

# The Community Library Trustee Election 2021 Meet the Candidates

The following Cobleskill-Richmondville School District residents are running for one four-year term and two five-year terms for The Community Library Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees would like to thank all the candidates for their interest in serving as a Trustee for The Community Library.

<b>Candidates running for the one four-year term position.</b>	
<p>My name is <b>James Collins</b> and I live in Cobleskill. I welcome the nomination to serve on the Library Board. As a retired school administrator I have served education for nearly 47 years. I served education in a variety of roles including Junior-Senior High School Principal at Duanesburg, Instructional Resources Supervisor at Capital Region BOCES, and Professional Development Supervisor at the School Administrators Association of New York State and classroom teacher. In addition, I developed and delivered a variety of professional development programs at the local, state, and national level in the areas of instructional strategies, the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People and Organizational Development Strategies. As a Board member, I would strive to (1) develop strong relationships with a variety of literacy partners (2) responsibly research and promote the transitions modern technology has supported literacy (3) continually find ways to expand the joy of learning through reading and research and (4) continually look for funding sources to develop a wider view of how the Board can expand its work. Again, I welcome the opportunity this nomination has presented me.</p>	<p>My name is <b>Shannon White Knowles</b>. I live with my husband and two children in the Village of Cobleskill. I have decided to run for the four-year term to the Library Board because I believe that libraries are vitally important to our communities. They provide information, technology and engaging activities for their patrons. Families rely on our library on a daily basis. I hope to be a strong advocate for the families in our community. I enjoy being an active and involved member of our community. I work at Ryder Elementary school as a parent outreach coordinator in our Family Room. I have served on the Strategic Planning Committee for the Cobleskill-Richmondville school district for six years. I have been the CREST treasurer for nine years. I have been active with Battle of the Books, both as a coach and as support for the Librarians who run the program. I look forward to serving our library and working with the other Library Trustees.</p>

## Candidates running for the two five-year term positions.

My name is **Colleen Badger**, I grew up in Voorheesville and graduated from Binghamton University with a degree in Economics. I am married to Greg, a retired US Submarine Service officer and current Electrical Engineer, and we have four children. We moved to a small hobby farm in the Town of Cobleskill in 2008. Our life as Navy nomads forced me to find ways to connect at each new duty station. Getting involved in the children's school was a priority, and since reading is a lifetime passion, the obvious place to plug in was the school library. I volunteered in the libraries of every school district my children attended, from Groton, Connecticut to Bremerton, Washington, and many points in between. Books have always been great friends. I recently fulfilled a lifelong dream by visiting the DeSmet, South Dakota home of my favorite author, Laura Ingalls Wilder, and was overwhelmed by the experience. Laura has been a friend for 50 years, and I would like to be part of a team that is working to provide the people of our community with similar passions. I envision our library as a gathering place for the entire community. My vision for the Community Library of Cobleskill looks more like a Barnes and Noble; where folks can linger, thumbing through books, newspapers and magazines, sample audio selections, access internet technology and visit with fellow patrons. A place where neighbors gather and minds are enriched.

My name is **Linda Carpenter**, I have lived in the Village of Richmondville since 1979. My 2 children attended RCS and after the merge, CRCS. I am running for re-election to the five-year term on the Board of Trustees. I have been a Trustee since 2016 and this past year I held the office of the Financial Officer, prior to that I was the Assistant Financial Officer. I am also a member of the Personnel, Policy and Finance committees of the Board. I have an A.A.S. in Liberal Science, an A.A. and B.A in Business Administration, and an A.A.S in Computer Support Specialist. I love working with numbers and developing budgets. In the past, I was coordinator/director for 12 years running the NY GEARUP grant program. I worked with the 7th grade cohort in each of the 11 schools in 5 counties, following them until graduation to get them academically ready for college and introduced them to the many colleges in New York State. I have been on the Board of the Schoharie County Home of Ongoing Learning (S.C.H.O.O.L.) program for the past 6 years and I am currently the Vice-Chair. Prior to COVID, S.C.H.O.O.L. held many of their classes at the Library for our seniors. I am also on the Richmondville Village Planning Board, previously as co-Chair and now serving as secretary. I have seen the future plans for expansion of The Community Library into the Annex and I wish to continue being a part of this exciting endeavor for our communities.

My name is **Julie Santoro** I am a lifelong resident of Schoharie County, currently residing in the town of Seward. I attended SUNY Cobleskill and graduated with an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education, and SUNY Oneonta and earned a Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education. I am married to Dan Santoro who is a general contractor in Cobleskill, and we have three daughters. Currently I work as a floral design assistant at Cross Hill Heirlooms and am self employed as a Financial Coach. I provide volunteer coaching through my church. The Community Library has been part of my life as long as I can remember. I borrowed books on my school lunch recess in 4th and 5th grade while attending Aker School. My daughters and I enjoyed walking to the library when they were little girls and we lived in the village. It has been a tremendous resource for research for my children while in school, and I have utilized it personally for everything from tax forms to the internet, borrowing movies and best of all, book borrowing. I am a lover of books and reading, and I believe a public library is a great asset to every community. I look forward to working with the board to continue to make our library a valuable component in our community, and expanding the ways we serve all age groups.