



Jessica Vollaro has lived in the District for 10 years with her husband, Anthony. Her son, Leo, attends Hagan Elementary School and is enrolled in the BOCES PEACCE program and her daughter, Juliana, attends Nassau Elementary School.

Mrs. Vollaro serves as a Board Member for the Spackenkill Elementary PTA, as Secretary. She co-chairs the Spackenkill Elementary Anxious Generation Parent Committee, was one of the leads for the Spackenkill Elementary Winter Carnival, spearheaded Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week in 2025, and actively volunteers within the school community on Field Days, at school running events, at Book Fairs, and more. She is also a disability advocate who has created resources and presented at Nassau during Autism Acceptance Month, worked with the Elementary School Psychologist to bring books to our libraries highlighting all different abilities, as well as developed a neurodiverse one-pager for the Let Grow Project and worked with the elementary principals to distribute it to all families.

Mrs. Vollaro has dedicated her professional career to working for non-profits in multiple sectors, including healthcare, environmental preservation, and public health. She is an experienced advocacy and organizing leader who is committed to public education campaigns and advancing health equity. She is currently the Associate Director of Organizing for Planned Parenthood of Greater New York. In addition, she previously served as a Perinatal and Infant Home Visiting Program Manager at the Institute for Family Health and held multiple other roles, including Senior Regional Campus Supervisor, at the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG).

Asked why she wants to serve on the Board, Mrs. Vollaro said that she understands the value of public education, the importance of the School Board, and how decisions go far beyond academics. "It is one of the most important infrastructures in our communities and I am deeply invested and committed to Spackenkill's continued growth and success for all children. I want to continue to serve as a leader for our community and be a voice for all students and families." As a mother of a neurodiverse child, Mrs. Vollaro has a unique perspective on navigating the Special Education system and wants to continue to foster and cultivate inclusion and equity in our district. A connector and active listener, she values and respects others' lived experiences and perspectives. As a Board of Education trustee, she would be responsive to the needs of our community and be an effective communicator.

"I am an experienced leader and have strong interpersonal skills," said Mrs. Vollaro. "I am a supportive and effective team player, adept at bridging different viewpoints, being proactive, communicative, and reliable. I am highly organized and experienced at holding multiple projects simultaneously." Mrs. Vollaro cites her experience in leading successful statewide public education campaigns and programs, grassroots community

organizing and education, and local disability justice work. She served as an Executive Board Member for NYPIRG's Board of Directors for three years and has experience working with local, state, and federal elected officials, community partners, and stakeholders. She is familiar with creating and executing organization-wide budgets and implementing strategic organizational policies. "I am a lifelong learner and advocate dedicated to listening, learning, and acting."

Mrs. Vollaro believes that the youth mental health crisis is an important issue and challenge facing the District. From her perspective as Co-Chair of the Spackenkill Elementary Anxious Generation Parent Committee, she believes it is critical to promote initiatives that encourage independence, build confidence and resilience, and move toward a play-based vs. screen-based childhood. With Spackenkill earning the distinction of being a Let Grow Lighthouse District, she looks forward to a seamless, coordinated plan between all schools focusing on de-stigmatizing and strengthening behavioral health care and connecting families to vital community-based organizations and tools to encourage communication at home. In addition, as a member of a neurodiverse family, she understands the importance of teaching life skills, independence and reframing what success looks like. "As a district, we should explore additional pathways for students to achieve their highest performance, regardless of their abilities. Disability acceptance and inclusivity are essential to creating an open and welcoming environment for everyone. I am committed to building a healthier, more inclusive future for our kids."