

Biography Rita Walker Oradell Board of Education 2020

I am pleased to announce my candidacy for re-election to the Oradell Board of Education. Having served our district for the past 9 years, I am presently chairperson of the Personnel Committee where we successfully negotiated a three-year teacher's contract. In addition, I have served as chairperson on the Curriculum Committee where we provided one to one lap tops in grades 5 & 6, increased phonics and foundation reading skills instruction in Grades k-2, and focused on social and emotional learning. Previously, I served as chairperson of the Policy Committee where I collaborated with NJ School Boards to up-date and re-write our Policy Manual. In 2016, I proudly earned the NJ School Boards Award for "Certified BOE Trustee".

Personally, I have been an Oradell resident for over 40 years where both my 4 children and 3 grandchildren graduated from OPS where they received an outstanding education. As an educator, I bring over 34 years of teaching experience having taught in both River Edge and Alpine Elementary Schools. I am an adjunct professor at St Thomas Aquinas College as a Supervisor of Student Teachers. I earned a BA Degree in Elementary Education from William Paterson University and a Master's Degree in Education/Computer Science from Long Island University.

Giving back to my community has always been a priority to me and I feel it is a very important component as a role model to my children, grandchildren and students. I am a former member of the Oradell Zoning Board - 3 years, past member of the Oradell PTA, Girl Scout leader and assistant Cub Scout leader. Presently I'm a member of the Oradell-Emerson Rotary- 9 years serving as an officer, a member of St Joseph Church Arts & Environment Committee, a member of the "Friends of the Oradell Library", and a volunteer for Meals on Wheels.

Oradell has always been a wonderful place to live, raise a family and be surrounded by friends in a caring community vested in the importance of an outstanding education for all children both academically and emotionally. I look forward to continuing to serve our community.