

2023 Board of Education Candidate Biographies
Listed in ballot order
Biographies are published as submitted by the candidates, unedited

Kimberly Gallagher – “Find Common Ground”

1537 Hillside Drive

My name is Kimberly Gallagher, and I moved to Cherry Hill in November 2015. I grew up in Ambler, Pennsylvania and moved to New Jersey after marrying. My Husband and I chose Cherry Hill specifically for the school district. I have two elementary age daughters and I have a teenage stepson who attends Eastern Regional High School. I have a unique perspective as I have gone through elementary, middle school and high school with my stepson, and I am experiencing elementary school again with my daughters at Horace Mann.

I received my BA in Philosophy (Ethics) from University of California, Santa Barbara, and my Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from Northeastern University where I concentrated in Supply Chain Management. With my background, I can help look critically at the Cherry Hill Public School’s operations and think of better strategies to create better efficiencies within the system - Both tangibly and intangibly.

My career has two distinctive roads. Prior to having my children, I worked in the corporate setting. My career focused on Supply Chain Management - inventory management, sourcing and purchasing, and customer service. After having children, my career pivoted to education. I have taught Supply Chain Management, Marketing and Operations for an MBA program for seven years.

I was elected to serve a 1-year term on the Board of Education in November 2022. Over the last 8 months, I have proven that I am focused on understanding a topic fully and asking questions when I need clarification on a subject. It would be an honor to continue advocating for the community for another 3 years.

Jennifer L. Sharman – “Empower All Families”

15 Whitman Avenue

I am married to a Marine Veteran who grew up here in Cherry Hill for over 30 years. We have 4 wonderful children (3 sons and a daughter) and are a beautiful, blended family. My husband and all our children have gone through the Cherry Hill Public School system ranging from Clara Barton to Carusi to Cherry Hill High School West. I am also a proud military mom because two of my sons have committed themselves to the military, in the army and air force. I myself grew up in Northeast Philadelphia and have always admired Cherry Hill as a child. It was always a special treat to visit the Cherry Hill Mall as a child and I had often heard about the great Cherry Hill schools. When we became a blended family, I was happy that my children would have the opportunity to participate in such a highly recommended school district.

I am a Registered Nurse for over 25 years and in 2018 I earned my bachelor’s degree in healthcare administration while working a full-time job and caring for my family. It was not easy, but I wanted my children to know that it is important to never give up on their dreams no matter how old they are and what struggles they may have. I have had many nursing positions in my career with a variety of experiences including ICU, Cardiac, Pediatric and Psychology. I have been working at a Medicaid and Medicare Health Insurance Company since 2012 and my current position with the company is as a

Senior Clinical Quality Management Specialist. At my current position I review cases including patient complaints of a provider and make sure that doctors, nurses, hospitals, pharmacies, etc are all following appropriate guidelines to provide quality healthcare. My work experience and achievements have provided me with strong skill sets in communication, health, education, collaboration, evaluating quality of performance and care, assessing needs and outcomes, performing under pressure and problem solving which will be beneficial if elected. I will utilize these skills as a school board member.

I am also very active in volunteering and giving back to our community and any other community in need. My current employer is very active in helping the community, which is one of the reasons that I applied to the company. I take advantage of volunteering my time through my work in areas like Girls on the Run, Out of the Darkness Community Walk, making positive and motivating cards for people suffering with depression, military organizations and much, much more. I have also been volunteering as an advancement chair with the boy scouts for 9 years and am still very active with the scouts even though my kids have aged out. I feel blessed to be able to help these young boys and girls grow into productive, strong, confident human beings. Volunteering is such a big part of mine, and my family's lives because it can really make a difference in the lives of others.

I am very invested in making our schools a place for all students to learn so they can one day be successful adults, all families to be respected and included and for all of our teachers to have the support they need to teach our children in a collaborative way with all parents/caregivers.

Nicholas J. Gaudio, Jr. – “Empower All Families”

13 Hillcroft Lane

Nick is a 32 year Cherry Hill resident, having grown up in the Kingston neighborhood from age 5-25, during which time he attended Kingston Elementary School, Carusi Middle School, and Cherry Hill High School West and Villanova University. With his wife, Christina (deceased in 2019) he had lived in Merchantville and Reston, Virginia from 2005-2011, ultimately moving to the Olde Springs Crossing neighborhood of Cherry Hill in 2011. Their move back to Cherry Hill was influenced by Cherry Hill's strong public education system and diverse community for their older daughters, Sophia (now 13, Rosa International Middle School) and Lucille (now 10, Thomas Paine Elementary School). As a sociable, widowed single parent, now in a loving relationship with a warm-hearted mother of two sons (12, Carusi Middle School, and 7), Nick prides himself on his informal open door policy to all friends, neighbors, and their children, and the casual nature of being on a first name basis with all.

For years, family and friends have tried to convince Nick to become more active and involved in the community because of his friendly demeanor, ability to disagree fearlessly but respectfully, and ability to validate his opinions with logic and facts. Over the past few years, we have witnessed and experienced a depreciation of respect throughout the education system for the freedom of parents and guardians to instill their family values in their children. Nick does not believe school districts should be telling children whether their families' personal beliefs and values are consistent with a state or district-issued set of subjective and opinionated guidelines. He believes that parents and guardians have the right to be partners in their children's education, and he will fight to empower all families to raise their kids with their own unique and diverse set of values.

Nick grew up in a public school household. His father, Nick Sr., well known around town for his archival videography, was a 30+ year elementary educator for the School District of Philadelphia and coached many of Nick's baseball and basketball teams throughout his childhood. His mother, Lauren, known around town for her excellent Italian-American cooking, was an active member of the PTA throughout

his childhood. His upbringing influenced Nick to take an active role in his children's schooling, attending and/or chaperoning all of their school events, field trips, parties, and meetings. He maintains a warm and close relationship with the faculty and staff at their elementary and middle schools.

Nick has over 20 years of experience as a systems/security engineer in the defense industry. He received his BS and MS in Computer Engineering from Villanova University and obtained his Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) certification. He is the Vice President of an engineering labor association and is also a board member for his condominium association in Wildwood, NJ. In his free time, Nick enjoys spending his summers with his family at Cherry Valley Swim Club and on the beach in Wildwood. Nick also enjoys playing guitar, exercising, cooking spicy food, and making coffee with his French press and manual grinder. Nick is his daughters' biggest cheerleader during their various extracurricular activities.

Jack Brangan – “Truth, Knowledge, Excellence”

1240 Heartwood Drive

My name is Jack Brangan, and I am running for a seat on the Cherry Hill Board of Education. Our family has lived in Cherry Hill since 1983, and I have put three children through the Cherry Hill school system: Bret Harte, Rosa, Beck and East.

I graduated from Villanova University and started my career as a mathematics teacher in the Camden Schools (Hatch Middle and Woodrow Wilson), Cinnaminson School system (high school and middle school), and Washington Twp Middle School.

Later, I worked for CIGNA Corporation as a mainframe COBOL programmer and application development manager until I was "outsourced to IBM."

At IBM, I worked across North America on projects for some of the largest companies in the world. Managing application development teams, I worked with the most diverse teams on the planet: South America, China, Germany, UAE, India, Russia and, of course, the USA. My final contract for IBM was as a manager in Parsippany, NJ, with teams in the US and Hyderabad, India. With each trip to Hyderabad, when I completed my IBM work, and my colleagues headed for the airport, I took off by myself and traveled throughout India and neighboring countries. So, in addition to going to the major IT centers in India, I visited the Taj Mahal in Agra, the Pink City in Jaipur, Katmandu and Mt. Everest in Nepal, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai and a short trip to Abu Dhabi (not all in one trip of course!).

I am retired and live with my wife, Judy, in Cherry Hill.

I look forward to working with the current Board members, the school Administration and the community to make our System the best in the state!

Renee Cherfane – “Innovation and Improvement”

6 Clark Drive

My name is Renee Cherfane, also known to the Cherry Hill community as Renee Solimeo. I grew up on the West side of Cherry Hill and have lived here most of my life. I attended Thomas Paine Elementary School, and Carusi Middle School, and my husband and I graduated from Cherry Hill West. Both of my parents were actively involved in the community and schools when I attended, and now is my chance to do that for my three daughters. My oldest daughter attends Kingston Elementary School and my 4-year-old will be attending the Estelle V. Malberg Early Childhood Center in the fall. We also have a 2-year-old

daughter. Between my family and my husband's family, we've had experiences at 10/19 of our schools. I have a tremendous amount of pride for this town. After living in Rhode Island during college and Texas while my husband was in the United States Army, I've since settled back in the hometown that I love. I have a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science in Chemistry from Rutgers University in Camden. I completed an alternative certification program to become a Texas Educator prepared to teach at-risk students in high-need areas of El Paso, TX. I later moved on to teach General and Organic Chemistry Labs at Rutgers University, while working as an In-Process Chemist at a pharmaceutical plant in South Jersey. Later, I found a love for healthcare and nursing, so I completed my Bachelor of Nursing at Rutgers University and my Master of Science in Nursing Education at Walden University. After working in and managing the Intensive Care Unit at the local Level-1 Trauma Center, I moved into the Education and Professional Development Department and am now working with all the new-to-practice nurses as they transition into becoming professional nurses.

It's time that new perspectives are brought to the board. The west side needs better representation, there needs to be better collaboration with administration to ensure policies are followed and all teachers and children are receiving the resources they need, and the community needs to be better informed and involved in board decisions. These items will be my focus of my time on the board and I look forward to the positive changes we can make.

Miriam Stern – “Vision Leadership Progress”

121 Ashford Road

Miriam Stern (she/her) has served on the Board of Education since 2021 and is currently the Board President. She has previously served as Board Vice President, Chair of the Business and Facilities Committee, and was liaison to New Jersey School Boards Association. In her time on the Board she has successfully championed multiple initiatives: passing the first construction bond in 20 years; full-day preschool expansion; increasing State Aid to our budget; revising our district goals to add specific initiatives for students with special needs and other special populations, as well as focusing on student and staff wellness; and selecting and hiring our current Acting Superintendent Dr Kwame Morton.

Prior to serving on the Board Ms. Stern actively participated in the Fair Funding Committee, Alternative Funding Committee, multiple school PTAs, and met with the then Commissioner of Education to advocate for the critical needs of Cherry Hill Public Schools.

Ms. Stern is married to a public high school teacher, and together they are raising: a neurodiverse 19-year-old son who is in college, twin sons who are juniors at Cherry Hill East, and their dog Rigby. Ms. Stern has a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Pennsylvania and is the founder and Executive Director of a local large group counseling practice. She is passionate about making a positive impact for all our students.

Corrien Elmore-Stratton – “Vision Leadership Progress”

327 Mimosa Drive

As a resident of Cherry Hill since 1988, Corrien has not only attended Cherry Hill schools, but she has also worked in and collaborated with Cherry Hill Schools. After graduating from Cherry Hill West in 1997, Corrien continued her education and obtained a degree from Rutgers University-Douglass College. Although Corrien had dreams of being the next “Pam Oliver” on televised football sidelines, her focus shifted after becoming a single mother at only 24 years old. It was at that time that Corrien listened to the advice of her mother who was an educator in Philadelphia and began looking at career possibilities

in the public school system. After being a substitute teacher at Malberg, a one-on-one paraprofessional at Cooper, an attendance clerk at Rosa, and a site leader in SACC, Corrien realized her newfound passion for working with youth and enriching the lives of families. With SACC being a space where Corrien thrived and discovered her talent as a servant leader, she decided to focus and build her career in youth development, non-profit management, and education operations/administration.

This new path led Corrien to serving various communities throughout Camden and Burlington County and eventually becoming an experienced Executive with a demonstrated 20+ year history of success. Corrien is well versed in Youth Development Programming/Training, Grant Management, Grant Administration, DEI Best Practices, and Financial Development. Corrien has developed a deep understanding of strategic management, relationship building, and fiscal responsibility. In her career, Corrien has been able to create and operate employee mentoring programs, coordinate employee professional development conferences, and build and lead advisory boards and committees. In her late thirties she was one of twenty people honored in the 2015 Emerging Leaders in the Burlington County Region, formerly known as the Burlington County 40 Under 40 Leaders. Most recently, Corrien served as Executive Director of Teen Leadership for the seventh largest YMCA in the country operating programs for over 4,000 students across the Greater Philadelphia region.

While building this career, Corrien's personal life also evolved as she married her husband Terence, had two more children, and inherited two amazing bonus children. After being a renter in the township for years, Corrien and her husband purchased a home in Cherry Hill just a mile away from her parents in Lakeview, a mile, and a half away from her father's childhood home on Olney Avenue. Although Corrien is now living on the East side, she is a West-sider at heart and is faithful to her childhood Kingston community. The choice to remain in Cherry Hill and raise a family was an easy one, as Corrien's father, three uncles, aunt, brother, and 2nd oldest son are all graduates of Cherry Hill East/West. There is no other place that Corrien would choose to call home.

Corrien prides herself on following in the footsteps of her father and made a conscious decision to "give back" to the community she loves. From serving as an Executive Board Member for the Cherry Hill African American Civic Association to being a proud Cherry Hill Knights football mom, she has committed her personal time to serving the community the best way possible. After an appointment to the Board in 2018, Corrien realized that the Board was an optimal space for her to use the knowledge and skills from her professional career to serve the Cherry Hill community in an impactful way.

Having first-hand knowledge of what is like to be a student, a parent, an employee, and a community partner in the district, makes Corrien a relatable, resourceful, and knowledgeable voice on the board. Her extensive non-profit experience uniquely positions her to have a full understanding of what a board member needs to do to be successful. If re-elected, Corrien plans to work with the board of education team members to continue to suggest and move forward on best practices that will push the district on an upward path of success. She hopes to specifically lend her expertise in out of school time to assist Administration in evolving the SACC program to serve more students and assist more families. As the current HR Chair, Corrien wants to push administration to the next level and focus on retention, development, and making the district the choice employer for Cherry Hill Township. She is also excited to be a voice on the leadership team that will select the next Superintendent. Her thirty plus years in the community and having lived on both sides of town, gives her an advantage in understanding the desires of our residents.

By far Corrien's strongest leadership competency is relationship building, and she has had the most success in her ability to naturally collaborate with stakeholders, young people, and families through

creating genuine relationships and partnerships. Corrien hopes that her largest contribution to the Cherry Hill community both on the Board and at home will be her commitment to contributing to the success of young people and properly positioning the trusted adults in their lives with the resources and support they need to be successful and educate our next generation of leaders.