

## **Vincent Graci**

### **Family information:**

I have lived in Mount Pleasant since 2008 and am married to Lina Gianfrancesco, who is an Assistant District Attorney in the Office of the Westchester County District Attorney. I have a daughter in high school and a son in middle school.

### **Education:**

BA, Political Science, Boston University, 1988; JD, Northeastern University School of Law, 1993

### **Occupation:**

I have worked for almost 25 years as a criminal defense attorney representing indigent people. Currently, I work for The Legal Aid Society in the Bronx in a specialized unit handling both criminal and custody/visitation cases. My duties include researching the law, negotiating favorable outcomes for my clients, and conducting both criminal and family court trials.

### **Community Involvement:**

Board Member, Mount Pleasant Central School District Board of Education

Member, Board of Education Policy Committee

Board Liaison, Mount Pleasant Teachers' Association

Coach, Sherman Park Little League

Former Coach and Board Member, FC Mt Pleasant United Soccer

Former Assistant Coach, AYSO

Past Member, Citizens Budget Committee

### **Why are you running for the school board?**

I am running for a second term because I want to continue to be a part of providing a quality education in our school district while being fiscally responsible to our community. During my first term as a board member I gained valuable experience in learning the challenges of overseeing a school district. The most significant part was the process of selecting a new superintendent. I would like to continue to assist Dr. Kurtis Kotes as he implements his vision for the Mount Pleasant Central School District.

### **What do you feel are the strengths of the Mount Pleasant school district?**

The Mount Pleasant School District has many strengths, which include our dedicated and talented teachers, committed parents who are fully vested in the success of our children, and students who embrace the rigor of the education as evidenced by college acceptances. We have many achievements in STEAM and athletic programs to be proud of. I also believe our superintendent, Dr. Kotes, is an asset. In his first year as Superintendent he has seamlessly integrated himself in our community and successfully collaborated with the teachers, administrators, staff, parents, students and the Board of Education to help shape and execute his vision for the Mount Pleasant Central School District.

### **What are the top three challenges facing our district?**

- One of the challenges facing our school district is the current state of the athletic fields. The conditions of the fields need to be addressed for the safety of the students and must be done in a fiscally responsible manner.
- We also need to address the lack of space in our elementary school buildings as more families move into our school district, while striving to maintain small class sizes.
- Perhaps the biggest challenge of all is navigating the school budget process within the tax cap environment to allow for maintaining quality educational programs and maintaining our school facilities.

### **How would you like to see the district address those challenges?**

First and foremost, all challenges must be addressed in the most financially prudent way possible since the board members are stewards of the resident's money.

The challenges should be addressed with the input of the entire community since it is only with committed and dedicated residents that our school district can continue to achieve its great results.