

2021 Cornwall Board of Education Candidates

**The CCSD PTO Trust will present a Candidate Forum via
Zoom Webinar on
Tuesday, May 11, 7 – 9 pm.**

Zoom link info:

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87255064538>

Or join by phone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID: 872 5506 4538

If you'd like to send in a question to ask the candidates, please email cornwallptotrust@gmail.com and put BOE Forum Question in the subject line.

Budget Vote and Candidate Elections will take place on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at the middle school from 6 am - 9 pm. Please vote!

Note: Candidates are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot.



Davon Alston

Davon Alston was born on May 16, 1983 in Queens, New York. Raised by a single mother along with his brother and sister. Davon as a young child grew up in Cambria Heights, New York. He enjoyed playing baseball for his hometown sports league, and varsity team while attending Martin Van Buren High School. Davon Alston also enjoyed his time in New York All City High School Marching Band, where he performed at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center. Upon his graduation from high school, Davon Alston attended the University of Connecticut, where he majored in Political Science. While attending the University, he was President of his fraternity Lambda Theta Phi. He was also President of the Multi-Cultural Greek Council in 2004 and Vice President of the All-Greek Council. He worked tirelessly with the Women's Center to make sure the women attending the University, were respected and their concerns voiced with the University's administration. Davon Alston Graduated from UConn in 2005.

In July 2005, Davon joined the New York City Police Department. In 2011, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and assigned to the 44 Precinct in the Bronx. While assigned in the 44th Precinct, he became a Field Training Sergeant. He would take his young officers to the local schools in the area and listen to the issues that every day students were facing, and offer constructive methods on how to circumvent dangerous situations such as drug use, physical, and cyber bullying. In 2011, Davon Moved to Nanuet, New York. Where he organized basketball tournaments to get the students of Rockland County to come together in solidarity for charity.

In 2015 he celebrated the birth of his first born, Anaya Alston. Believing education is the soil and water in which the seeds of our children grown. The importance of school cannot be undervalued. Its where young moldable minds form their morals, learn about social equality, and develop their self-confidence. Therefore, being a part of the school board is so important to Davon because he understands how education like the one, he received over the course of his life allowed him to be able to pay it back to his community through instructing the youth. He brings his real-life experiences of serving and protecting his community for over 15 years. Along with hands on approach to assist in changing the lives of kids. Being a Supervisor and Leader in the New York City Police Department, and being a father gives Davon the necessary tools and outlook needed to help drive Cornwall Education School System to being the number 1 School District in the State of New York. Davon will make sure your children, our children, Cornwall's Children are safe, grow, and become the best version of themselves by receiving the best education in the state.



Richard Schaffner

My name is Richard Schaffner and I am running for the Cornwall Board of Education.

As a 2020 graduate of our Cornwall Schools and now a SUNY New Paltz Sophomore pursuing a degree in Education, I truly appreciate the importance of our school district.

I am so thankful for the teachers, administrators, and staff who helped mold my Cornwall education.

I believe my student perspective brings a unique insight: I am familiar with what works well and where we may need improvement in our modern school system.

As a teacher's assistant, I learned how we can positively impact a child's education and their life. Therefore, we must make the most of the time we have with our children.

As a former member of the student council, I also learned that teamwork and unity strengthen the community. Thus, I will listen to all stakeholders, but most importantly our students, to ensure we continue strengthening our schools for future generations.

Finally, I am also cognizant of the sacrifices my parents made to afford my good education. I pledge to honor the sacrifice of every parent by ensuring every tax dollar is well invested.

I respectfully ask for your vote on Tuesday, May 18th.



Louis Argenio

A lifelong resident of the area, I work locally for my family-owned and operated construction company. As Senior Project Manager, I lead teams of individuals while reviewing, executing, and managing multi-million-dollar projects & budgets.

The proud father of two teenage boys gives me an intimate and relatable lens on how our current world impacts our children in so many ways. A steadfast commitment to them and supporting opportunities for all of our children as they move past this year and into future years fuels my drive.

I am the sitting Vice President for two consecutive years, voted unanimously by my Board colleagues. I reside on the Visitation Committee and also served as former Chairman. The Visitation Committee allows me the privilege to see our children & educators in action, providing enriching & creative learning experiences. As a contributor on the Facilities Committee, I work to assess and explore ways to improve our Buildings & Grounds while maintaining an under-the-tax cap budget.

Valuing our District and focusing on what programming can best support and enrich our children in all areas is why I would be proud to serve our Schools, Children, & Community for a second term on the CSSD Board of Education.



James Creagan

I am a proud graduate of Cornwall Schools and I am running for BOE to ensure my four children have the same opportunities I did growing up here. Cornwall schools prepared me for college at Notre Dame and a graduate degree in chemistry from the University of Maryland.

Playing football and saxophone while a Cornwall green dragon gave me a lifelong appreciation for sports and music. I owe much of my success and character to the foundation of a Cornwall education.

Today I am the second-generation owner of our local, family-owned business. I am on the Finance Committee of St. Marianne Cope Parish in COH and a Board Member of Baby Steps Baby Pantry, a local diaper bank in Newburgh. You can also find me on the Little League fields coaching my children.

I humbly ask for your vote on May 18th.

To find out more please visit:

creagan4cornwall.com/

facebook.com/Creagan4Cornwall



John Edelen

John Edelen is a US Army veteran and retired Chief Risk Officer of FHLBNY. After a 21-year career on Wall Street, he founded a strategy and risk advisory practice to help institutions navigate risk and create high impact, durable solutions that foster cohesion, resilience, and success. John currently serves on the Cornwall Central School District's Board of Education as well as the Board of the West Point Society of the Mid-Hudson Region. He's a founding board member of the Friends4Michael Foundation and a member of the Blackrock Fish and Game Club. John and his wife, Debbie, have lived in Cornwall since in 2001. Their child is a student at CCHS currently, having attended Willow Avenue Elementary and the Middle School. John earned a Bachelor of Science from the United States Military Academy at West Point and a Master of Business Administration from Columbia University.