

Get to Know: **Susan Bettker**

BOARD CONNECTION By Dave Lowrey, Executive Director



2002 Graduate from Gowanda CSD

- **B.S. Degree from SUNY Fredonia**
- **M.S. Degree from Grand Canyon University**

Susan Bettker graduated from Gowanda High School in 2002, and now 22 years later is serving on the Board of Education. Upon graduating from Gowanda High School, she attended SUNY Fredonia and earned a B.S. in Medical Technology in 2007. Ms. Bettker is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Biology with an Emphasis in Education from Grand Canyon University. Susan graduated Magna Cum Laude from SUNY Fredonia, and received the 1929 Graduates' Bioethics Award and the Alice M. Sam biology scholarship while attending SUNY Fredonia. She has been a medical laboratory scientist for 17 years. She has been employed at Brooks-TLC Hospital system for 13 years and has been an adjunct faculty member in the Biology Department at the State University of New York Fredonia.

Susan and her husband Jason, have three children ranging in age from 11 - 22. Her children, Damen was a member of the class of 2019, Molly is a member of the class of 2027 and her son Tyler will graduate in 2030. They are reasons that Susan chose to run for the Gowanda CSD Board of Education. During her tenure on the Board of Education she would like to see a wide variety of extracurricular programming at the school be maintained or even expanded as the school, particularly in a rural area, is a big part of the community. She is pleased with all of the opportunities that her own children have had in the area of the arts, music, various clubs and athletics, and she would like to see other children in the future have the same opportunity as they complete their education in the Gowanda CSD. Ms. Bettker would also like to continue the work of current Board Members and past Board Members to help the Gowanda CSD flourish and be supportive of the Su-

NEW BOARD MEMBER:

**Susan Bettker
Gowanda CSD
Board Member**

**NYSSBA ANNUAL
CONVENTION :
OCTOBER 20-22, 2024
NEW YORK CITY**

TRIVIA.....

All correct answers will be entered into a drawing for an ECASB a \$15.00 gift card to Tim Hortons. Send your answers to ssummers@e1b.org. Who is the key note speaker at the NYSSBA Convention?

OCTOBER 17TH
Rick Timbs Program



www.ecasb.org

August 2024 - #4

perintendent, administration and staff to help Gowanda be a strong district in Western New York. Several Gowanda CSD staff members, friends and community members encouraged Susan to run because they felt she could do her part to keep the Board of Education operating in a positive and productive manner.

Susan recently accepted a position at SUNY Fredonia as a full-time lecturer and director of the Medical Laboratory Science program. She was previously employed as a medical laboratory scientist at Brooks Memorial Hospital for 13 years, so she has always been involved and present in the community.

In her spare time, Susan enjoys reading (particularly historical fiction), following the Buffalo Bills, she enjoys working with her pets (4 cats and one dog), and most importantly attending her children's various activities. All of our children have been very active in sports and music, and there is nowhere I would rather be than at a school concert or sporting event, whether it is in the district or traveling to another district in Western New York !

Places that Susan would recommend visitors to the Gowanda CSD community visit include Jesse's Home and Gifts and Tammy's Unique Boutique. They are two cute shops on West Main St. that offer a wide variety of gifts and unique items. Peace of the Pie is a cozy and unique coffee shop and cafe on Route 39 in Collins, NY. You will not be disappointed with the atmosphere or the food there!

Susan ran for the Board because she was encouraged to do so by several GCS staff, friends and community members. She is ambitious by nature, and she wanted to do her part to keep the board of education operating in a positive and productive manner.

Susan identifies Pat Astry- former professor and advisor at SUNY Fredonia who saw her potential as a medical laboratory professional and educator, and was always a source of support and encouragement as one of her mentors. Another mentor is Patti Bruehl- former employer who showed her the benefits of having different perspectives on life, and the importance of trying new things and experiences. Lastly, her parents Mike and Alice Covert, are her biggest mentors who taught her the value of hard work, honesty, and a good education.

In the community, Susan has served as a member of the Local Planning Committee for the NYForward Grant for Gowanda, and is a former member of the Gowanda Boosters Club

Additionally, she volunteers as a member of the Gowanda Volunteer Fire Dept. Auxiliary, co-coordinator of the annual Gowanda Community Clean-up event, and serves as a coordinator of the local quarterly Community Blood Bank blood drives in the Gowanda area and volunteers with the Gowanda Area Chamber of Commerce.

Side Note:

I am so glad that Susan listed places to visit in the Gowanda CSD community. As I have visited each School District in Erie County, I usually try to arrive early. I will drive around the community, or get out and walk in the community. I am always looking for places to visit. I will next time have to stop at Peace of Pie for cup of coffee.

- Dave Lowrey
ECASB Executive
Director