



## **JOSEPH FERRARO**

Putnam Valley Central School District

2023-2026 Board of Education - Trustee Candidate

Joe Ferraro is an incumbent school board member of the Putnam Valley Central School District with an extended track record of success in driving change that benefits students, staff, and the community. Joe has been a resident of Putnam Valley for over 20 years, during which time he has actively influenced numerous significant educational initiatives and programs.

Joe was first elected to the school board in 2010, and during his tenure, he has been a dedicated and driving force behind several positive changes. He was instrumental in influencing the implementation of full-day kindergarten, which has significantly impacted the student's academic success in the district. He also played a critical role in advocating for later start times for high school students, recognizing the importance of sufficient sleep for student achievement.

Joe has been a strong advocate for expanding the High School curriculum in the areas of financial literacy, vocational/tech opportunities, and the Science Research Program along with the International Baccalaureate program, recognizing the benefits of providing students with a globally recognized education that prepares them for success in a rapidly changing world. Additionally, he has been instrumental in recruiting excellent administrators, faculty, and staff to serve all stakeholders.

Joe is dedicated to balancing the needs of students to achieve beyond expectations, building a positive culture for staff, and maintaining fiscal responsibility for the taxpayers of Putnam Valley. He has consistently advocated for a budget that provides the necessary resources to support student achievement while being mindful of the financial burden on taxpayers.

As a local business owner with a broader community viewpoint, Joe is a passionate agent for change for nonprofit organizations and raises money for essential children, health, welfare, and social service organizations. He is married with two daughters who graduated from Putnam Valley High School, giving him a deep understanding of the needs and challenges facing students in the district.

Joe's leadership, experience, and dedication to student success make him a valuable asset to the Putnam Valley Central School District.

## **Joseph Ferraro, Putnam Valley Central School District, Trustee Candidate**

### **Why are you running to serve as a Putnam Valley School Board Member? / What do you hope to accomplish on the Board of Education?**

I am running for re-election to serve as a Putnam Valley School Board Trustee because I am passionate about education and believe that every student deserves access to a high-quality education that prepares them for success in college, career, and life. My experience and leadership can contribute to the district's efforts to provide all students with an equitable and inclusive education. I am committed to collaborating with other board members, administrators, faculty, and staff to advance the district's mission and goals.

Throughout my tenure as a trustee, the district and community have encountered numerous changes, challenges, and opportunities.

#### ***The dynamics of learning have changed.***

At Putnam Valley, transforming from a culture of content consumption to a culture of content creation is essential for a dynamic living and learning experience. We're witnessing this transformation in various programs, such as our science research, IB presentations, arts programs, and classrooms. Although experiential learning is not new, we believe that encouraging deep thinking and analysis will foster innovation among our students in how they are taught, learn, and approach analyzing and understanding the world.

#### ***Numerous challenges have arisen over the years.***

Despite facing various challenges, such as tax caps, the implementation of the Common Core, changes in administration and staff, and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Putnam Valley community has come together to prioritize the well-being of students. The path ahead is always uncertain, yet I am committed to using my experience as a committed and engaged board trustee to prioritize our students' success. Throughout my time as a trustee, focusing on this "north star" has always been my driving force in serving our community and ensuring that our students receive a high-quality education that prepares them for future success.

#### ***Opportunities abound.***

It's remarkable to reflect that slightly over a decade ago, the Putnam Valley Central School District restructured our elementary school to establish a full-day Kindergarten program. Those pioneering Kindergarteners are now flourishing as juniors in high school. We have also implemented later start times for high school students, a decision backed by scientific evidence that aligns with students' natural sleep cycles and enhances their engagement and learning, particularly when combined with a block schedule structure.

Our district's reputation is closely linked to our renowned International Baccalaureate program, Science Research, and Music/Arts program. The strength of these offerings has grown to the extent that other school districts now pay tuition for their students to attend Putnam Valley High School. This starkly contrasts our standing in the county not too long ago.

#### ***There is more work to do.***

There remain many changes, challenges, and opportunities to face ahead, and recognizing how fast time goes by, I would appreciate the opportunity to provide stability as we continue our work and have the chance to continue to serve our students and community as a Trustee of the Putnam Valley Central School District.

As a trustee, I aim to accomplish several goals that benefit students, staff, and the community. First and foremost, I prioritize student success and ensure that all students have access to the resources and support they need to achieve their full potential. Additionally, I plan to support initiatives that promote equity and inclusion within the district, such as expanding the special education program and providing professional development opportunities for faculty and staff. Finally, I plan to work collaboratively with other board members to promote fiscal responsibility and transparency, ensuring that the district's resources are used effectively and efficiently to benefit all stakeholders.