



## *Grand Island Central School District*

1100 Ransom Road  
Grand Island, New York 14072  
Telephone (716) 773-8800  
Fax (716) 773-8843  
[www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Grand Island, NY May 5, 2015

## **Meet the Candidates Night**

**Hosted by the Grand Island PTA**

The Grand Island Parent Teacher Association (PTA) will be hosting Meet the Candidates Night on Tuesday, May 12 from 7 – 9 p.m. in the Grand Island High School Professional Development Room. Seven candidates are vying for three seats on the Grand Island Board of Education including the one incumbent and six newcomers. They are, in ballot order: Joy Lamarca, Jeffrey Hassler, Glenn Bobeck (incumbent), Takayuki Nobumoto, Ashli Skura Dreher, Eric Soehnlein, and Richard D'Agostino. The three top vote-getters will be elected to a three-year term on the school board, beginning July 1, 2015.

The following Board of Education candidate bios and photographs were provided by each candidate and appear in ballot order.

### **Joy (Carrier) LaMarca**



I am a parent, attorney and homeowner in the Town of Grand Island and would like to be considered as a candidate for Grand Island School Board.

As a parent, I have an interest our school system and know the decisions made in the next few years will affect my daughter's education. I want to participate in those decisions to work with the other board members, administration, teachers, parents and our community to make our school system the best it can be.

As an attorney, I have been admitted to practice law for over twelve (12) years and can bring my professional expertise to good use on the school board with compromise, compassion, professionalism, legal experience, and analytical skills to work with others to achieve results.

As a homeowner, I have firm roots in our town and care about my neighbors, community and school system as my husband and I experience our daughter growing up on Grand Island.

I am endorsed by the Grand Island Teachers Association and I ask for your vote on May 19th.



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### **Jeff Hassler**



Jeff Hassler, CPA has accumulated a wide range of financial experience over an ongoing 10 year career in Accounting. He started in Public Accounting where he worked on various audits of School Districts. Jeff is currently a Cost Accountant at Starline USA, Inc. here on Grand Island. A relatively new resident of the Island, he and his wife bought a house in July 2013; Jeff has a strong desire to serve the community where he lives and works. With his background in School District auditing he figured he would be a great addition to the Grand Island School Board.

### **Glenn Bobeck**



**FAMILY:** Glenn and his wife Ann, have three children. Ann is a teacher's aide at Jack and Jill Community Preschool and has been active in the PTA for many years. Aaron, 16, is a junior at the High School and an avid photographer and talented pianist; Eva, 14, is a freshman at the High School and is a talented softball player, artist and actress; and Sophia, 10, is a fifth grader at Kaegerbein and an avid reader, and a talented softball player and singer.

**OCCUPATION:** Glenn is a corporate partner at the law firm Phillips Lytle LLP. His law practice consists primarily of counseling business entities with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions, public and private securities law, corporate finance and other business relationship issues.

**EDUCATION:** Glenn graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law in 1992 (J.D.) and the University of Rochester in 1989 (B.A. in statistics and political science).

**EXPERIENCE:** He is an incumbent Board Member and has served since 2006. He is active at St. Stephens RC Church (usher, mission group, etc.) and has been a member of Artpark & Co. board of directors for approximately 10 years. He has also served on a number of community boards in the past and has regularly coached girls softball with the Grand Island Little League.

**INTERESTS:** His family and kids, his church, and his friends and neighbors. He also enjoys reading, playing golf, all types of music and sports - especially his beloved Philadelphia Phillies.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:** "After personal reflection and encouragement from many individuals, I have decided to run for Grand Island School Board for another term. In Grand Island we have a commitment to community and our schools that is second to none. I have been privileged to serve that community over the last 9 years. As I look back at numerous meetings, issues and conversations over the years, I believe I have always balanced the



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interests of all stakeholders - but have never wavered in my commitment to our future - the children of Grand Island! Our community is blessed that it has teachers, administrators, bus drivers, parents, taxpayers, parents, and support staff, who all recognize the importance of education and the educational experience. Grand Island also has music programs, athletic opportunities and technology programs that we all ought be proud of. I would be humbled if you would support me in my re-election so I can continue to be a small part of our schools. God bless and God Bless our kids!"

### **Tak Nobumoto**



Tak Nobumoto has been married for 21 years and a Grand Island resident for 20. He currently has one daughter, a junior, attending Grand Island High School. He also has a son who has graduated from the high school and has since graduated from Canisius College and a daughter attending Ithaca College studying to become a music teacher.

Tak was born and raised in New York City, a product of their public school system and a graduate of the University at Buffalo. Having resided in Western New York in his college years, he met his wife, Diana, a Buffalo native and decided to relocate permanently to this

area.

He is a ready and willing volunteer for various school related activities, joining his entire family in volunteering for many Grand Island school activities.

Tak currently works for Mt. St Mary's Hospital in Lewiston, serving as the hospital's Senior Director of Project Management. In this role as acting CIO, Tak has lead the transformation from a paper-based healthcare system to an electronic medical records system. Additionally, he is responsible for the implementation; maintenance and update of all Information Technology systems that the hospital relies on ensure safe, timely and compassionate care to all patients.

Prior to Mt St Mary's he had taken on a long term assignment with a 13 hospital system located in Illinois and Wisconsin to implement Electronic Medical Records in physician offices with the purpose of sharing medical information between health care providers in order to deliver the best possible coordinated care to the communities that Hospital Sisters Health System serves.

Tak began his professional career with the University at Buffalo Faculty Practice Plans. In his role as Director of Operations, he was responsible for managing the operations of the central management office that delivered Information Technology solutions to the 18 primary and specialty faculty practice plan groups.

Among his experience, other initiatives included:



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- Strategic planning, grant proposal development and various board committee and workgroup activities.
- Creation of an internship program with ECC and the UB practice plan.
- Participation in wellness programs, including the establishment of a UB practice health fair and leading the practice plans Heart Walk team.
- Direct marketing efforts including internet, print and radio media.
- Vendor selection, contract negotiation, vendor management and project management.
- Guest lecturer at various UB undergrad and graduate level courses focused in health care.
- Presenter at national and local professional organizations.
- Independent health care consultant.

In addition, Tak has served as a Board Member of Mid Erie Counseling and Treatment Centers, whose mission is to provide an array of holistic, innovative, evidence based mental health and chemical dependency treatment, education and support services to our community. He maintains active membership in several professional societies and has presented at various local and national seminars on health information technology.

### **Reasons for running**

To represent the current and future interests of the residents of Grand Island with respect to delivering an education system that will prepare our children for continuing education and adult life so that Grand Island can continue to prosper, serve the current residents, attract new Grand Islanders and retain the next generation of citizens to ensure a bright future for our town.

I will utilize my experience and background as a senior health care executive (business and operations management, information technology, strategic planning, project management) to deliver a transparent, well researched and informed decision making process that stresses a collaborative, open dialogue with all stakeholders. Having earned a reputation for tackling difficult and complex issues, my goal is to:

- Be informed and clearly understand the issues by listening to residents, researching topics and leveraging the knowledge of subject matter experts.
- Use common sense and objectivity to make decisions for the greater good.
- Promote partnership and collaboration by opening channels for constructive dialog.
- Balance fiscal responsibility, welfare of the children and the future of Grand Island.

Key principles include understanding educational needs and requirements, balancing the needs of residents, students, faculty and administration and instilling a sense of common sense, fairness and equity, while never overlooking the primary reason for the school district – delivery of the foundational skills and knowledge to the next generation of Grand Islanders to ensure our collective future success.

### **Education**

#### **Primary Education**

- Product of the New York City public school system



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- Graduate of Stuyvesant High School, NYC, NY, 1986
- Secondary Education
- 1987 – 1988 – New York University, NYC, NY
  - 1989 – 1992 – SUNY at Buffalo, BA, Political Science
- Other Education and certifications (current/past)
- Certified in Health Information Privacy and Security
  - Certified Microsoft Certified Products

### **Affiliations** (current/past)

- Mid Erie Counseling and Treatment Service Board Member, Treasurer (2006 – 2010)
- Medical Group Management Association, member and past local president
- American Health Information Management Association, member
- Healthcare Information Management Systems Society, member
- WNY HealtheLink Operations Committee Member (2003-2015)
- WNY Healthcare Executive Forum, member
- UB Spirituality in Healthcare Committee, member
- Upstate NY Professional Healthcare Information and Education Demonstration Project, founder
- Buffalo Area Physicians Healthcare Information Exchange, founding member
- Health Foundation for Western and Central NY, Health Leadership Fellow candidate

### **Ashli Skura Dreher**



New York State Teacher of the Year for 2014

Ashli Skura Dreher, the 44<sup>th</sup> New York State Teacher of the Year, resides on Grand Island with her daughters; Heavyn, a 2014 Grand Island High School graduate and freshman pre med student and Ivy League rower at the University of Pennsylvania and Skye, a second grade student at Kaegebein who loves art, music, and physical education classes.

Ashli has taught for 19 years and for the last 17 years in the Lewiston-Porter Central School District. Known for her belief that all students will learn, Ashli teaches a special education in a 12:1:1 high school classroom working with students with moderate intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities.

Also known for her passion for learning, Ashli is a dissertation level doctoral student in the Teaching and Curriculum Department of the University of Rochester's Margaret Warner School of Education and Human Development and a 1995 graduate of Canisius College with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and English. She completed graduate studies at D'Youville College in 1998 earning a Master's Degree in Special Education. Ashli also completed a Certificate of Advanced Study and SDA Certificate from the State University of





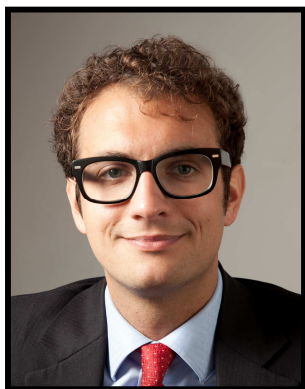
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New York at Buffalo in Educational Leadership in 2002 and earned the Middle Level Generalist Certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Ashli has published articles including *Functional Literacy in a Lifeskills Curriculum* for Educator's Voice and has spoken at statewide conferences on the topics of transition, parental involvement, education reform, and student preparedness for future pathways. She also served as the NYSUT Education and Learning Trust Regional Coordinator for the Western New York and Rochester areas for ten years to promote turnkey training and professional development for teachers, continues to serve as an instructor in the program, and is the host for a television program that will air this summer locally called *Inside the Classroom*.

### Eric M. Soehnlein



Eric M. Soehnlein is a trial lawyer in the Litigation and Government Investigations practice groups of Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman, LLP. Mr. Soehnlein is an honors graduate of Columbia University Law School where he was managing editor of an academic journal and moot court champion. He graduated *summa cum laude* from the All College Honors Program at Canisius College where he was selected by the faculty as the commencement speaker for his graduating class. He presently serves on the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Association of Erie County.

Mr. Soehnlein and his wife, Sarah Niland, moved to Grand Island in 2013. In February 2015 they welcomed their first child, Jack.

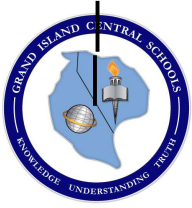
### Richard D'Agostino



I am the oldest son of a working class family that instilled in me the value of being educated to pursue my dreams. Growing up in Rochester and Buffalo New York has been a great experience. I love living on Grand Island! It is a unique place that inspires me to live to the fullest. I am happily married and live with my wife Sandra near Kaegebein Elementary School. I am a veteran educator for the last 15 years. I did my student teaching at Kaegebein Elementary.

I have loved the school system on Grand Island ever since. It was a great experience. I have been involved in Special Education for most of my years working in schools from being a classroom teacher, staff developer to deliver professional development and currently a Committee on Special Education Chairperson at Buffalo Public Schools. All of these experiences afford me with the knowledge and wisdom to work with diverse groups of people and build consensus for "what is best for children."

I understand the legal aspect of special education well as I am called to interpret New York State Codes, Rules and Regulations and explain them to the families and agencies I work with



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on a daily basis. I believe I have what it takes to be an effective Board of Education member because of my experience in education and a positive worldview. I also have experience in the construction trades such as masonry and carpentry and the mental health field as a counselor. My educational qualifications and teaching certifications are:

Masters of Science in Education: (plus 60 credit hours): SUNY at Brockport

Bachelor of Science: Sociology at SUNY Brockport

Associate of Science: Criminal Justice at Monroe Community College

Teaching Certifications:

- School District Administrator (SDA) – permanent
- Special Education – permanent
- 7-12 Social Studies – permanent
- Pre-K, Kindergarten, Grades 1 -6 Elementary - permanent

-end-

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