



Warren Township Schools

Shining Brighter Every Day

The Warren Township Board of Education has three seats up for election on November 8, 2016 and one seat vacant as of November 5, 2016. This guide provides information about both situations to help all residents understand the processes that will be used to fill these four seats on the Warren Township Board of Education.

Board Vacancy Appointment

The Warren Township Board of Education has one vacancy effective November 5, 2016 following the resignation of Kathy Helewa. This vacancy will be filled by an appointment made by the remaining members of the Board at the regularly scheduled meeting on December 12, 2016. The meeting begins at 6:30pm.

The process for filling a vacancy like this differs from a typical school board election. The person appointed by the Board will take the oath of office and become a full member of the Board on December 12, 2016 and will continue to serve in that position through the reorganization meeting in early January 2018. This individual - and anyone else in the community - will have the opportunity to file a petition to run for election to complete the remaining portion of this seat in the election to be held on November 7, 2017.

In order to be considered for this appointment, any interested party must submit a resume and cover letter that outlines the reasons for wanting to be on the Board and the qualifications for being selected. These materials can be mailed to the attention of Patricia Leonhardt, Board Secretary at the Warren Township Board of Education office located at 213 Mt. Horeb Road, Warren, NJ 07059 or emailed to pleonhardt@warrentboe.org.

The deadline for receiving materials is December 5, 2016.

At the December 12, 2016 meeting, all applicants will be provided the opportunity to make a brief (5 minutes maximum) statement that elaborates on the resume and cover letter: reason for wanting to serve, qualifications, expectations for service, areas of priority. After the conclusion of all statements and any follow-up questions, the Board will move into executive session for discussion. When the Board returns to public session, a motion and a second are needed to move a roll call vote to appoint one of the candidates. A candidate with a majority of the members of the Board present will be immediately seated after taking the oath of office.

November 8 Election

There are three seats on the Warren Township Board of Education on the ballot. Two candidates filed nominating petitions for this election: Lisa DiMaggio and Patricia Zohn.

Since there are fewer candidates than open seats, write-in votes will determine the outcome of this election.

- Write-in votes are counted and the individual with the highest number of write-in votes is offered the position as long as that person is a qualified candidate. If the person elected does not wish to serve, the seat *does not* go to the next highest vote getter, according to the New Jersey School Boards Association. Instead, the Somerset County superintendent appoints someone to the seat.
- If there is a tie among the write-in candidates and one or more is eligible and wishes to hold the position, a special election is called among the write-in candidates.
- There is no minimum number of write-in votes needed. A single write-in vote can elect so long as the write-in candidate qualifies for and agrees to accept the office.

The three candidates with the most votes will take the oath of office at the January 3, 2017 meeting and will immediately take their seats. The three seats are for three-year terms, January 2017- December 2019.

Qualifications (appointment and election)

Each member of any board of education shall, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1*:

- Be a United States citizen;
- Be a resident of the district for at least one year at the time of election or appointment;
- Be able to read and write;
- Be a registered voter in the district where the person is submitting the nomination petition (or being appointed);
- Not be disqualified as a voter pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:4-1*;
- Not have been convicted of any of the crimes or offenses enumerated in *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1* or conspiracy to commit or attempt to commit any of said crimes;
- Not be the mayor or a member of the governing body of the municipality; or
- Not have a direct or indirect contract with or claim against the board.

Additional information can be obtained from the New Jersey School Boards Association at <https://www.njsba.org/about/membership/school-board-candidacy/> or by contacting board secretary Patricia Leonhardt.