

President Richard Adams



VP Noele Villa



VP Patrick Davidson



VP John Reace



Secretary-Treasurer

Ron Rini



## Meet The Candidates!



**Tim Boyens for VSTA President**



**Noele Villa for VSTA President**

Hello VSTA family! My name is Tim Boyens, and I am running for the position of Valley Stream Teachers Association President. I grew up in the Valley Stream District # 13. I am a proud alumni of James A. Dever Elementary School and V.S. North High School: the place where I have spent the last 22 years teaching science. My parents were both elementary school teachers, and my father was a Union Unit leader for the Elmont School District (elementary). My parents' love of teaching, and the outstanding experiences I had as a student in our great district, really inspired me to become an educator. Teaching and being a part of a Union have always been a part of my life and is built into the framework of who I am.

I have decided to run for VSTA President and potentially take on this huge responsibility because I believe we as an association are at a pivotal moment. Our membership

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My name is Noele Villa and I am asking for your vote so that I may continue my service to the members of VSTA as the next President. I would like to tell you about who I am, what I have accomplished, and what I am confident I can achieve if elected.

### **Experience Matters**

I have been involved in our union for over two decades at every level. I have been an Executive Board Delegate, a Unit Leader for District 13, and Vice President of Communications for the last six years. My cumulative experiences have allowed me to build a knowledge base from which to lead. I have attended numerous Labor Law seminars and NYSUT Regional Meetings to better learn about issues facing members on Long Island, New York and the nation. I have attended meetings in all Valley Stream districts. I have played an active role in the development of APPR Plans and Reopening Plans. My knowledge base has enabled me to

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# Valley Stream Teachers' Association

Valley Stream, New York - Local 1633  
[www.vsteachers.org](http://www.vsteachers.org)

**Richard Adams**  
*President*

**Noele Villa** **Patrice Davidson**  
*Vice President - Communication* *Vice President - Membership*

**John Reece**  
*Vice President—Operations*

**Ronald Rini**  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

**Ginger Calderaro**  
*E-Newsletter Editor*

will need to choose between the status quo and defeatist culture that has existed in recent years within VSTA leadership, and a fresh new ethos of **support, transparency, trust** and **real solidarity**. The good news is that I feel we are already winning! My candidacy has been an impetus for my fellow VSTA members, new and long-standing . Never before in my time as a teacher in Valley Stream have so many people been more energized and engaged in where our union is, and more importantly, where it's going. I am so grateful to all the members who watched my video and have reached out to me to discuss the issues that are so important to ALL of us. I am available for discussion and help at any time, so please contact me with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

I have spoken with many members who want to retire but can't afford to because our health insurance in retirement is the minimum a district must pay according to NYS (65% for retiree, 35% for family). I have communicated with a multitude of elementary school teachers who don't feel supported by administrators when they are dealing with parents. I have heard from nurses in our district whose salaries are so low, they are debating whether to continue working here. I have listened to young new teachers who ask, "Will I ever make enough money to buy a house? Raise a family?" Just as heart wrenching, I have connected with quite a few staff members with pre-existing medical conditions who were not permitted by our districts to work from home during this global pandemic and got zero support or fight from VSTA. Our union told them to retire or resign, when - again - we have veteran members who literally cannot afford to retire.

Of course there are a great number of people who would just like to know who the president and vice presidents of VSTA are? Why are their Union dues so high, and what is the money spent on? I hear all the time: "I don't mind paying Union dues if I see results and support in return!"

If you share any of these concerns, or worry about colleagues who do, you are not alone. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, **we have the opportunity to make change together**. If you want a president who will *support VSTA members first, last and always*, please consider voting for me, Tim Boyens.

I truly appreciate your support! Thank you.

*Villa continued*

successfully support members with disciplinary issues and contractual questions.

### **Ready and Able to Face What Lies Ahead**

There is always something new to learn and a challenging issue to face. During my years of service to VSTA there has been a global pandemic, anti-union sentiment, and the 2% Tax Cap. The next President of the VSTA will need to rely on experience to navigate what comes next. I look forward to the challenge.

### **Accessible and Available to Members**

When I first started in District 13 in 1998, the President's Report was a monthly paper in your mailbox. If a member had a question, they would call the VSTA office and leave a message. As the Vice President of Communications, I have greatly expanded the communication to members, providing information and opportunities for involvement through email and text. As VSTA President, I plan to continue expanding communication not only to members, but between members as well. In my current role of Vice President, I have demonstrated my commitment to the membership through my accessibility and availability. I look forward to that continuing.

### **Representation for Every District Member**

My experience matters. Valley Stream is unique as it is 4 separate districts which are regulated by one contract. Each district has its own perspective and needs. The most important quality of the next VSTA President is dedication to making the needs of **ALL** a priority. This includes the SRP group, Teacher Assistants, Teachers Aides, Nurses, and Security Aides. During my time on the Executive Board, I advocated for the addition of Unit Leaders in every elementary building. The good of the whole membership must be the guiding principle. I have clearly demonstrated my ability to advocate for members, make decisions after careful consideration of the membership, and earn respect because of my hard work. Each level of service to the VSTA comes with a learning curve of both necessary knowledge and commitment of time. My experience matters, and I am ready.

Please support me by voting on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **VTSA Elections May 19th!**

**1 hour BEFORE the start of the  
school day and 1/2 hour AFTER the  
end of the school day!**

## **John Reece for VP of Communications**



Hello my name is John Reece and I would like to introduce myself as a candidate for Vice President of the VSTA. I started my teaching career at the Robert W. Carbonaro School in District 24 in 1998. I then moved to the William L. Buck School for the 2009-2010 school year and have been teaching there to the present day.

I have proudly served VSTA in some official capacity since shortly after receiving tenure in 2003. My service has consisted of Building Rep/Executive Council member from 2003-2009. In 2009 I ran in a contested election for co-unit leader in District 24 and won. Serving as Unit leader for 10 years was an incredible and valuable experience that taught me a great deal about VSTA and the needs of our membership. During my tenure I learned how to deal with Administration and School Board's, helping VSTA achieve its goal of service to its members. In addition I have worked on the Negotiations Committee for the past 2 teacher contract settlements. In 2019 I left my position as Unit Leader in 24 to become Grievance Chair for VSTA in order to expand my knowledge of union service. In 2020 I applied for the vacant position of VP of Operations and was appointed to complete the unexpired term. I am seeking election as VP of Communications in 2021. In my year as VP I have represented our Nurses and EOP Units during contract negotiations alongside our NYSUT Labor Relation Specialists. This past year also brought about many challenges due to Covid-19. I was instrumental in working with the union leadership and administration to find solutions for the reopening/continuation of school that worked for students and families but that was also safe for our members. It is through these collective experiences I believe I have gained the necessary and valuable skills to serve our members as Vice-President.

Over the past two decades public sector employees of all types and teachers specifically have come under attack like never before. As VP of Communications I want to continue building on the success VSTA has had in recent years in keeping members informed and involved. We have instituted use of personal email blasts and texts to inform members of current events in the Union as well as keeping them up to date on local and national issues. We have seen a tremendous increase in member participation within VSTA as well as increased awareness on the larger educational issues. The creation of Unit Leaders in all elementary buildings is another example of increased union involvement. VSTA leadership holds an important role but the Association's strength comes from its members being united and working towards common goals. VSTA success also comes with positive interactions with various school and community stakeholders. I will continue reaching out to our PTA's and community organizations. I am proud of my 18 years as a VSTA representative and ask for your support to continue my service as Vice-President of Communications.

In Solidarity,  
John Reece

## **Thomas Schiavo for VP of Communications**



**Good day VSTA, my name is Tom Schiavo and I am running for Vice President of Communications. I began working in the Valley Stream Schools in 1988 and I feel that I have had a career in the district that has made a positive impact on many lives. I was raised in Valley Stream and have gone to elementary school in District 30 at Shaw Ave., District 24 at Donahue (before it closed), Buck, and at Memorial and Central. I have made lifelong friends from my childhood. Starting while in college I worked for the HS District as a painter, custodian and coach. Some of my coaching positions were, Varsity Football Coach for 21 years as well as a Varsity Wrestling, Varsity Badminton and Varsity Tennis Coach. After college I was fortunate enough to land a job in the HS district as a Permanent Substitute. I have been named a “Feature Teacher” in the Observer and I was highlighted on the cover of Newsday after saving a student-athletes life at a baseball game at South. I have an extreme appreciation for the elementary schools in the district and I remember each one of my elementary school teachers’ names and I am still in contact with several of my former teachers from each building that I attended. The tireless work of the elementary teachers in this district is on display when their students come to HS and that tireless work is the reason our students soar to such great heights. Their success is largely due to the foundation that our elementary school teachers provide. I have taught and coached in each of the 4 High Schools and know how different they are in their approach as well as the challenges they face. The work that is done by NURSES and CUSTODIANS and all SUPPORT STAFF is critical to the success of our children and I want to help ALL STAFF MEMBERS be the best they can be by providing the Union Leadership and Administrative Support necessary to do so. I have never understood the rift between the HS and Elementary schools in VSTA. It seems like it gets us nowhere and is a tool of the powers that be to keep us from achieving our true potential. With me, there will only be TEACHERS and STAFF. No delineation between level and I will fight for all of US! I have worn many hats in this town, and I have had the “Midas Touch” with many of them. If you ask around, although I’ve worn many hats, you’ll find that I’ve only had one heart. A heart that beats Valley Stream. I humbly ask you for your vote. VSTA can be great, but some things need to be improved. I leave you with a quote from long time Teacher and Coach, Ed Farrell...**

**“The Biggest Room In The World, Is The Room For Improvement”**

**Thomas B. Schiavo**

We Honor and Remember  
Our Members Lost to COVID



International Workers' Memorial Day

