

2020 Board of Education Candidate Biographies
Listed in ballot order
Biographies are published as submitted by the candidates, unedited

3-Year Term Candidates for 3 Open Seats

Ineda “Corrien” Elmore-Stratton – “Leadership, Commitment, Excellence”

327 Mimosa Drive

Ineda “Corrien” Elmore-Stratton is a long time resident of Cherry Hill and a proud Cherry Hill West Alum from the Class of 1997. With a degree from Rutgers University, she has over 17 years of experience with Boards and Committees as she has built her career in the non-profit sector in the area of Youth Development. Having spent 90% of her career developing, managing, and operating youth programs for out of school times, her passion for being a servant leader has pushed her to go beyond her career and feed her ever growing passion by volunteering in her community.

Currently, she is the Executive Director of Teen Leadership for the 7th largest YMCA in the country. She manages and operates programs for over 4000 students across the Greater Philadelphia region. She is a champion for positive Youth Development and enjoys training and developing others to continue the work in the field. She is an Executive Board member with the Cherry Hill African American Civic Association where she has worked consistently on strengthening the partnership and collaboration between the African American Community and the Township. Mrs. Elmore-Stratton hopes to bring her passion for building youth and families to the Board as a committed leader pushing for excellence amongst the administration that will trickle down to the students, staff and Cherry Hill community.

Carol Matlack – “Leadership, Commitment, Excellence”

101 Nantucket Drive

Carol Matlack has served as a School Board member since December 2010. During her 10 years on the Board, Mrs. Matlack has served on the Board’s Curriculum & Instruction (chair), Policy & Legislation, Human Resources, Business & Facilities, and Strategic Planning (chair) committees, as Vice President and President of the Board. She currently serves as the Board Liaison on the District Cultural Proficiency/Equity/Character Education committee and the DEAC - District Evaluation Advisory Committee. At the County level, she serves as the Vice President of the Camden County School Boards Association and at the State level she serves as a NJSBA Legislative Committee representative. Mrs. Matlack has earned Certificated Board Member status through the NJSBA Academy credits program. Mrs. Matlack has a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary/early childhood education from Marywood University. Her work experience includes teaching, curriculum development and administration at the early childhood level. Mrs. Matlack was an active PTA member throughout her children’s educational experience, serving on the PTA Executive Board at West, A. Russell Knight and Zone PTA.

Carol and her husband Michael live in Barclay in Cherry Hill. They have four children, all graduates of Cherry Hill High School West. Their children are all college graduates and currently working in various tech and engineering industries in software development, electronic medical records and teaching and research at the university level. In addition to her board commitments, Mrs. Matlack is an active member and past president of her PEO chapter, a Philanthropic Educational Organization. She is an avid reader, enjoys spending time at the beach and traveling to visit her children who live nearby and across the country.

Mrs. Matlack is running for the Board because of her dedication and passion for the Cherry Hill Public Schools. She attributes the success her children have achieved in college and in the work force to the excellent educational foundation they received from the Cherry Hill Public Schools. Through leadership and a vision for the future, Mrs. Matlack desires to build upon the educational excellence of our schools so future Cherry Hill students can enjoy success for years to come.

John Papeika – “Challenge, Support, Educate”

25 Waverly Road

John Papeika has been a resident of Cherry Hill, NJ for nine years. John and his wife Jennifer, have two boys, Walter and Oliver. John was born in Philadelphia, PA and went to Father Judge High School. He graduated from Holy Family University with a Master’s degree in Human Resources and a Bachelor’s degree in Management Marketing.

John is a certified Professional of Food Safety as accredited by the National Environmental Health Association. Professionally, John works as a manager of retail safety and regulatory compliance for an east coast supermarket. John and his family live in the Old Orchard section of Cherry Hill where he helps as a moderator of their community’s media page and events.

Having children who will be students in the school system for many years to come, John has a keen interest in maximizing the effectiveness of the school system. His son, Walter, is a preschool student at Cherry Hill’s Barclay Early Learning Center. His wife, Jennifer, is an educator in Philadelphia. John and his family are very involved and passionate about education. As a School Board member, John will challenge himself and others to make the best decisions for the students, staff, and all residents of Cherry Hill.

Aslihan Cakmak – “Because Education Matters”

100 Cranford Road

Dr. Aslihan Cakmak is a strategic, innovative, and energetic higher education leader who promotes continuous improvement to the quality of education at academic institutions. With a BS in Economics, and MBA in management and Finance, and a Doctoral degree in International Business, Dr. Cakmak has 17 years tenured experience with extensive knowledge of academic culture in multiplatform instruction. Dr. Cakmak currently works as the Chairperson of Business and Computer Science Department at Middlesex County College. Additionally, Dr. Cakmak has been serving local and global communities as a member of the United Nations Department of Public Information through a non-profit organization that she represents at the UN. Dr. Cakmak holds memberships to organizations such as Association of International Business, American Economic Association, NJBIA (New Jersey Business and Industry Association), and Middle States Commission on Higher Education and serves as the Vice President of NJCBAA (New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Association). Moreover, Dr. Cakmak volunteers for non-profit organizations such as Healed with Scars and MCC Food Pantry.

Dr. Cakmak has been involved in school affairs at the academic institutions where her daughter attended since 2012. Actively supporting Rosa Robotics Club and Junior United Nations/Model Debate Club Dr. Cakmak has served in events such as tournaments and conducted workshops. After 4 years of serving as a Student Affairs Director at Chinese School of South Jersey, Dr. Cakmak was elected to be a member of the Board of Trustees.

As an expert on student success, online and on-site programs, assessment and curriculum design as well as budget and human resource management in academia and grant applications, Dr. Cakmak is committed to adapt measurable improvements to our children's education.

Miriam Stern – “Progress, Leadership, Integrity”

121 Ashford Road

Miriam Stern, MSW, LCSW is the Founder and Executive Director of a group counseling practice in Cherry Hill, where she works as both a therapist and administrator. Over her 25-year career she has worked in the public and private sectors as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Ms. Stern currently serves on Boards of Directors of the National Association of Social Workers-NJ Chapter and of Jewish Family and Children's Services of Southern New Jersey (JFCS). As part of the JFCS Board she leads the Counseling Program Committee, and in response to community input has help develop a Crisis Intervention initiative and as well as expanded psychiatric services. During the Covid-19 shutdown Ms. Stern volunteered several times a week at the Family Assistance Food Pantry, delivering food to families in need.

Ms. Stern earned her Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies from Washington University, and her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Stern values and prioritizes the critical role public education plays in shaping kids' academic and social-emotional development by consistently advocating for all children and important programs from which they benefit. Because of her passion for *Progress, Leadership and Integrity* in education, Ms. Stern has been involved in several advocacy initiatives over the last 5 years including: helping to bring the then NJ Commissioner of the Department of Education, Dr. Lamont Repollet, to Cherry Hill Public Schools to tour the buildings for an assessment of their condition, advocating for Fair Funding (through Zone PTA) by going to Trenton to testify before the State Legislature in support of Cherry Hill Public Schools and expanding a public awareness campaign, participating in the Alternative Funding Committee for Cherry Hill Schools, bringing Chinese Language to the high schools, supporting increasing Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) curricula and extracurricular activities offered, and ensuring equitable opportunities for all students, as well as participating in multiple PTAs and school activities.

Cherry Hill Public Schools is at a critical juncture to take a long-range, big picture approach to its future. Ms. Stern is dedicated to advocating for the importance of modernized learning and facilities, once elected.

Ms. Stern has lived in Cherry Hill for a decade with her wife, a teacher in a neighboring district, and her 3 children who are currently students at Rosa and East.