

On the May 19 ballot: Monticello Board of Education candidates

Three of the nine seats on Monticello Schools' Board of Education are up for election. The following are the seven candidates who will appear on the ballot.



Robert L. Stewart, current BOE president, resident of Forestburgh

Robert and his wife Karen came to Monticello Central School District as teachers after graduating from SUNY Oswego in 1967. His graduate studies were at SUNY Plattsburgh and SUNY New Paltz. He has served on the Board of Education for six years and is currently the Board president. He has also served as the Board's vice president. He taught science and math at Monticello High School for thirty years and worked as an adjunct professor at SUNY New Paltz and SCCC. He served on the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Forestburgh Fire Department for 16 years. He is married and has two children, Jon and Heather.



Jacob Billig, current BOE member, resident of Glen Wild

Jacob is a current member of the Monticello Board of Education. He has served on the Board for eight years. He is a lifetime resident of Sullivan County and a graduate of Fallsburg High School. He attended Cornell University for his undergraduate studies and graduated from Pace Law School in 1983. Presently, he runs a private practice law firm in Rock Hill. He has been an active member of the community and has been very involved with assorted groups including AAU Basketball and various booster clubs for many years. He is married and has two children, Emily and Austin.



Robert Bellamy, resident of Monticello

Robert has served on the Monticello Broadway Development Committee. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the 1960s and is a former vice-commander at the Ruddick-Trowbridge Post. He is a past coach for the girls junior varsity basketball and soccer teams at Monticello Schools and has coached boys soccer at Tri-Valley. He volunteers for the Federation for the Homeless and is a member of the Community Progressive Response Group. He attended Laverne University in California and Nyack College in Rockland County where he studied business management. He is married and has two daughters, Jessica and Jaclyn.



Robert Kunis, resident of Monticello

Robert worked as a BOCES administrator for 20 years and is currently a local businessman. He has served on the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) committee and has attended many school events and meetings throughout the years. He is a former Sullivan County Legislator, a former Rotarian and was actively involved with Little League for many years. He is a graduate of Fallsburg High School and has multiple advanced degrees from Marshall University, the University of Tennessee and New York University. He is married and has three children, Darin, Brent and Jordan.



Jo-Ann Peabody, resident of White Lake

Jo-Ann is a member of the Duggan Elementary School PTO, currently chairs the 5th grade committee and is a book fair volunteer. She is an RJK PTA member and volunteers for Monticello High School's debate team. She is the secretary for Boy Scout Troop 86 and does work with the Cub Scouts. She is a member of the White Lake Reformed Presbyterian Church, spokesperson for the Bethel United to Save our Schools group and is involved with NYS Parks and Recreation. She attended SCCC for sociology. She is currently the president of Peabody Management, Inc. She is married and has three children, Savannah, Ryan and Dean.



Susan Purcell, resident of Wurtsboro

Susan is a graduate of Orange Community College with a degree in dental hygiene. She is a member of the RJK PTA and a past member of the Chase PTO. She is a co-founder of the Monticello School Community Advocates and a past president and co-founder of the Monticello Performing Arts booster club. She was a parent member of the CDEP committee and served as a parent representative on Monticello Schools' districtwide safety team. Presently, she works as a dental health educator for Prasad Children's Dental Health Program, "Smiles for Teens." She is married and has three daughters, Maria, Annie and Kate.



Babette Ross, resident of Mongaup Valley

Babette serves on the Town of Bethel Youth Board and is the Sullivan County Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) coordinator. She is a member of the Mongaup Valley United Methodist Church and is involved in the Agriculture Education Outreach Program. She helps run her family businesses which include the Fiddlers Flea Market and Ross Auto. She is a parent advocate for Special Education and has a background in business administration. She is experienced with business contracts and was a business member in a commercial trade organization till 1997. She is married and has four children, Nicole, Jessica, Michelle and Zachary.