



THE MEMBERSHIP

The Newsletter of The West Genesee Teachers' Association <http://www.wgta.net>

WGTA Endorses.....



Elizabeth Donaldson



Jennifer James



Aaron Ryder



Getting to Know the Candidates

Elizabeth Donaldson is a 1994 graduate of West Genesee where she attended Stonehedge Elementary and West Genesee Middle School. Her husband Scott is a fourth-grade teacher at Split Rock Elementary. They reside in Camillus and are the proud parents of three children. Jack, graduated from West Genesee in 2018 and is a freshman at SUNY Geneseo, her son Simon is in eighth grade at CMS, and her daughter Chelsea is in fifth grade at Split Rock.

The Camillus community has always been home for Elizabeth, and it was important for her to raise her family here. Upon graduation from West Genesee, Elizabeth attended SUNY Geneseo to pursue her dream of a career in education. She gives credit to the positive educational experience she had at West Genesee. She has been an elementary school teacher at Frazer School in the Syracuse City School District for twenty years. Elizabeth stated, “This job shows me how important community, family, and education is. Being an educator, reminds me how important it is to be involved in your community and be a voice for our children.” Being an educator has encouraged her to stay active in her community whether it is being a member of the Split Rock PTO, volunteering for the many school events held throughout the year, being a Girl Scout leader for her daughter’s troop for six consecutive years, or a volunteering at her church. These opportunities allow Elizabeth to give back and allow her the ability to instill the importance of leadership, community, and education.

As a former graduate, parent and educator, Elizabeth believes she can make a positive contribution to the community as a member of the West Genesee Board of Education. Elizabeth stated, “I want our district to continue its tradition of academic excellence and I look forward to collaborating with board members, teachers, district staff and community stakeholders to continue West Genesee’s shared vision of graduating productive and caring citizens.”

Jennifer A. James currently serves on the Board of Education. She is the newest member of the board as she was appointed in June of 2019. She has been a Spanish teacher at Onondaga Central School District for 21 years where she he has also been a Key Club Advisor, Spanish Club Advisor, 2024 Class Advisor and a New Teacher Mentor. She is a graduate of Oswego High School, has a Bachelor of Arts from SUNY Cortland and a Masters of Science for Teachers degree from LeMoyne College.

Her husband Steve is a Social Studies teacher at Onondaga Central and a Camillus 4th Ward Councilor. They currently have two daughters Meredith and Molly attending West Genesee Schools in the high school as well as a step-daughter Erica.

She is a volunteer at the McMahan-Ryan Advocacy Center, a coach for the West Genesee Girls Futbol Club, active in the West Genesee Sports Boosters Club, and a Communicant of Holy Family Church.

She wishes to continue on the board to help continue the progress that has been made in the areas of curriculum, staffing, technology, integration and updating facilities. It is a priority to ensure that our education system is providing all students with the opportunities for a successful future.

In addressing her vision for the district, Jen stated, “The Board of Education must enhance and improve communication, as well as, work together toward our mutual goals. The District is going through some important changes that will impact all stakeholders for many years to come, and I would like to continue laying this groundwork as a parent, neighbor, friend and Board member.”

(continued on page 3)

Aaron Ryder is forty-four years old and has lived in Camillus since 2005. Aaron and his wife have two children, both of whom attend school in the district. As an attorney Aaron is a member of the law firm of Bottar Law, PLLC, and the President-Elect of the Onondaga County Bar Association. In 2018, he was appointed by the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department, to serve as a member of the Attorney Grievance Committee for the Fifth Judicial District.

Aaron views the Board of Education as a tremendous opportunity to participate in the community in a significant and meaningful way. As his children progress through school, his interest in the operation of the district has grown. And, while the district has seen its share of recent challenges, it remains a vital part of the community. Aaron stated, “As a member of the Board of Education it would be my hope and intent to be part of a group that will build upon the successful traditions of the district and take the steps necessary to ensure the continued success of all students – goals that require listening to, and collaborating with teachers, administrators and members of the community.”

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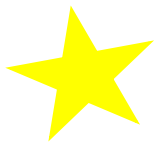
Dinner of 
June 26, 2019

6pm – 9pm

If you reserved a seat and cannot attend, please email mannionforwgta@gmail.com



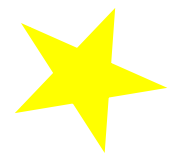
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The Back Page

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WG education community

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Please send your advertisement to Shana Michel (WGHS) at shanamcaffrey@gmail.com. The only other advertisements that are run in “The Member Ship” are those provided by NYSUT, AFT, or the AFL-CIO.

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May/June '19