



## **Meet the Athletic Council**

### **Maureen Donahue**

President-Elect



As parents and educators know, being a classic middle-child suggests certain personality traits. Some of those traits may include family peacekeeper, extreme loyalist and the ability to relate to people of all ages. They are often times independent thinkers.

Maureen 'Mo' Donahue, the third of six siblings growing up in Portville, uses these strengths to her advantage and as a result has carved out 15 years as a District Superintendent. That impressive resume' includes 36 years in education with stops as a teacher in Charlotte, North Carolina and for Cattaraugus/Allegany BOCES, as an assistant principal and principal, eight years as the Superintendent of Friendship Central and seven years in her current position at Southwestern.

At Portville High School, Maureen wore the maroon and white while being involved in swimming, track and assisting the girls' basketball program by keeping statistics. She was also heavily involved in the music program. She attended Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania earning an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education/Special Education. She continued at Buffalo State College and completed a Master's degree in Exceptional Education. She earned her NYS Administrative certificate from St. Bonaventure University in Olean. In college, she felt the draw and volunteered as a tutor for Special Education. She was involved as a leader in Greek Life organizations and earned her place in the Special Education Honor Society.

Husband Mark and daughter Erin, also a Portville grad, enjoy all of the outdoor recreation that the Southern Tier encourages. Family time consists of boating and camping, sometimes at their favorite spot, Kinzua Dam in Onoville, NY. Erin was active in school activities as a Portville Panther, participating in soccer, track, basketball (AAU Travel as well) and music. She is a graduate of the University at Buffalo.

Athletics has been such a vitally important part of Mo's past and present. She adds, "For my entire life, my family has been involved in athletics. Personally, I have been an athlete, coach, and fan to a family of athletes. I am an avid supporter of school athletics. I love attending sporting events both at Portville and Southwestern. I consider all of us, as Southwestern Trojans, a part of a large team and I enjoy working with everyone there."

Donahue demonstrates her leadership abilities across the state serving the New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS). She has been an Executive Committee member of the association, which included a term as President. She also is a member of the Commissioner's Advisory Council.

Fortunately for all of us in Section VI and her Portville, Friendship and Southwestern extended families, Maureen has spent her life, 'in the middle', leading, navigating and displaying loyalty. She has been courageous as an independent thinker. All of those skills she started developing in the house in Portville may have assisted her in becoming a quintessential, collaborative and successful, district leader.