

Hello everyone!

My name is Robert Graham and I am running for a 3 year term on the Oradell Board of Education. My goal is to be a fresh, novel voice that has over 20 years of experience in public education. Let me take a moment to introduce my family and I. My wife, Lori and I recently purchased a home in Oradell along with our two young children, Carly (4) and Giuliana (2). Education is extremely important to us. Lori is a licensed speech-language pathologist in both NJ and NY and holds an educational administrative certificate in NY. She currently works in the Pupil Personnel Services Office of a Rockland County public school district.

As a child, I attended the West New York Public Schools from Kindergarten to the 12th grade and graduated from Memorial High School. Shortly, after graduation, I began my undergraduate studies at New Jersey City University where I obtained a Bachelor of Science degree followed by a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from Saint Peter's University and was inducted into Kappa Delta Pi. Currently, I hold a NJ Standard Certificate as an Elementary School Teacher and NJ Certificate of Eligibility for Principal/Supervisor.

Prior to my career in education, I was a police officer in the Town of West New York, NJ. I began my career in education in February of 2000 as a Teacher with the West New York Board of Education and was hired as a Title 1 Teacher for Grades K-4. For the past 15 years, I have taught 5th Grade Math and Science. In addition to teaching, I have co-chaired the Section 504 Team, Chaired the School Leadership Council, taught after school classes, coached various levels of elementary and high school sports. Currently, I am the Chairperson of the Intervention and Referral Services Committee. This committee is composed of teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, school nurse, and parents working together to assist a struggling student and provide the necessary academic and or behavioral strategies to be more successful. Lastly, I am on the Pandemic Response Committee for September 2020 at my school.

My personal, educational philosophy is Students First. I believe that although making fiscally responsible decisions is important, supporting our children's social/emotional and academic success is a major responsibility of school board members. Teachers and administrators need to be provided and afforded the necessary tools, equipment and professional development to ensure our staff is the best in Bergen County and if not New Jersey. I plan to use my 20 years of experience in education, along with the needs of the residents of this community to guide my decision making. Transparency and consistent collaboration with the school, community and all stakeholders is vital to the successful operation of the Oradell Public School.

Thank you,

Robert J. Graham, Jr.