

Ana M. Vander Woude

Respectfully I offer my credentials to the Holmdel community. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you on the Holmdel Board of Education.

In January 2005, I moved to Holmdel with my husband, Dale, and two children. My son, Derek is 6 ½ years old and presently a first grader at Village School. My 3-year-old daughter, Anastasia, has Down syndrome and will hopefully begin the Special Education preschool at Village School this fall.

At Central College in Iowa, I majored in Spanish and Latin American Studies and minored in French. I also studied at the University of Costa Rica for one year and attended law school at Southwestern in Los Angeles.

I served as an English as a Second Language Teacher at Keyport Central School for one year. During that time, I was awarded a grant by the State of New Jersey to create a community inclusion program aimed at stimulating parent involvement.

After law school, I served as a faculty member in Tokyo, Japan for UNAFEI (United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders). The institute offers comparative analysis training programs to senior criminal justice officials from developing nations. I served UNAFEI in many capacities including, curriculum development, linguistics, and editor-in-chief of publications.

My present career as a stay-at-home parent has proven one of my most rewarding. My children are two of my greatest mentors and sources of inspiration. Also, I presently serve as the Coordinator for the parent group ARISE (Advocating Rights In Special Education). Personal character traits that I bring to my role as a board member are pragmatism, a good listener and a strong desire to serve my community.

As a native Spanish speaker who also speaks French and Japanese, I have great interest in improving the quality of the world language programs in the district. I am a strong advocate of alternative dispute resolution to reduce the number of lawsuits that drain our limited school funding from more fruitful scholastic endeavors. I would also like to explore means to improve security and to reduce crime in our school district.

