

2017 Board of Education Candidate Biographies
Submitted by the candidates
Listed in ballot order

Fredrick Dande

7 Woodbury Drive, Cherry Hill, NJ

Fredrick Dande moved to Cherry Hill because of the reputation of the school system and his belief in a strong public school system. He currently has 3 children in the Cherry Hill School district which he notes translates to over 10 years as an active parent in years to come.

Mr. Dande has more than 5 years of teaching experience as an adjunct professor within both local county community colleges and Wilmington University. He describes himself as an experienced IT Manager, having built his career at leading financial service companies in the Philadelphia region. Mr. Dande has more than 10 years of experience in IT within the Financial Services Industry, spanning Contract negotiations, Vendor management, budgeting and all IT policies establishment which he says he will apply as a Board member. He is an active reviewer for ACM, a blogger for Network World and has also been a speaker at past IEEE conferences.

Mr. Dande served on the Board of Directors for Junior Achievement of New Jersey. He is also active in the Cherry Hill community as a member of JF Cooper elementary PTA, a member of the Deer Park Fire Company -Rehab 13; which prides itself with "Serving Those Who Serve" in every emergency scene the company is dispatched to, he is involved with the local Boys Scouts Pack 170, and fellowships at Bethel Baptist church located on Springdale Road. He has been a Philabundance food warehouse volunteer and contributed to the United Way Donation Campaign for multiple years. Mr. Dande holds a PMI PMP certification which endows him with needed oversight knowledge for projects policies. In the past, he served as a computer class volunteer at the Morrisville Senior Center.

Mr. Dande says his goal is to improve the transparency of the board. "I plan to do that by virtue of my belief that a school board must be responsive and accountable to parents, staff, students and the community at large, through encouraging an open dialog," he says. "The board must source input from all groups and weigh all the facts before making a decision. As Board member I will remain a trustee of the community that elects me and always be accessible and willing to collaborate with all members of the community including all our teachers. I believe that anyone that comes before the board has the right to be heard and not just to speak. I will continue building public understanding, support and participation."

Mr. Dande is a PhD student in Technology Management at Indiana State University. He holds an MBA from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and an MS in Management of Technology from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. He earned a BS in Engineering Technology from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Mr. Dande notes that he has the ability to review current and new courses within our schools and provide informed guidelines on various policies.

Lisa Saidel
515 Knights Pl

Lisa Saidel has served as a School Board member since January 2015 and is currently running for a second term. During her 3 years on the board, Mrs. Saidel has served on the Board's Curriculum & Instruction (chair), Human Resources and Strategic Planning committees. Mrs. Saidel has been a Cherry Hill resident for 20 years. Mrs. Saidel and her husband Bart have two children in the district – Emily is a junior at Cherry Hill High School East and Juliana is in 8th grade at Beck Middle School. Their son Evan graduated from East in 2017 and is a freshman at Ole Miss.

Mrs. Saidel ran for the School Board because she has a passion for educational excellence in the Cherry Hill Public Schools. As a former Bret Harte PTA president and Zone PTA chair, Mrs. Saidel wants to contribute to maintaining the district's reputation through leadership and innovation. As a School Board member, Mrs. Saidel is committed to focusing on what is best for all students and understanding the importance of keeping the community informed of the district's progress and challenges.

Mrs. Saidel earned her bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and currently works full time as Vice President of Client Services for a Cherry Hill headquartered accounts receivable management organization. In addition to her work and serving on the Board of Education, Mrs. Saidel attends numerous sporting events and activities in which her children participate, sits on the board of a local non-profit charity and enjoys spending time at the beach and local swim club.

2017 BOE Committee Appointments: Curriculum & Instruction (Chair); Strategic Planning

Eric Goodwin
112 Mansfield Blvd South

Eric Goodwin is seeking your vote for another term on the board so that he can continue contributing and volunteering his time to help Cherry Hill remain one of the premier school districts in the area, and state of New Jersey. He says he wants to continue focusing on helping Cherry Hill to remain a superior district for students to learn and for teachers, administrators, and staff to work, while being fiscally responsible with the tax payer's money.

Mr. Goodwin is a seasoned school board member. He has served on the Cherry Hill school board since 2008 and is currently serving as the Board Vice President. In his tenure on the board he has served on numerous efforts that have helped to improve the district. Those efforts include, but are not limited to, hiring two highly qualified and high performing Superintendents (Chief School Officers), and settling labor contracts that served to help retain and attract the best talent in the region, while respecting the tax payers. Additionally, as part of the board, Mr. Goodwin has overseen and approved numerous improvements in the education programs and district facilities. Mr. Goodwin says that in his time on the board his decision making has always been focused on what would be best for the students, staff, and tax payers.

Mr. Goodwin has worked in the field of information technology management for over 30 years. His career includes contributing to the success of four major Fortune 500 companies. In his current role,

Mr. Goodwin manages multi-million dollar information technology projects and software implementations.

Mr. Goodwin has an undergraduate degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Illinois and a Masters of Science degree in Computer Science from DePaul University in Chicago. Mr. Goodwin is certified as a Project Management Professional from the International Project Management Institute.

Originally from Chicago, Mr. Goodwin and his wife, Serena, have lived in Cherry Hill since 2001. Like so many families, Mr. Goodwin and his family moved to the area to take advantage of Cherry Hill's welcoming community and outstanding public schools. Both have been active volunteers and supporters of the school district. The couple has three children who have attended Barclay Early Childhood Center, James Johnson Elementary School, Russel Knight Elementary School, Rosa International Middle School, and Cherry Hill High School East. Two of his children have graduated from the district as top students, including one being 2017 valedictorian of Cherry Hill East.

Mr. Goodwin has served in a variety of roles in his church, including deacon, small group leader, children's ministry teacher, and contribution funds accounting. He also has been an active supporter and participant of HOPE Worldwide for 25 years. (HOPE Worldwide provides educational and healthcare assistance to children and their families in North Philadelphia and around the world.) Mr. Goodwin says working for the behalf of children and the community is one of his passions.

Mr. Goodwin says he has worked hard on the Cherry Hill school board over the last 9+ years and seeks to continue serving on the board.

Carol Matlack
101 Nantucket Dr

Carol Matlack has served as a School Board member since December 2010. She was elected Board President in January 2015 and for a second term in January 2016. During her nearly 7 years on the Board, Mrs. Matlack has served on the Board's Curriculum & Instruction (chair), Policy & Legislation, Human Resources, and Strategic Planning (chair) committees, as Vice President and President of the Board. She also 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. 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 as a PTA Executive Board officer at West, A. Russell Knight and Zone PTA.

She and her husband Michael have lived in Cherry Hill for 29 years. They have four children, all graduates of Cherry Hill High School West. Their three oldest children have college and graduate degrees and their youngest son is in his final year of college.

In addition to her Board leadership duties and visiting her children who live across the country and abroad, Mrs. Matlack is an officer in her PEO chapter and an active member of her church, The Catholic Community of Christ Our Light, where she volunteers as the Coordinator of the Elementary Faith Formation Home Study Program.

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.

2017 BOE Committee Appointments: Curriculum & Instruction; Strategic Planning

Sally Tong
24 Vanessa Court

After graduating from Stony Brook University, Sally Tong has been working in the health care sector for more than 20 years. Lately, she has been involved in consulting and networking with health professionals in the area of integrative/holistic medicine through the NutraMetrix Program. Ms. Tong also runs an online weight management platform. Her family has been residents of Cherry Hill for 22 years. She and her husband have four children. They all attended Cherry Hill schools including Horace Mann and James Johnson Elementary Schools, Rosa International Middle School and Cherry Hill High School East. Ms. Tong's oldest child is at University of Pennsylvania and second one is at Rutgers in New Brunswick. The youngest two are still in high school and middle school. "We all love the Cherry Hill schools," she says.

Ms. Tong says she always been active in PTA activities at our children's schools over the years, especially enjoying fund raising for student activities, and seeing their smiling faces.

Ms. Tong says she would like to serve on BOE because: "1) It is critical for our district to receive fair funding from the state. I went to Trenton early this year to meet with state legislators for advocating the fair funding for our district. 2) While we have great schools, there is room to update and improve the curricula so that our children will achieve academic excellence, also become well prepared for education and career after high school. 3) I see a great need to improve school buildings and facilities for providing a safe and enjoyable environment for our children."

Ms. Tong says she has a great passion for volunteerism and philanthropy, currently serving as Vice President of the Chinese American Women Sisterhood Society of Philadelphia, Vice President of the Armed Forces Veteran, a member of the Asian American Women's Coalition, and a member of the Kentucky Colonel. "Now I would like to bring my community involvement closer to home," she says.