

**THE EDISON TOWNSHIP  
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

**Presents A**

**2018 BOE CANDIDATES NIGHT**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018  
5:00 PM**

**Moderated by:**

**WAYNE DIBOFSKY**

**Schirber Hall at Kiddie Keep Well Camp  
35 Roosevelt Drive  
Edison, New Jersey**

## **ANTHONY DE AMORIN**

### **Candidate for Edison Township Board of Education 2018**

My name is Anthony DeAmorin and I am a candidate for a seat on the Edison Township School Board. I am 36 years old and over 33 of those years have been spent as an Edison resident. More importantly, I am a proud product and former son of our school district, graduating from Edison High School in 1999. Since that time, after few years off college experience, I have spent majority of my employment mainly in the financial industry. I have also volunteered for many different services with all having a similar underlining theme of advancing our liberty. And the lessons I have learned with the ability to always think for myself having a clear unbiased mind, I have seen over the course of many years the slow and steady surrender of authority in our local education system. Despite what we are regularly told, there is a clear lack of leadership and transparency in those individuals we elect and continue to put our trust in. Too many of them do not stand with those who are on the front lines and left dealing with burden and all the other difficult challenges that come with educating.

During the last many years our district has moved upward in state rankings thanks to our teachers and parents. But I cannot help but wonder where our potential truly would be if those elected finally begin stand up finally and provide the right amount of resources that our classrooms and teachers are desperately need of. Many of our great teachers, who unselfishly end their summer vacations early for preparation, are left with no other option but to spend their own hard earned money to purchase supplies that they were left without. This is simply unacceptable; all while happening under a failing infrastructure.

As someone who is a concerned resident with no ties to any special interest groups and having no secret agenda, I understand the much bigger picture and the effects of bad policy and how it trickles down into each classroom. And I have the stomach and energy to fight to do what it takes to help those responsible with teaching and inspiring the minds of the next generation. With my own growing thirst for knowledge and a respect for matters in which I do not yet know but seeking input from those who do, I am ready to begin today to challenge all who are complicit in the status quo while leading to help restore common sense principles.



## **DR. YUNA CHEN**

**Candidate for Edison Township Board of Education 2018**

### **Student & Taxpayer Advocates**

I will use my financial and budget analysis skills to cut waste and abuse from the bloated school budget to stabilize property taxes and return money to the classroom.

- **Ph.D. in Theoretical & Computation Chemical Physics from the University of Chicago**
- **M.S., Statistics from the University of Chicago**
- **Financial data analyst & budget modeling expert for top U.S. financial institution**
- **Works as a compliance manger, skill set include analyzing responsive and actionable information to justify financial decisions**
- **Routinely performs comprehensive cost and profitability analysis**
- **Helped build several playgrounds in disadvantaged towns and led local park clean-ups**
- **Raises money for annual Race to Outrun Hunger**
- **Policy advisor for local business association**
- **Has a child currently enrolled in the Edison public school system**



## **ELIZABETH CONWAY**

### **Candidate for Edison Township Board of Education 2018**

I am Elizabeth Conway. I have lived in Edison for over 35 years. I am married and have been with my husband for over 40 years. We have three children, who have all gone through the Edison Public Schools. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Special Education, with a minor in Psychology. I also received a Masters of Arts degree in Urban Education, specializing in Math and Reading for a Thorough and Efficient Education for all students from Jersey City State College.

After college, I went to work in New York City as an administrative assistant. While working for the owner and manager of multiple high rise buildings, I learned quite a bit about the running and managing of buildings and their upkeep. I received my Building Owners and Managers certificate while there.

After eight years, I left the work force to raise my children. When they were a little older, I started attending Board of Education meetings to get a feel for the school district my children would be attending. After more than 25 years, I am still attending regularly and giving my input whenever I feel my opinion would be beneficial. While raising my children, I got involved in many community activities. I was a Girl Scout leader, a soccer, softball, and basketball coach. I eventually volunteered my time as part of the executive boards of the town's youth leagues.

PTA was also a big part of my involvement. I was the treasurer and then president of JMP's PTA, later becoming the president of the Edison Township Parent Teacher Advisory Council. Presently, I am and have been for many years the chairperson of the PTA/PTO Scholarship Committee, which gives a scholarship to two of Edison's finest students from Edison High School and J. P. Stevens High School.

Once my children were in school full time, I applied for a teaching position in Edison and taught for 16 years as a Special Education teacher at various grade levels and multiple schools. In June 2016, I retired and have kept up my resolve to continue to attend board meetings. In January 2017, I decided to become even more active with the Board of Education by choosing to run for one of the board positions. My varied backgrounds have given me the incentive to become more than just a part of the audience. I feel my opinions and knowledge will give the board another viewpoint as to how best to guide the district into the future. The goal of the district has always been "Nothing Less than Excellence" and I would like to help make sure that continues.



## **RALPH ERRICO**

### **Candidate for Edison Township Board of Education 2018**

**My name is Ralph Errico and I am seeking re-election for a seat on the Board of Education to continue to serve our Children, Parents, and Community.**

**I hold a Master's Degree in Education in Leadership from New Jersey City University and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and Administration from Jersey City State College.**

**I have been a Public School Administrator in South Plainfield for the last 13 years; as an Assistant Principal at our High School, and currently the Principal at Franklin Elementary School for the last 8 years.**

**I currently serve Edison on the School Board Co-Chairing the Overcrowding Committee and serving on other various committees. I serve on the Township Zoning Board. I serve as the State and Regional Commissioner for Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball. I'm a former Math Teacher and Team Leader at Herbert Hoover Middle School. I served on various committees such as Curriculum and Text Book Selection, District Human Relations, and Discipline Committee. I also served as PTO President for Herbert Hoover and Vice President for the Ben Franklin PTA. I served as the ETPTAC President working with all PTO's/PTA's/PTSA's throughout the District. I'm the former Vice-Chair of the Township ADA Commission. I've served on the Township Finance Committee and coached in many local youth sports programs.**

**I have lived in Edison for the last 29 years. My wife, the former Donna Mellage, is a lifelong resident of Edison and graduated from Edison High School. My three children all attended Edison Schools and graduated from Edison High School.**



## **SHIVI PRASAD-MADHUKAR**

### **Candidate for Edison Township Board of Education 2018**

Shivi Prasad-Madhukar, first got elected in 2015, and is running for her second term on the Edison Board of Education. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration with specialization in public policy from New York University. For the past more than a decade, she has been working as a policy analyst at a New Jersey focused public policy research group. Shivi have been an active parent in this district since 2006, beginning as a newsletter writer at MLK Elementary School. She has served in various capacities in the school PTOs, including being the President of a Middle School PTO, and has participated in many fund raising activities.

Some of her advocacy and influences as a BOE member include setting the ball rolling on equitable state aid under the leadership of Dr. Frank Heelan, addition of crisis counselors, no homework policy during the spring and winter break, a new fitness center at the two high schools, introduction of dance curriculum, addition of guidance counselors, introduction to cursive writing in the elementary school, and many others. She has been an avid advocate against PARCC and the over use of technology in instruction. As chair of curriculum committee, she has worked tirelessly to ensure every student is given opportunity for academic success. The motto of her campaign is "Every Child, Every School."

Along with successes, there have been challenges. She is running for a second-term because one term is just not enough to meet all the goals. Besides, overcrowding and fair funding, she want to steer the conversation towards improving safety and security, providing air-conditioning in all buildings and easing stress-inducing factors.

She believes in leading from the bottom and that to be an effective leader, one must learn to follow. Effective communication, transparency and using critiques as a path to growth are essential characteristics of a leader in her opinion. In all her experiences, professional or voluntary, people have looked up to her as someone they could trust and believe in.



# **HARISH VERMA**

**Candidate for Edison Township Board of Education 2018**

## **Student & Taxpayer Advocates**

**I will utilize my professional skills and local expertise to address the overcrowding crisis.**

- **Edison resident and taxpayer for the last 24 years**
- **Licensed award-winning Edison real estate professional for over 15 years**
- **Extensive experience in contract negotiations, working with vendors, and resolving resident issues**
- **NJ Realtors – Recipient of Circle of Excellence Sales Award (2015 - 2017)**
- **Property Maintenance Enforcement Agent at Township of Edison (2016 – Present)**
- **Worked in Medical Devices Industry at Accriva Diagnostics in Edison as Quality Control Team Lead for 17 years (1998 – 2015)**
- **Former Edison Zoning Board member**
- **President of local neighborhood association (2006 – 2012)**
- **Committee Member for District 77 along with wife, Usha Verma (2009 – Present)**
- **Father of 2 children who both graduated from Edison Public Schools**

