanding family rights, children's rights and reproductive rights.</p> <p>I am also a former public high school English teacher (after college and during law school at night) and grew up in a family of</p>	<p>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the School Board?</p> <p>I learned from my past board experiences that effective governance comes from excellent communication, a strong commitment to teamwork, the ability to “agree to disagree”, and a willingness to compromise for the greater good. Each person on a board has a different perspective, insight, background, and approach. An effective board</p>	<p>1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the School Board?</p> <p>My husband and I have raised three children in Chappaqua (our youngest is a Greeley freshman), and I have been an active volunteer in our district for over 15 years. I held PTA leadership positions at the elementary, middle and high school levels. During my six years on the Board of the Chappaqua School Foundation, I developed strong relationships</p>

<p>educators who held teaching as a profession in the highest regard.</p> <p>As a business owner, I have thrived in an emotional and high-stakes industry by communicating effectively, demonstrating fiscal responsibility and handling confidential information sensitively.</p>	<p>respects each others differences, is strengthened by them, and capitalizes on each member's talents.</p>	<p>with administration and faculty members, and an intimate understanding of the workings of our district. As a NYS Assistant Attorney General, I learned to synthesize complex material, find solutions that served the public, and communicate those positions with clarity and sensitivity.</p>
<p>2. What do you consider the main issue(s) facing Chappaqua and how would you address it (them)?</p> <p>The main issues facing Chappaqua involve regaining the confidence of our community. In short, we need a change in culture from the current climate of obfuscation and - at times - intimidation to one of reasonable dialogue, respect for the opinions of others, tolerance for different views, but intolerance when the hard decisions which ultimately protect our children have to be made. I have the courage to speak out when I think something is wrong. But I believe that others feel threatened with retribution if they speak up, too. This is not the kind of community we should be living in.</p>	<p>2. What do you consider the main issue(s) facing Chappaqua and how would you address it (them)?</p> <p>Trust. Our School Board must rebuild trust with the community. Trust is the foundation of all functional relationships. I believe the Board can regain the community's trust with direct, frequent, and proactive communication. This is an opportunity to show our children, by example, that we can learn from our mistakes and become better and stronger than we were before.</p> <p>Our school district is nationally ranked and we owe this privilege to the vision and hard work of past and present board members and administrators. It is our responsibility to build on this foundation and continually improve our schools.</p>	<p>2. What do you consider the main issue(s) facing Chappaqua and how would you address it (them)?</p> <p>I believe the main issues facing Chappaqua revolve around the interrelated issues of trust, transparency and values. Given recent events, it is critical to rebuild trust between the community on the one hand, and the administration and the BOE on the other. Trust must be rebuilt in two ways: one, through transparent decision-making and genuine, respectful dialogue with residents on all issues; and two, by prioritizing our values of raising happy, thoughtful, well-rounded, and engaged children, and preparing them for life after Greeley.</p>

Chappaqua Public Library Board

One seat up for election

Term: 5 years; volunteer position

Election: Tuesday, May, 16, 2017 from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm at Horace Greeley High School

Candidates (in ballot order): Leslie Mark Wertheim* and Ronni Diamondstein

*Leslie Mark Wertheim is an incumbent (completing another Board member's term). His submission reflects his individual views and not the views of the Library Board.

Leslie Mark Wertheim

Ronni Diamondstein

Current Office: Current Chappaqua Library Board of Trustees Position: Member at Large

Current Office: Candidate

Education: MBA, Columbia University
BA, SUNY Binghamton

Education: B.S. Syracuse University
M.L.S. Long Island University
Professional Diploma in Administration: College of New Rochelle

Residence: Millwood, NY (30 years)

Residence: Chappaqua, 19 years

Occupation:

Adjunct Professor – Mathematics, SUNY Purchase
Executive Vice President, Credit Agricole –
Corporate and Investment Bank (Retired)

Occupation: Freelance writer; Retired School Library Media Specialist

Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:

Member at Large, Board of Trustees of the Chappaqua Library
Captain, U.S. Army, New York State Army National Guard

Prior Civic and Volunteer Service:

*League of Women Voters of New Castle Board of Directors, Program Director since 2016; Responsible for Women's History Month celebration honoring former Town Supervisor Polly Kuhn, Media and Politics: The Impact on Our Democracy Forum and Nonfiction Book Discussion Group Leader

*New Castle Community Media Center Board of Directors since 2014; Secretary and Chair, Publicity Committee

*Chappaqua Children's Book Festival, 2013-2016; Author Relations and Board Member—brought in many diverse and award-winning authors and illustrators to the festival

*Temple Beth El of NW, Communications Committee 2003-present; Former Adult Education Committee Chair

*Year of the Reader Celebration and City-wide Readers Fair, White Plains; Co-chair 1996-1997

1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the Library Board?

I have 35 years' experience in corporate banking, finance, handling bond issues, legal negotiations, project development and strategic planning. I

1. What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the Library Board?

As a *Continuing Lifetime Member of the American Library Association* I have more than forty years of experience in both public and school

<p>supervised staff as senior member of Management Committee, Deputy to the CEO, and Chair - Risk Committee.</p> <p>I was Trustee of the Bank's Pension and Benefits Plans, chaired numerous committees, an active member of several professional associations.</p> <p>As Company Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, I coordinated efforts across agencies.</p> <p>Now an Adjunct Professor, Mathematics, SUNY Purchase, I teach a unique, self-developed course: Communicating Quantitative Information.</p> <p>I cut to the core of issues, seeking broad buy-in.</p>	<p>libraries. I understand libraries both as a patron and as a service provider. Additionally, I have proven communications, networking and fundraising skills that would be an asset to the Board and a great support to the Library as it undergoes several transformations in the next few years. My most recent experiences are Program Director of the LWV of New Castle Board, Author Relations for the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival and New Castle Community Media Center Board Member.</p>
<p>2. What do you consider the main issue(s) facing the Library and how would you address it (them)?</p> <p>Libraries are evolving with technology, demographic shifts, and community needs, and must be continuously refreshed as a public hub and resource center. I support the priorities established through the bond issue: Flexible space redesign and modernization, parking, upgrades to restrooms, expanded children and teen space, and upgrading secure technology and strong programs.</p> <p>I bring fiscal expertise to guide our allocation of resources across multiple priorities. I seek to limit future tax impact and still support diverse, high-quality programs and improvements.</p> <p>I stepped-in to complete another Board member's term and wish to continue in service to the Chappaqua community.</p>	<p>2. What do you consider the main issue(s) facing the Library and how would you address it (them)?</p> <p>The Chappaqua Library is about to undergo a transformation and I would take a pro-active role. With the two major construction projects on the horizon—the parking lot and building renovation—there is a need for support from the Library Board to communicate to our community about the challenges and to help implement community outreach. The Library's Long Range Strategic Plan includes Community Connections and Public Awareness, two areas where my proven communication and networking skills will be an asset. There are also financial challenges and I have many creative ideas for enhancing the financial resources of the Library.</p>

School Board and Library Board Responsibilities

School Board

Role of the Board

The Board of Education of the Chappaqua Central School District is legally responsible for the education of children residing in the District and the operation of the District's public schools and facilities. The Board shall establish policies and practices that ensure a high quality education for every student and proper governance of all aspects of District operations. The Board shall exercise oversight of and responsibility for the effective financial management, control and reporting. The Board shall seek to interpret community need and formulate short and long range plans to meet such need. The Board shall be responsible for presenting to the community a proposed annual operating budget, bond proposals and other matters that require public vote.

The Board shall evaluate the performance and progress of the District versus identified goals and objectives. The Board shall prepare an annual written performance evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools. It shall also evaluate its own performance and progress as a Board.

The Board shall observe all federal, state and local laws and regulations pertaining to education and public agencies.

From <http://www.ccsd.us/policies.cfm?pid=18621&searchwords=>

Library Board

Responsibilities of a Board Member

The responsibilities of trustees are few in number but broad in scope. They are:

- Create and develop the mission of the library;
- Regularly plan and evaluate the library's service program based on community needs;
- Select, hire and regularly evaluate a qualified library director;
- Secure adequate funding for the library's service program;
- Exercise fiduciary responsibility for the use of public and private funds;
- Adopt policies and rules regarding library governance and use;
- Maintain a facility that meets the library's and community's needs;
- Promote the library in the local community and in society in general;
- Conduct the business of the library in an open and ethical manner in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and with respect for the institution, staff and public.

From *HANDBOOK FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES OF NEW YORK STATE 2015 Edition*,
Revised October 2016