

Board Member Candidate Questionnaire  
Dr. Sheryl Boris-Schacter

1. How long have you lived in the district?  
My husband Bill and I feel so lucky to have lived in the Taconic Central School District for the past 7 years. It has been incredibly rewarding to immerse ourselves in the extraordinary beauty, caring people, and diverse cultural offerings.
2. What community do you live in?  
Our home in Copake Falls has allowed us to appreciate the assets of our community. In better times, we have loved frequenting the Roe-Jan library, O's Diner, the Copake Hillsdale farmer's market, Vanderbilt House, the hiking trails, the Ancram Opera House, the Copake Zumba classes, and the Taconic Hills high tennis courts. Copake Falls Day, Grillsdale, the Austerlitz Blueberry festival, and other local fairs and events are highlights for us. They showcase our area and bring together people for the shared experiences that define a community.
3. What is your occupation?  
I am proud to be a lifelong educator. I have been a high school classroom teacher and special educator, a university professor of education, an elementary school principal, and now a vice president in a national education non-profit. I hold a doctorate in administration and social policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and have published and presented extensively on educational issues.
4. What is your family connection to the school district?  
The school district is near and dear to our hearts because of our family's strong connection to public education. Our children, Blake and Tee, are products of public schools, and Bill and I were always super involved as parents. From building a school playground to organizing picnic fundraisers and community gardens, to being the parent representative on the superintendent search committee, our participation was constant and joyful. I served as the President of the Board at the daycare center for many years, chaired two principal advisory committees at the elementary and middle schools, and chaired a teacher mini-grant committee for multiple years for the elementary school PTA. Not a year went by that we weren't performing regular school and PTA service in a variety of capacities. We know firsthand what it takes to support the public schools and show our students and teachers that they matter.
5. What is your community connection?  
From our CSA share to our contributions to the amazing Roe-Jan food pantry and, more recently, the Columbia County Covid-19 emergency response for Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, I have continued a theme for my adult life of combatting food insecurity. Our hills are gorgeous and our produce is abundant and fresh, but not everyone has access. It is why I started a school community garden when I was a principal and served on the board of the local farm where I also taught home gardening

classes and organized fund raisers. It is why I volunteered as a chef for No Kid Hungry, an organization that promotes social justice through teaching healthy and economical cooking and shopping techniques to low income families.

6. What other hobbies/interests do you have?

My hobbies and interests are a perfect match to the rich opportunities in our community. I love cooking and breadmaking, gardening, hiking, birding, reading and writing, yoga and Zumba, poking around Farmer's markets, and having friends over. Bill and I play tennis (he way better than me), and I am trying desperately to improve my knitting.

7. In 25 words or less, please explain why you would like to run for the school board

I believe deeply in the power of public education and would be honored to apply my passion and know-how to serving my school community.