



# MEET THE CANDIDATES



## Mark Mecca Board Member

### Williamsville District

My name is Mark Mecca, and I have been a resident of Getzville for the past seven years. I work as a school psychologist in the Buffalo Public Schools. I am also certified as an elementary teacher and have certifications that enable me to work as an administrator at all levels of administration in a school district including that of superintendent and school business administrator.

Additionally, I am a board member of the New York Association of School Psychologists and am vice president of the Foxberry II board of managers, my condominium association.

I am the only person running for School Board who works daily in a K-12 public education setting and believe that the perspective that I bring with me as a result of that experience will help the board make high quality policy decisions that will help maintain the success of the Williamsville Central School District.

I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Canisius College and a master's degree in education for educational psychology, as well as an education specialist degree in school psychology, both from Edinboro University. I also have a master's degree in educational leadership from Canisius.

My professional certifications include: New York School Psychologists Provisional Certification, NYS Elementary Teaching Certification, NYS School Psychologists Permanent Certification, NYS School Administrator and Supervisor Permanent Certification, NYS School District Administrator Permanent Certification and NYS School Business Administrator Permanent Certification 2005.

As the only non-incumbent in this race, I really need your help. Please come out on May 20 and vote for me.

Mecca



## Stephen Munschauer Board Member

### Williamsville District

I was raised in Snyder and graduated from Amherst High School. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Vermont and am a business management consultant.

My wife, Cindy, and I have two sons, Charlie, 15, at Williamsville South, and Jeffery, 13, at Mill Middle.

I am very pro-education and take seriously the role the School Board plays in adopting policies and tackling important issues that affect our children, families and community.

I want to see long-range planning kept as an annual board goal. We need to continue to engage in informed dialogue as we address long-range issues facing the district, including enrollment patterns and facilities planning.

As chair of the board's Audit Committee for the past two years, I have become very knowledgeable about the district's budget and the budget process. Because we are receiving larger sales tax revenues from the three-quarter percent Erie County increase, higher gas prices and Canadian shoppers, I continue to advocate for no property tax increases.

I am seeking re-election because I feel that I have invested a tremendous amount of time and education into being a dedicated board member. I want to utilize these acquired skills to continue to work on behalf of our district, our schools, our children and teachers.

I ask for your vote and promise to work extremely hard on everyone's behalf. I am passionate about our children's future and will strongly advocate for quality education, fiscal responsibility and unwavering support of our teachers.

Munschauer



## Ronald S. Shubert Board Member

### Williamsville District

Formerly both the president and vice president of the Board of Education, I am a partner in the law firm of Phillips Lytle LLP and practice in the area of condominium law, representing condominium and homeowners associations in upstate New York.

Having earned a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from Syracuse University, a master's degree in public administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and a law degree from the Syracuse University College of Law, I am seeking re-election to the Board of Education due to my keen interest in assuring the children of the Williamsville Central School District a quality education second to none.

I have lived in the district for more than 44 years, having attended both Mill Middle School and Williamsville South High School. I am proud of the record of the school district for providing quality education to the children of the district. My daughter currently attends Williamsville South High School.

My objective as a board member will be to sustain the fine educational system that the community expects and to do so within the constraints of a reasonable budget. I believe that the board must continue to be vigilant in its efforts to control costs. I understand the importance of, and need for, community support of the budget and will work diligently to achieve a budget that supports the district goals without putting an undue burden on the community. I will continue to work with the other board members toward a shared goal of excellence.

Shubert



## Francina J. Spoth Board Member

### Williamsville District

It has been my honor and privilege to serve on the Williamsville Board of Education for three years. For two years I served on the audit committee that provides fiscal oversight to the internal and external audit process of the Williamsville School District. This experience, along with my knowledge of the district budget process, leadership and fiscal management skills, makes me a strong advocate to continue this work on behalf of the community.

Being raised in Williamsville and a graduate of Williamsville South, I have a vested interest in our community. I am married to Michael for 19 years and our son, William, attends Williamsville North.

I hold a master's degree in social work from the University at Buffalo and have more than 20 years of fiscal management, grant writing and lobbying experience. I was responsible for administering the budget of one of the largest intergenerational centers in Western New York. I was appointed to the Erie County Youth Services Board that is responsible for allocating monies to the youth programs in Erie County. I was past president of the PTSA for Heim Middle and former treasurer for the Williamsville PTSA Council.

I support public education and want to ensure that Williamsville continues to provide exceptional educational opportunities to our children. My mission is to maintain the reputation of the Williamsville School District as one of the best in the country, while at the same time continuing to represent the community in a fiscally responsible manner.

Spoth

## District elections to be held May 20

On Tuesday, May 20, residents in Amherst's three school districts will vote on their district budgets, board of education candidates and other propositions.

### Amherst Central

With two seats open on the board and only two candidates, the race is uncontested. In addition to the board race, residents will vote on:

- The \$42.7 million budget, a 4.57 percent increase in the property tax levy.

Voting is from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the high school gym, 4301 Main St.

### Sweet Home Central

Besides the three candidates vying for two seats, Sweet Home Central School District residents will vote on:

- The \$62,599,511 budget represents an increase of

3.79 percent over the previous year. The tax levy would increase by 1.74 percent.

- A proposition to purchase six school buses at a cost of \$442,000.

Voting is from noon to 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 20 at Sweet Home High School, 1901 Sweet Home Road, Amherst.

### Williamsville Central

In addition to the candidates, Williamsville Central School District residents will vote on:

- The \$151.22 million budget, with an estimated 2.64 percent tax levy increase.

• One proposition, authorizing the district to spend \$120,000 to buy property at 437 Mill St., allowing for an emergency access road to be built for Mill Middle School.

Voting is from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Williamsville North High School, 1595 Hopkins Road.

## Boy Scouts honors volunteer

Sean P. Beiter of Amherst has been recognized by the Greater Niagara Frontier Council of the Boy Scouts.

He was presented with the Silver Beaver award in recognition of his dedication and volunteer efforts at the annual volunteer awards dinner held April 27.

The Silver Beaver Award is the council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council.

Beiter has served as president of the Greater Niagara Frontier Council since April 2007. He was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout in 1983 and has served with Cub Pack 202

at St. Amelia Church in Tonawanda in roles such as den leader and Cubmaster from 1996 to the present.

He has served as a member of the council's executive board since 2000. In 2004, Beiter received the District Award of Merit from the GNFC, and he is a three-time chairperson of the Greater Niagara Frontier Council, Boy Scouts of America Scouter Citizen of the Year golf tournament.

He is a partner at Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel LLP, a law firm with an office in Amherst.



Beiter

## School News

Jessica Hall of Williamsville was named to the honor roll at Immaculata Academy for the third quarter of the 2007-08 school year.

Ryan Wolf was recently awarded a \$750 scholarship from Sweet Home Federal Credit Union. He is a senior at Sweet Home High School. Wolf is the son of Bonnie and Scott Wolf of Amherst.

Sandra Keppel of Williamsville received a 2008 Time Warner Cable National Teacher Award. A sixth-grade teacher at Akron Middle School, she won a \$3,000 technology grant and will be honored during an awards event in Washington, D.C., on June 3. Keppel is one of 15 educators from across the country honored for creating a winning classroom project.