

Joshua Szwed

Candidate for Region 20 Board of Education, Litchfield Representative

Josh Szwed has served his entire 22-year career as a middle school science teacher in public schools – first, in Syracuse, New York, then in Paducah, Kentucky, and for the past 12 years in Kent, Connecticut.

Josh has worked at Kent Center School since 2014 in the Region 1 School District. He is keenly aware of the challenges of small towns coming together with a common set of educational goals and shared resources, while still maintaining individual values and identities.

Outside of the classroom, Josh dedicates much of his time to community organizations. With a background in environmental science and education, Josh enjoys serving on the Education Committee for the Litchfield Hills Audubon Society. He volunteers regularly at White Memorial Conservation Center, where his wife Carrie works as the Education Director. During the pandemic, Josh prepared and delivered meals to residents as a member of the Litchfield Community Emergency Response Team. He served as a “Troop Dad” for Girl Scout Troop 40007, and as a “Dance Dad” at Papermoon Dance Studio. As a member of Prince of Peace Parish, Josh has served 10 years as a Lector, six years as a Faith Formation teacher, and the past two years as a member of the choir.

Josh and Carrie have resided in Morris and then Bantam since 2014, and have proudly raised their daughter in the Litchfield/Region 20 School District. Over the years, Josh has been an active participant in many town and school meetings, board member votes, and budget votes, including the vote to create Region 20, believing in the vision of better educational and extra-curricular opportunities for the children of our communities.

Josh is looking forward to applying his perspectives as a parent, dedicated member of the community, and an educator to the role of Region 20 Board member. As a parent, Josh will advocate for safe environments that support our children, and for programs that challenge, enrich, and prepare them for the future. As a community member, Josh will work to keep Region 20 Schools on a path toward financial responsibility while still investing in innovation and in our students. As an educator, Josh will be a proponent of academic rigor, of expanding extra-curricular opportunities, and of cultivating a school culture that makes us all proud.

Professional Experience:

Seventh/Eighth Grade General Science Teacher. Kent Center School, Kent, CT August 2017 – present

Fifth/Sixth Grade General Science Teacher. Kent Center School, Kent, CT August 2014 – July 2017

Seventh/Eighth Grade General Science Teacher. Reidland Middle School, Paducah, KY July 2007 – May 2014

Seventh Grade General Science Teacher. John T. Roberts K-8 School, Syracuse, NY September 2004 – June 2007

Education:

State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF), Syracuse, NY
Master of Professional Studies in Environmental Interpretation, May 2004

Syracuse University, School of Education, Syracuse, NY
Master of Science in Secondary Science Education, December 2003

State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF), Syracuse, NY
Bachelor of Science with Honors in Environmental Biology with a concentration in Environmental Interpretation,
December 2001

Certification:

Connecticut Professional Educator Certification - Biology, Earth Science, General Science, Grades 4-12,
Renewed January 1, 2022

New York State Permanent Certification - Biology 7-12, Effective February 1, 2009

New York State Permanent Certification - General Science 7-12 Extension, Effective February 1, 2009

Kentucky Professional Certification - Biological Science 8-12, Middle Grades Science 5-9, Effective July 1, 2007

Community Service:

Parent Volunteer, Plumb Hill (Middle School) Players, Litchfield, CT 2025 – Present

Choir Member, Prince of Peace Parish, Bethlehem/Woodbury, CT 2025 - Present

Middle School Jazz Band Member/Mentor, Kent Center School, Kent, CT 2024 – Present

Education Committee, Litchfield Hills Audubon Society, Litchfield, CT 2022 – Present

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Litchfield/Morris, CT 2020 - 2021

Parent Volunteer, Girl Scout Troop 40007, Litchfield, CT 2019 – 2025

Faith Formation Class Catechist, Prince of Peace Parish, Bethlehem/Woodbury, CT 2018 – Present

Parent Volunteer, Papermoon Performing Arts Dance Studio, Litchfield, CT 2016 – Present

Lector, Prince of Peace Parish, Bethlehem/Woodbury, CT 2016 – 2025

Boys' Basketball Coach, Kent Center School, Kent, CT 2015 – 2020

Volunteer, White Memorial Conservation Center, Litchfield, CT 2014 – Present