

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education is made up of seven unsalaried district residents elected to serve. The board's powers and duties are derived from the New York State Constitution, the laws of New York State and the rulings of the New York State Commissioner of Education. The Board of Education's main areas of responsibility are:

- Establish district policies.
- Develop an annual budget for public approval.
- Vote on the Superintendent's recommendations on personnel matters and contracts.
- Review courses of study and textbooks.
- Act as a communication link between residents and their school.

No person or group of persons acts in the name of the board. All motions require a majority vote before the Board can act. A board member is in an official capacity only during an official Board meeting. The Board employs a Superintendent who is responsible for the day- to-day operation of the district and administration of Board policies. The Superintendent develops policies, programs and plans for Board action.

SOUTH JEFFERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS



Mrs. Pamela E. B. Thomas, President

Pamela Thomas is a life-long resident of the District, currently living in Adams with her three children. Pam has a Bachelor's degree in Industrial and Labor Relations and Business Economics from SUNY Potsdam and a Master's Degree in Education from SUNY Oswego. For the past twenty years, she has been employed by Jeff-Lewis BOCES as the Work-Based Learning Coordinator. Pam has completed several trainings for School Board members including the Fiscal Management series and an eight-course series through the NYS School Boards Association on School Board Leadership. She has attended several trainings to increase her knowledge of issues facing schools, communities, and students. Pam has been a Girl Scout Leader and Secretary to Boy Scout Troop 586. Pam attends the Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church. She is a Basic Life Support Instructor for the American Heart Association, a member of the Jefferson-Lewis Association for Counseling and Development, and a volunteer for the South Jeff Rescue Squad. Mrs. Thomas holds a five-year term of office from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2025.



Mr. Kenneth Bibbins, Vice President

Ken is a 1987 graduate of South Jeff and a 1991 graduate of Clarkson University. He works for the NYSDOT and is currently the Regional Director of Operations for Region 7, encompassing Clinton, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. Ken resides in Adams with his wife Barbara and three daughters, Evelyn, Audrey and Avery. Ken serves as the Vice President of the Board of Directors of the State Civil Service Employees Federal Credit Union and as the State Board Director for Section 7 of the New York State Association of Transportation Engineers. As an avid outdoorsman, Ken volunteers with both the Adams Center Sportsman's Club and the South Jeff Trap Club. He is also the founder and President of the Southern Jefferson County Youth Shooting Sports Association. Mr. Bibbins holds a five-year term of office from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2025.



Mr. Randy R. Jerome

Randy is a 1979 graduate of South Jeff. He attended Essex Community College majoring in Science. Randy has been a member of this community all of his life. He is a past member of South Jeff Rescue Squad; former owner/operator of Two Brothers Pizza in Adams Center and Lacona; and previous Food Service Manager at Central Square High School. Currently, he is the owner/operator of RJ's Catering in Adams Center and a member of the SJ Zoning Board (Z.B.A). His personal involvement with the district started when he entered Kindergarten in 1965. His family has been strong supporters for even longer. He is a proud grandfather of two grandsons and father of three daughters who all attended South Jefferson. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends, cooking, or playing with his grandchildren or great nephews and nieces. Mr. Jerome holds a five-year term of office from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2022.



Mr. James S. Juczak

Jim was previously a member of the South Jefferson School Board of Education from July 2012 through June 2020. Prior to that, he was a teacher with the South Jefferson School District for 23 years. Jim achieved his Bachelor's in Industrial Arts and Driver's Ed and his Master's in Technology Education from SUNY Oswego in the early 80's. In addition to teaching in the public-school system his career has been very diverse. He has also had experience in factory work, vocational teaching and as a civilian contractor in Afghanistan, to name a few. Presently, Jim is an adjunct professor at SUNY Oswego, teaching Energy and Power Technology to future teachers and industrial managers. He lives with his wife in a home they built in Adams Center and they use their property to continue to educate people on issues like sustainability, off-grid energy production and simple agriculture. Jim is an EMT-B with the South Jefferson Rescue Squad and a board member for the SciTech Museum in Watertown. Mr. Juczak holds a two-year, one-month, eleven-day term, from May 19, 2021, through June 30, 2023.



Mr. Troy Matteson

Troy resides in the village of Rodman with his wife Sarah and their three children, Mikayla, Joshua, and Nathanael. Troy is a graduate of SUNY Fredonia and has his Master's Degree from SUNY Potsdam. For eighteen years, Troy has taught mathematics at Indian River High School. Despite graduating from Indian River, and now teaching there, he has slowly but surely changed from a Warrior to a Spartan ever since his three children started school at South Jefferson. Troy has also served as a coach and a board member for the South Jeff Little League, a soccer official for the Frontier League, and an active member, working with youth, at his church, New Life, in Watertown. Mr. Matteson holds a five-year term of office from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2026.



Mr. Justin R. VanCoughnett

Justin is a graduate of South Jefferson Central School, SUNY Jefferson, and Iowa State University and is a NYS Licensed Professional Engineer. He is an active member of the community and is involved in a number of local organizations including South Jefferson Little League and South Jefferson Pop Warner. After travelling throughout the country for a number of years managing large construction projects, Justin returned to the family farm in Adams with his wife Shannon in 2012 to raise their three children near family and in the South Jefferson Community. He now works with a Chicago based renewable energy company in addition to operating a number of businesses including the JVA Companies, JVA Engineering, and JSV Properties. Mr. VanCoughnett holds a five-year term of office from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2022.



Mrs. Stephanie Widrick

Stephanie resides in the Town of Adams with her family. She and her husband have three children who attend the South Jefferson Central School District. Stephanie attended Syracuse University, State University of New York at Oswego and State University of New York at Potsdam, and received a Bachelor's Degree in Education, a Master's Degree in Literacy and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership. She currently holds New York State certificates for School Building Leader and School District Leader. Stephanie has been a classroom teacher, a literacy consultant and currently, she works for Jefferson-Lewis BOCES as a Professional Development Specialist for School Aged Family and Community Engagement Centers. Mrs. Widrick holds a four-year, fourteen-day term of office from June 17, 2020, through June 30, 2024.