

School Board Candidates

The Longwood Council of PTAs submitted the following questions to each school board candidate to provide the community with an opportunity to learn about the background and goals of each candidate. The profiles are printed as submitted by the candidates, without editing. Candidates appear in the same order as they will appear on the ballot.

School Board members serve for three-year terms. They receive no pay or benefits for their services. By law, they are required to be qualified voters in the school district where they reside, be residents for a minimum of one year, and be able to read and write. Each of the candidates who appears on the ballot has submitted to the District Clerk a Candidate Nominating Petition signed by no less than 59 qualified voters. Two Board of Education members are running unopposed for reelection.

1. Frank Muraca

22 Thomas Street, Coram, NY 11727

Number Of Children Attending Longwood Schools:

Two grandsons, in fifth and seventh grades, and a granddaughter in third grade. Both of my daughters attended Longwood K-12. One daughter is currently a Longwood elementary teacher.

Education:

AAS Industrial Engineering Nassau Community College Management and School Board Association Training Courses

Professional or Business Experience:

Currently retired with 46 years of business experience; 41 Northrop Grumman, 3 years Howard Johnsons, and 2 years JAG Professional Services. Military service 10 years.

Longwood School District Community Involvement:

- 41 years as a community member
- 6 years serving on the Board of Education
- 6 years on the Budget Committee, 2 years Safety Committee and 2 years Policy Committee
- Member of Coram Civic Association, the American Legion and Brookhaven Lions Club

Explain What Makes You the Most Qualified Candidate:

During the past six years as a member of the Longwood Board of Education, I have developed an excellent working relationship with my fellow Board members and District Administration. Working together we:

- Refinance our bond debt
- Reestablish the Yaphank Special Education Learning Center
- Monitored capital improvement projects
- Propose school budgets within the 2% tax cap
- Established the Veterans Tax Exemption

I continue to expand my community involvement and knowledge serving on various committees, attending PTA Meetings, school functions, civic meetings and reaching out to other community organizations. I will continue to work effectively with Board members and Administration to building a stronger Longwood School District and community.

What Are Your First Three Priorities for the Longwood School District:

During normal times my top priorities would be to provide students with an excellent education, in a safe environment, in facilities that are well maintained and staffed. However, these are not normal times. Our education system in New York has seen more changes than ever before:

- APPR
- Common Core
- Student Data Access
- State Testing
- Unfunded Mandates
- The Two Percent Tax Cap
- Affordable Health Care Act
- Changing Technology
- Continued Adjustments to State Aid

Our priorities have become floating priorities as NYS continues to change and impose new demands on Longwood. Combine this with a responsibility to maintain quality education programs, keeping budgets in balance, maintaining reasonable tax rates, providing fair and reasonable compensation and benefits for District employees.

How Would You Accomplish These Priorities:

The road ahead will not be easy, unknown is what the state and federal gov-



ernment will impose and mandate. Over the next three years I will continue to work with my fellow Board Members and Administration to position Longwood to weather these storms. It's now more important than ever to keep education moving forward. I know there have been problems and concerns about Common Core, state testing, teacher evaluations. I will continue to advocate for an acceptable replacement for Common Core, reduced state testing days and to unlink teacher evaluations to student test results. I will continue to support community projects which benefit both the District and community, while providing positive tax benefits to the community.

2. Paul J. Infranco

31 Eason Drive, Ridge, NY 11961

Number of Children Attending/Attended Longwood Schools:

A son and daughter, both Longwood graduates.

Education:

BA, Dowling College
MA, Adelphi University

Professional Experience:

Retired Longwood educator.

Longwood School District involvement:

Longwood Youth Sports Association (LYSA) 2nd Vice-President
Veterans Project at Bartlett Pond – Committee member
Longwood Alliance – Treasurer
Longwood Athletic Booster Club -Member
Longwood Summer Recreation Program – Co-Director
Empire State Games for the Physically Challenged – Committee member
Veterans Cemetery Project – Committee Member

What makes you the most qualified candidate:

My forty years of service and experience to the Longwood community has given me unique insight to the needs of the community in which we live; an experience that will be useful as the educational landscape changes rapidly. Much of my experience has been focused on the school/community relationship, and I have been fortunate to have been a part of the many projects that have enhanced our community.

What Are Your First Three Priorities for the Longwood School District:

1. To provide the best instruction for our students that we can afford. In a changing world, we need to be able to adapt to provide the best instruction that gives students every opportunity to succeed.
2. Fiscal Responsibility – That while we strive to provide the best educational program possible, we must be creative and efficient in the managing of our funds.
3. To finally settle the question of Common Core, state testing, and APPR.

How Would You Accomplish These Priorities:

To reach these goals, we must continue to provide our staff the appropriate training necessary to carry out their educational responsibilities. That we provide a safe and secure environment that affords every student the opportunity to learn.

The current Board of Education has been fine stewards of our funds. They have encouraged sensible economic development that will be tax positive to the community.

The implementation of higher standards while desired, were rushed and in many cases were not age appropriate. We will continue to work within the system to bring meaningful change to curriculum, assessments and a failed APPR evaluation process.

