

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Chad Hoepfner

Democratic Party

Biographical Statement

- Weston resident since 2020
- Current Weston Board of Education Member
- Served on the Executive Committee of the Hurlbutt PTO
- Founder of GK training, an education and training company that designs curriculum for private schools and PhD programs
- Advisor and consultant to deans of Ivy Leagues and US Presidential candidates
- Phi beta kappa graduate from Colorado College and MFA from NYU.
- Proud father of two children in the Weston Public Schools

In your opinion, what is the most significant issue facing Weston today?

Preserving the rare and exceptional attributes of Weston, while adapting and embracing the future. Our natural environment, exceptional schools, and neighborly spirit are all precious and worth investing in and protecting. We should protect and preserve the land and space that ensures our well water is clean, support our schools that are among CT's best, and invest in the bonds of trust and commonality that knit a community together. In all too many places in America, those are all threatened. Weston is rare, and we can be a model and inspiration for other towns.

Why are running for this specific office and what do you bring to it?

My kids are in the district. So fundamentally, I want to do all I can to benefit their education. I'm of course invested in all our kids' education, though! I deeply appreciate the community of Weston. It welcomed us when we moved here, and I couldn't be a prouder supporter of its environment, schools, and civic pride. I bring a unique skillset to the position. I: acted on Broadway; built a successful educational and coaching business; taught in higher ed (Columbia); and work with start-up founders. I use that background to offer the most innovative and creative leadership I can.

What is the most important issue this board/commission faces and how would you potentially address it?

Technology, and two goals: Equip our kids for the tech future. Inoculate and empower them to navigate the turbulence of social media and the digital age's attention-deficit ecosystem. Building intellectual stamina is harder (and essential) when ever-present screens monopolize and fragment our kids' attention spans and threaten their mental health. Similarly, if LLMs can write better, faster, our kids should learn -- to quote fellow BoE member Peter Gordon -- how technology works, not how to work technology. Our job: create Connecticut's most forward-looking schools, equip our kids to withstand the screen age, and thrive amidst AI.