

My name is David Finch and I am running for a position on the Greenville Central School board. My wife, Margaret was a science teacher in the district until her retirement last year. I retired as a Technology Teacher from Coxsackie-Athens Central after 34 years in June 2016. During my career I witnessed and was part of massive changes in education and technology. While working as a teacher, I wrote a lot of curriculum for new courses for my own classes as well as writing for a company that sells new course material and curricula to schools worldwide. I served on many interview committees where I had interviewed more than one hundred prospective teachers or principals. I negotiated contracts between the teachers and the school board for 24 years where I learned a lot about budgets, benefits and how a school functions and spends taxpayer funds. For about 20 years, I was also on the Board of Directors of the Columbia-Greene Federal Credit Union. I acted as vice-chairmen for 10 years and served as chairman of the board during the winter months for several years. During this experience, I was on the other side of employment as part of management which included hiring and firing employees, evaluating management at all levels, creating positions and programs, and making decision about money management. I also have always been involved in my family farm and about 10 years ago started running that operation.

When our children started school, my wife Margaret and I started to be involved with the school. Margaret was part of a small group of parents that started the PTO. Through her, I “volunteered” to help erect elementary playground equipment, start the concession stand during basketball games and provide materials for her classroom. Along with these experiences and my knowledge of how a school functions, I thought I might be able to provide some help to the school through the school board.

Involvement from an outsider’s point of view along with my knowledge has made me wonder about some programs and additions that could benefit the students in our school. I am student centered first and foremost. I believe the mission of any school is to provide the best education to every child, within the limits of a community’s ability to support and fund. I know that a child only has one opportunity to get an education so that they may reach their potential and become an asset to their communities. GCS has a lot of great programs and very talented students that have gone on to do great things.

Running a school is a business, that is a fact. Many may not like that statement but in many small towns the school district might be the largest employer, have the highest paid people and spend a lot of the community’s money. The schools product as a business is well trained, future ready and balanced young adults. But like all businesses, there are items that need to be in balance.

I don’t have a defined list of issues that I would like to see changed at GCS. I think it might be fruitless to spend time on such a list without knowing the many factors the decisions are based on. I hold a Master’s Degree in Elementary Education and another Master’s Degree in Educational Technology, with 34 years teaching experience, I feel that I might be some help to the board as a member. I know that change in the education business moves at a very slow pace. It should, because making changes on things that affect what or how a child’s education is delivered to them should be carefully considered and research based. No child’s education should be someone’s experiment.