

Get to Know: **Dirk Rabenold**

BOARD CONNECTION

By Dave Lowrey, Executive Director



Newly Elected - Over 20 Years of Service.

- Graduate of Kenmore East High School
- Graduate of Canisius College

Dirk Rabenold has served on the Sweet Home CSD Board of Education for over 20 years. After a brief hiatus, Dirk was recently elected to serve on the Sweet Home CSD Board of Education. Dirk had been active for most of his years on the Sweet Home CSD Board of Education on the ECASB Legislative Committee - often meeting with legislators locally as well as in Albany and in Washington D.C. Looking at Legislative Minutes from when Dirk first became involved in School Boards, New York State was looking at a new Foundation Aid Formula. When Dirk Rabenold first served, Brian Higgins was a NYS Assemblyman, and Byron Brown was a New York State Senator. Thus, in some cases, things have changed a lot while others aspects of education have not changed much. The most important institutions today are our Public Schools. Dirk's interest in getting back on School Board stems from his philosophy that "An educated populace and community participation help to guide those schools. The role of the School Board should be to ensure resources are used efficiently and effectively to provide a quality education. Today, School Boards seem to have lost their way. They give more importance to the whims of the Board of Regents and Albany politicians rather than the education of our children. We need to work together to push back on these whims. Enough is enough."

Prior to serving on the School Board, Dirk worked with several parents, students and teachers to make Boys Ice hockey a school sponsored sport. For 3 years, he urged the Board of Education to put it on the ballot for a vote along with the annual budget. Eventually it was adopted. He was happy to support the Girls Ice Hockey that came a few years later.

Dirk served as a member of the Sweet Home School Board from July of 2000 and ended his first Board Career in June of 2020. Early on in his tenure with the Board, he worked alongside teachers and the community and was able

NEW BOARD MEMBER:
Dirk Rabenold
Sweet Home 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 Sue Summers. "Why was Akron CSD selected to present at the Back to School Dinner on August 22nd?"

AUGUST 22ND
Back to School Dinner



www.ecasb.org

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to help alter the composition of the board and district office-which consequently led to many positive changes within our schools.

With the help of a fellow Board member, parents and teachers we fought for and gratefully kept Heritage Heights elementary School open. We did these things together, always putting the students and family's interest first.

Dirk and his wife Robin are the proud parents of 3 grown children who were educated in Sweet Home Schools. They have 5 beautiful grandchildren. Dirk and his wife have lived in this community for over 39 years. He has voluntarily served over the years on the Amherst Recreation Commission, Amherst Senior Citizen Foundation Board and Amherst Bicentennial Master Plan Committee. Today, he is part of the WNY Students First organization and also considers himself an advocate for Senior Citizens, giving them a voice in local policy decisions. Additionally, he served as a community member on the Diversity Equity Inclusion committee in the district.

Dirk is a Certified Financial Planner® professional who owns and operates a Financial Services company in Amherst, so he brings his perspective of financial management to his role as a Board of Education member.

Lastly, Dirk states, "Board members have enormous responsibilities. They feel a moral obligation to support their schools with their knowledge and life experiences," and with that, Mr. Rabenold comes out of retirement to serve another term on the School Board and lend his expertise to the Sweet Home Community.



Side Note:

“Dirk served as either the Representative or the Alternate on the ECASB Legislative Committee representing the Sweet Home CSD each year he served on the Sweet Home CSD Board of Education from 2000 - 2020.”

- **Dave Lowrey
ECASB Executive
Director**

Dirk Rabenold is honored at the ECASB 2020 Annual Dinner for his 20 years of service to his community. He is pictured here with David Lowrey, EASB Executive Director, Mark D. Nephew, (Gowanda CSD), and then ECASB President Chuck Specht (Iroquois CSD).