

Statement from Dori Johnson

Hi my name is Dori Johnson I'm running for Pine Bush school board again. I've had the privilege of being on the board for nine years and we have gotten a lot accomplished. But there's still more to be done.

I am proud to have our new superintendent Joe Lenz and his team at the helm, and hope to help and support them on the road forward and the evolution of our district as it continues to grow and adapt in our pursuit of excellence.

For those of you that don't know me, my background is in science and education. I have a bachelor's degree in geology and a master's degree in education from SUNY New Paltz. I have worked for 31 years at Monroe Woodbury High School as a science teacher. And will be retiring soon. I'm also an adjunct professor at SUNY Orange where I teach geology.

I've lived in Orange County for about 35 years, as a Pine Bush district resident for 21 of them.

I have two children that went through and graduated from Pine Bush schools

There have been many wonderful accomplishments that the board has been able to fulfill in my time as part of it. I have pushed forward and supported several programs that support our students and enrich the community, all while advocating to keep our taxes under the 2% tax cap.

I have pushed for an expansion of programs at all levels including advanced placement and college credit courses in high school as well as trying to propose electives based on student interest, and expanding our language offerings to the middle schools. I have advocated for and supported more course offerings that can be used towards certification and alternative pathways to graduation for those who choose career paths or the military.

I'm still working on, and support many of the ideas that originally prompted me to run for the school board in the first place -, anti-bullying, balancing the needs and opportunities for all the children throughout the district, expanding programs, and keeping our district fiscally responsible.

I'm also still frustrated with unfunded mandates that are sent down from the state. Many of which are necessary for our students but are not followed with the money needed to support them and this forces us to take funding from existing programs hurting our kids in the long run.

It always comes back to our students. I believe that a healthy school system with a board that understands what's going on and administration that is concerned, teachers that care and students that are motivated is what is best for the entire community.

As a school board member it is my responsibility to make sure the right programs are available. The administration is strong and the educators are given what they need to accomplish what the students need to be successful. And of course to make sure it is all done in a fiscally responsible way for our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you, and don't forget to come out and vote.