

MEET THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES



Eli Hernández Eli Hernández is running for a third term on the Board of Education. He has been living in Auburn for the past 20 years with his wife Rina. His son Enrique will be attending AHS and his daughter, Mariela will be at AJHS. Eli was a Spanish teacher for the Auburn Enlarged City School District from 2000 to 2010. While there, he created a chapter of the National Spanish Honor Society, he served as cross country, indoor, and outdoor track and field coach, and was the Spanish Club Advisor. Mr. Hernandez currently serves as the principal of Delaware Primary School in the Syracuse City School District, where he is building a bilingual school. Mr. Hernández earned his Doctorate in Executive Leadership from St. John Fisher College in March 2020. Eli’s professional experience as a teacher, administrator and community leader have enhanced his contributions to the school board and he believes he can continue to make a positive impact as a board member.



Patrick Mahunik Patrick Mahunik, a proud graduate of Auburn High School, resides in the city of Auburn with his wife, Amy Mahunik, and their five children. Matthew (21) and Patrick, Jr. (19) have graduated from Auburn High School; and Connor (17), Ryan (15) and Emma (12) are current students in Auburn schools. Patrick holds a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in education and a Certificate of Advanced Study in School Building and School District Leadership. Patrick has been an educator for 23 years. He has worked as a middle school Social Studies teacher for 11 years and a school administrator for 12 years. During his tenure he has created Central New York’s first project-based learning school, Innovation Tech, at Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES; has developed programs to ensure student success in area school districts; and is currently the acting Director of Secondary Education at Newfield Central School District. Patrick has served as a Cayuga County Legislator for twelve years serving as Minority Leader, Chairman of Health and Human Services, Chairman of Judicial and Public Safety, Chairman of the Ways and Means committee, Deputy Chairman and was selected to be the Chairman of the Cayuga County Legislature in 2018. In his role as Chairman of the Legislature and Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee he was directly involved in developing and overseeing the Cayuga County budgets of up to 150 million dollars and regularly collaborated with state and federal level elected officials. He also served on numerous boards, including the Cayuga/ Seneca Action Agency Programs, the Cayuga Community College Board of Trustees, and President and coach of Auburn CYO basketball. He looks forward to the opportunity of continuing his public service as a member of the Auburn Board of Education.



Rhoda Overstreet-Wilson Rhoda Overstreet-Wilson is currently the Executive Director at Westminster Manor. Rhoda is a community activities and child advocate. Rhoda is active on several community boards. She is the board president for Booker T Washington Community Center, Vice President for the Auburn Chapter of the NAACP, and is Human Rights Commissioner for Auburn. Rhoda began her doctoral studies in the Executive Leadership in Education program at St. John Fisher College in the summer of 2017; Rhoda successfully defended her dissertation Spring 2020. Rhoda is married to Roy Wilson and has two children, Jahmere and Dejuan Wilson.



Joseph Sheppard (Current School Board Vice President) My name is Joe Sheppard. I grew up in the city of Auburn, graduating from Auburn High School with the Class of 1998. I moved back to the area with my wife, Kristan (AHS Class of '99) and two children a little less than 6 years ago after going to school and working in various theatres in cities across the Country from Minneapolis to Miami, to D.C. We moved back to the area in order to give our children the same great opportunities that we had growing up in this great community. This desire is also what led me to running for a seat on the Auburn Board of Education three years ago. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the students, staff and community of the Auburn Enlarged City School district over the past three years, and I look forward to continuing this service. During my time as a member of this board, I have learned a great deal regarding the complexities of how a school district runs and I welcome the challenge of utilizing and growing this knowledge further in the challenging years that no doubt lie ahead.

Current AECSD Board Members/Term Expires:

William Andre	2022
Jeffrey Gasper	2022
Sam Giangreco	2021
Eli Hernandez	2020
Ian Phillips	2021
Kathleen Rhodes, Pres.	2021
Rhoda Overstreet-Wilson	2020
Joseph Sheppard, VP	2020
Danielle Wood	2022

✓ VOTE FOR ANY THREE CANDIDATES

Candidates for the Board of Education had until May 11th to announce their candidacy for the Board. These photographs and biographies were the only ones provided by potential or verified candidates at the time of publication.

Please remember to vote. Return the Absentee Ballot form by Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 5:00PM.