

# KARA CRUOGGIO

Litchfield, CT

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

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I am a Litchfield resident and a parent, and I am running to represent Litchfield on the Region 20 Board of Education. My son attended Litchfield Public Schools for kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and was part of the first 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduating class at Plumb Hill Middle School this month. Throughout those nine years, I've been an active and engaged member of the Litchfield Public Schools and Region 20 school communities, and I look forward to continuing that engagement when my son starts Lakeview High School in the fall.

I believe deeply in the power and importance of public education. I believe in the potential of Region 20 to be one of the best school districts in Connecticut. And I believe that is what our students, our teachers, and our communities deserve.

I was an enthusiastic supporter of the merger, because I believed in the core promise of Region 20: better and more academic, extracurricular, and social opportunities for our students. While I still believe that promise can be realized, I am disappointed that it was hindered by mistakes, and I am disheartened that it has come at the cost of strained and broken relationships between and among the Board of Education, the District, and our four communities.

But I am not giving up. In my professional career as a technology project and product manager, highlighted below, I have learned that improvement is a process and that progress takes time. There is so much work to be done - to rebuild trust between the Board of Education and the communities through more transparency and better communication, to correct past mistakes where we can, to implement policies, checks, and balances that will ensure we don't repeat them, and to set Region 20 on a path to a sustainable future by carefully and thoughtfully balancing the needs of our students, our schools, and our communities.

I am ready to do this work, I want to do this work, and I possess the experience, integrity, and dedication to do it well. Thank you for your consideration.

## RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Technology Consultant & Business Owner** ♦ Cruoglio Consulting, LLC 2024 -- Present  
As a technology consultant, I help nonprofit organizations and socially-responsible small businesses define, plan, and successfully execute complex software implementations and other technology projects. As an independent business owner, I communicate and negotiate contracts with current and potential clients, manage my finances and cash flow, and plan for a sustainable future.

**Senior Product Manager** ♦ The Trevor Project 2022 – 2024  
As a Senior Product Manager at The Trevor Project my main responsibility was the implementation of and migration to a new donor database that is the primary data repository for 500,000 donors and \$80mm of annual revenue. To accomplish this, I built relationships with leaders and stakeholders at all levels of the Fundraising and Finance teams to understand their needs and strategic priorities, I interviewed, selected, and managed external consultants and partners, and I collaborated daily with a geographically-distributed team to deliver the project on time and on budget. At the conclusion of the implementation, I defined, socialized, and presented a multi-year roadmap for ongoing success.

**Senior Product Manager ♦ Jackson River** 2015 – 2022

As the Senior Product Manager of Springboard, a fundraising software platform used by premier nonprofit organizations to process over \$200 million in one-time and recurring donations annually, my primary responsibility was to create, manage, and execute a comprehensive, multi-year roadmap of feature development that carefully balanced the needs and priorities of current clients, potential clients, and the platform itself. I accomplished this through thoughtful planning and change management, collaboration with my peers, and regular communication with stakeholders.

**Director of Project Management and Production ♦ Threespot** 2005 – 2014

As the Director of Project Management and Production at a 50-person, \$9 million digital engagement agency, my primary responsibilities were to hire and supervise a staff of 8-10 interactive project managers and to develop and implement policies, procedures, and software solutions to increase efficiency. I did this by studying and staying current with typical challenges faced by small professional services organizations, collaborating and communicating clearly with my peers and executive leaders, and honing my people management skills and instincts.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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Litchfield Education Foundation ( <i>will resign if elected to the BOE</i> )	2024 – present
Litchfield Democratic Town Committee, Treasurer	2020 -- present
Litchfield Public Schools Workgroup on Collaboration	2020 -- 2021
Cub Scouts Pack 31 Parent Committee	2018 -- 2020
Center School volunteer	2017 -- 2020

## EDUCATION

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<b>Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy ♦ Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT</b>	1997
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## ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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<b>Director of Client Support and Training ♦ Carol/Trevelyan Strategy Group, Kintera</b>	2001 – 2005
<b>Assistant Director ♦ HandsNet Training and Resource Center</b>	1999 – 2001
<b>Assistant Project Coordinator ♦ Catholic Network of Volunteer Service</b>	1998 – 1999
<b>Health Educator ♦ AmeriCorps/Regional Medical Center at Lubec, ME</b>	1997 – 1998