

Candidates for The Board of Education

As published by the **The North Haven Citizen**



David Abate

Age: 46

Occupation: Educator

Are you an incumbent? No

Best way for voters to contact you:

dvdabate2@gmail.com

Party: Democrat

Why do you want to be a BOE member? I want to be a member of the North Haven Board of Education because as an educator, I am passionate and well-versed in education. I understand the demands of both students and teachers today as they relate to education and would like to share my expertise and give back to the town where I received my education.

What will you bring (skills, experience, etc.) to the BOE that will enhance the board? I bring over 20 years experience in education. I have developed workshops on assessment and curriculum and most recently worked with the CE (Connecticut Education Association) in developing a plan to properly and effectively assess teacher performance. I facilitate education courses at local universities as an Adjunct Professor so I am current on the changes within the profession.

What is the biggest issue that North Haven schools face? I feel fortunate for myself and my children that I live in a town which has an education department that is not faced with major issues outside of the aging middle school. However, I would like to see more cohesiveness in the curriculum K-12. We already have a good school system, I would like to move it to great.

If elected, what will be your main goal? To support positions which enhance student achievement and teacher success.

Continue funding for curriculum development and implementation. To make certain that students and teachers are equipped with the tools and technology needed in order for students to become productive citizens and be successful in their careers.

Any hobbies or interests? Interests include fishing, woodworking and Meteorology.

What music is on your iPod? Jason Mraz, Maroon 5, the Beatles

Goldie Adele

Age: 38

Occupation: Director, Disability Resource Center at Southern Connecticut State University

Are you an incumbent? I am an incumbent via appointment. I have been on the board since Spring 2013

Best way for voters to contact you: gadele1@hotmail.com

Party: Republican

Why do you want to be a BOE member? I always had a passion for education and believe in its ability to build a strong community and citizen. When the opportunity to join the BOE became available, it was an easy decision. This is a unique opportunity for me to use my professional and personal experience to continue improving the school district.

What will you bring (skills, experience, etc.) to the BOE that will enhance the board? I have legal background, extensive experience in disability services in education, especially in transition from high school to college. But, nothing is stronger than my passion for education. Our focus should always be on the kids and how to encourage them to be better students and future leaders, and provide the right environment and personnel to achieve this.

What is the biggest issue that North Haven schools face? Top on the list is implementation of the common core state standards. It's new and a change, and with such changes, there are growing pains. Another important issue is the middle school facility, which is currently in a bad state. Another important issue is school security, especially with last year's tragedy at Newtown.

If elected, what will be your main goal? My main goal will be to continue working with the Board, Dr. Cronin and his staff to address the earlier stated important and other issues. These are challenging times, but also an opportunity to be creative and think outside-the-box for ideas and solutions. Continue working with Parents is also critical via the PTA and individual parents.

Any hobbies or interests? I love sports...my number one sport is soccer, played a bit in high school and follow it on a national and global level. I also love football and basketball. As a hobby, I love to exercise, visit and take advantage of neighboring attractions. I also love to catch a good movie at the theatre or rental.

What music is on your iPod? I listen to a wide variety of music genres, from a bit of Tim McGraw and Rascal Flats to smooth jazz by Bonnie James, Brian Culbertson, and Kenny G. Also some rhythm and blues in between.



Anita Anderson

Age: 53

Occupation: Director Business Development

Are you an incumbent? I am an incumbent and have been on the board for 4 years the last 1.5 years as the Chairperson

Best way for voters to contact you: Via email at anita.anderson0606@yahoo.com

Party: Republican

Why do you want to be a BOE member? I believe the education of our students, whether they choose to go to secondary school, work in a trade or other careers are paramount to the future of our global economy and personal satisfaction. I will bring my knowledge and experience to ensure every student in North Haven Public Schools has the opportunity to be an educated, well-rounded individual.

What will you bring (skills, experience, etc.) to the BOE that will enhance the board? I bring to the Board four years of experience as a Board member. I have been involved in the PTA's on the elementary level and as the President of PTA Council for over 20 years. I excel at negotiating and budget preparedness as well as communication skills. I am accessible to respect and listen to input from the community.

What is the biggest issue that North Haven schools face?

The Common Core State Standards and the new State guideline for teacher and administrators evaluations and support system. Common Core will change the way we address skills across grades and subject matter. This state mandate will add a financial burden to the district and a challenge for teachers and students to meet the standards.

If elected, what will be your main goal? I have several that are a continuation of my current role on the BOE:

- Continue to upgrade technology and school security
- Long range planning for most effective use of our resources
- Collaboration between all stakeholders — administrators, teachers, town government, parents, students and community.

Any hobbies or interests? Reading, Word games and being exposed to new cultures.

What music is on your iPod? If I had an iPod, I would be listening to Bruno Mars, Sade, James Taylor, Mumford and Sons.



Bryan Bogen

Age: 43

Occupation: Certified Financial Planner and Registered Investment Advisor

Are you an incumbent? Yes, have been on Board of Education for three years

Best way for voters to contact you: Best contact method would be in person at BOE meeting or phone call

Party: Republican

Why do you want to be a BOE member? I have served on the Board of Education for three years and feel that there are issues and concerns that need to be addressed and resolved.

I feel that my input on the Board has had an impact and I look forward to continuing in that endeavor.

What will you bring (skills, experience, etc.) to the BOE that will enhance the board? I am a lifelong resident of North Haven and was educated in the North Haven school system. I am the father of three children and therefore concerned with the school system and the town. In addition, I offer over 20 years of experience in financial planning and investment decision making and have served on the Board's Finance Committee.

What is the biggest issue that North Haven schools face?

My opinion is that one of the biggest issues facing the North Haven schools and every other school system in the United States is the mandated changes in curriculum.

If elected, what will be your main goal? My goal in service on the Board of Education is to ensure that the Town of North Haven continues to be noted as providing a superior school system, thereby attracting young families to our town.

Any hobbies or interests? My hobbies include reading, soccer and attending many different sporting events and activities.

What music is on your iPod? My interest in music is diverse and I enjoy many different types.





Jennifer Cecarelli

Age: 44

Occupation: Teacher, Middletown Public Schools

Are you an incumbent? No

Best way for voters to contact you: By email at rjcecarelli@yahoo.com or by telephone at 203-234-7998

Party: Democrat

Why do you want to be a BOE member? I believe by having two children in North Haven Public Schools, and by being a currently-employed teacher in Middletown, that I am a multi-faceted stakeholder who is able to understand education in our town from a variety of perspectives. This will enable me to work with the Board while being mindful of all those impacted by the Board's work.

What will you bring (skills, experience, etc.) to the BOE that will enhance the board? I have been an educator for 20 years. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from UCONN, a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from SCSU, and a post-master's 6th Year Professional Diploma from SCSU. I have taught in England (a nation who has been implementing national educational standards for almost 2 decades) and in the U.S.

What is the biggest issue that North Haven schools face? The Board must work diligently to preserve the level of services currently in place without causing taxes to be raised for our constituents. Second, there are two initiatives that need to be handled in way that supports and educates all stakeholders: the implementation of Common Core and the evaluation system. I have an advanced working knowledge of both.

If elected, what will be your main goal? To work as an effective team member with the Board, and to represent the will of the taxpayer—prioritizing in a way that is consistent with the expressed desires of the constituents. I believe that all Board members drop their party affiliation at the door, and work as a team to give back to better the community.

Any hobbies or interests? My children are still young, so many of my hobbies and interests include their activities, as both of my children fence, both are involved with Scouts, and my daughter is a member of the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestra. I also enjoy reading, writing, sharing down time with friends and family, traveling, and community service.

What music is on your iPod? A little of everything! The soundtrack from "RENT", YoYo Ma, Beyonce, Kelly Clarkson, Pink, Nickelback, Bon Jovi, Pink, Taio Cruz, Usher, Shakira, Madonna, Maroon 5, Missy Elliot, Macklemore, Flo Rida, Jennifer Lopez, Black Eyed Peas, Green Day, Jack Johnson... different situations call for different music, so I like to have all of my favorites on hand.



Nicholas J. Coppola

Age: 41

Occupation: Technology Development

Are you an incumbent? NO

Best way for voters to contact you: nick@nickfornorthhaven.com

Party affiliation: Independent

Why do you want to be a BOE member? I have two children in the system that you and I pay for. I am determined to fight to ensure that North Haven acts in the best interest of our children and sets an example for other school systems to follow. To do that, we must lead and not follow.

What will you bring (skills, experience, etc.) to the BOE that will enhance the board? Do I have business experience? Yes. Do I have advanced degrees? Yes. Like many people, I come from modest means. I've worked for what I have. I've had parents who believed in me and taught me the value of respect and responsibility. If you believe in children, they will believe in themselves.

What is the biggest issue that North Haven schools face? Giving up local control of education. It is the right of parents to have the final say as to what and how their children are taught. The Board of Education should be the vehicle for this. On Nov. 5, the people of North Haven will have voted for me, not someone in State or Federal governments.

If elected, what will be your main goal?

- To fight the disease of "rank-and-file."
- To encourage Board Members and Administrators to ask "What," "Why" and "How Much"?
- To give teachers a voice without fear of retaliation.
- To make sure parents understand the responsibility that comes with the right to a final say in their children's education.

Any hobbies or interests? I'm very interested in History. I love hockey!

What music is on your iPod? "We're Not Gonna Take It" by Twisted Sister. That and audio books.

Carole Franceschet



Age: 68

Occupation: Retired educator — Montowese School, North Haven

Incumbent: Yes. Served on the Board for five years.

Best way for voters to contact: via the BOE website

Party affiliation: Democrat

Why do you want to be a BOE member? I want to be a member of the Board of Education to serve my community and promote excellence in North Haven's schools.

What will you bring (skills, experience, etc.) to the BOE that will enhance the board? I served in leadership positions and on school and district committees as an educator for over 20 years in North Haven.

I currently serve as secretary of the BOE and chairperson for the Curriculum and Instruction Committee. I am corresponding secretary for Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Zeta Chapter.

What is the biggest issue that North Haven schools face?

One issue the North Haven schools face is making sure our schools are safe places to learn. Another issue is being able to bring state of the art technology to our schools to engage students and prepare them for the work force.

If elected, what will be your main goal? My main goal will be to continue to make and approve policies that are in the best interest of North Haven's children.

Any hobbies or interests? I enjoy boating and kayaking with my husband, reading, and best of all, spending time with my grandchildren.

What music is on your iPod? I have my Pandora app set for country music and soft rock.

Matthew Kerzner



Age: 43

Occupation: Director of Human Resources at ChemWerth Inc.

Incumbent: Yes. I have been on the board since August 2012.

Best way for voters to contact you: Best way for voters to contact me is by email: Mkerzner@sbcglobal.net

Party: Republican

Why do you want to be a BOE member? I want to be a BOE member because it is a great way to serve my fellow citizen's in North Haven and I have a vested interest in the school district success with one daughter in fourth grade and one daughter that will be starting kindergarten next year.

What will you bring (skills, experience, etc.) to the BOE that will enhance the board? I have 20 years of organizational operations and human resource expertise. I have 10 years of experience teaching at the University of New Haven. I sat on State of Conn. Department of Education Board to help develop the business curriculum for K through 12.

I have extensive collective bargaining experience, resolving complex issues in the public and private sector.

What is the biggest issue that North Haven schools face?

The biggest issue that North Haven Schools face is getting the technology infrastructure in place to meet the demands that our children need. The BOE and District are working hard on this issue but technology is not going to slow down in order for us to catch up.

If elected, what will be your main goal? Give Dr. Cronin and his staff the support and tools they need to be successful. I believe a board member does not need to know everything on how to fix the problem, but be able to guide, support and challenge all BOE members, employees, PTA, and students so everyone can think out of the box in creating solutions.

Any hobbies or interests? I enjoy working out, learning how to cook, spending time with my family and teaching at University of New Haven.

What music is on your iPod? I have a very large appreciation for music and have a diversity of music I listen to especially when I am working out that would include: Pink Floyd, Jay-Z, The Beastie Boys, Darius Rucker, and Grateful Dead.



Dorothy Logan

Age: 61

Occupation: Worksite Coordinator/Job Coach, Retired (2013) Special Education Teacher

Incumbent: No

Contact Information: dotmlogan@gmail.com

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Why do you want to be a BOE member? The reason for my candidacy, in reflecting on my decision to retire from teaching, was my recurring thought that I never wanted to retire from being a child/student advocate and hope to continue to provide our young with the skills and tools to be able to thrive in the twenty-first century.

What will you bring (skills, experience, etc.) to the BOE that will enhance the board? I will bring more than 25 years in education as a special teacher. Serving on The Arc Executive Board, Consumer Representative for North Haven to the Regional Mental Health Board and CEA's Human and Civil Rights Commission has given me much practice in knowing when to listen and the what and when of asking questions.

What is the biggest issue that North Haven schools face?

Declining enrollment. Just as districts plan for an increasing enrollment so they must plan for the impact of a student population decrease. North Haven student population has been in a decline for several years and short and long-term planning for this decrease needs to continue.

If elected, what will be your main goal? My goal is to fulfill the duties of a BOE member. The main responsibilities are adopt policies, prepare and present a budget to the Town, and employ, retain and evaluate a qualified superintendent. An important function is communicating with the public to receive input, explain policy and maintain and build support for public education.

Any hobbies or interests? My hobbies and interests include movies, Irish history, nature, and soup making.

What music is on your iPod? Music on my iPod includes Fleetwood Mac, Moody Blues, Queen, Earth, Wind and Fire, ELO, Enya, Adele, Mumford and Sons and many one hit wonders.



Randi Petersen

Age: 43

Occupation: Reading Tutor for the Stratford Public Schools and Adjunct Professor for the University of Saint Joseph

Incumbent? Yes, I am an incumbent. I was appointed to the Board in December 2012.

Best way for voters to contact you: Best way for voters to contact me would be through the Board of Education website email: Petersen.Randi@north-haven.k12.ct.us

Party: Republican

Why do you want to be a BOE member? I want to remain on the North Haven Board of Education because I know my experience in public and higher education, my commitment to the Board and its related committees, as well as my personal determination as a mother to strengthen our school system will benefit all of our children.

What will you bring (skills, experience, etc.) to the BOE that will enhance the board? My experience includes being a public school classroom teacher, a reading teacher, a high school special education job coach, and an adjunct professor in higher education. I am a team player but will also invite leadership roles. I always had the best interests of all students in mind and will continue to do so should I get re-elected.

What is the biggest issue that North Haven schools face? At a time when budgets are tight and needs are many, it is necessary to carefully look at where our money is being spent, where we can save, and where we can spend the monies we do have in places that will make the biggest and most significant difference for as many students as possible.

If elected, what will be your main goal? If elected, my main goal will be to work to ensure a quality and consistent education for every student throughout the North Haven Public Schools.

Any hobbies or interests? Not really any hobbies but my family and I enjoy taking trips to NYC, going to Yankee Stadium (which has certainly seen better seasons), and visiting the Jersey Shore!

What music is on your iPod? I have a variety of music on my iPod...Billy Joel, Nickelback, Dave Matthews, Def Leppard, Daughtry, Springsteen, Metallica, but being a Jersey Girl, Bon Jovi trumps them all!