

Why are you running for school board?

As a lifelong resident of Ashland, I am running for the Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools school board to serve my community. My family has a long history of giving our time and energy to benefit the district. Whether it's coaching a Little League game, or preparing food for the concession stands, I believe it is important to give back in any and all capacities. Schools are at the heart of a strong community, and I want to contribute my experience, perspective, and commitment to helping Ashland-Greenwood continue to grow and thrive. As a father to three young children in the district, I felt it was time to take a more proactive role. I value strong relationships, open communication, accountability, and collaboration. My goal in serving on the school board would be to help ensure Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools remains a place where students are challenged to grow, teachers are supported, families feel connected, and the community can be proud of its schools. I am running because I care about students, I care about public education, and I want to give back. There is no greater responsibility than positively shaping the minds and futures of our students to help them be the best version of themselves.

Property taxes are a challenge, especially with increasing property valuations in the district, creating higher tax bills for local taxpayers. How will you support providing excellent educational and extracurricular opportunities for Ashland-Greenwood students while also being conscientious of the contribution of district taxpayers?

I believe that we can provide excellent educational and extracurricular opportunities for Ashland-Greenwood students while also being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. Those two priorities should not be viewed as competing goals. As a school board member, I would support a budgeting process that starts with the needs of students and then carefully examines how we can meet those needs in the most responsible and sustainable way possible. I believe the district needs to regularly evaluate programs, staffing, facilities, technology, and extracurricular offerings to ensure we are getting meaningful value from every dollar spent.

I also believe that the board has a responsibility to distinguish between what we *want* and what we *need*. Maintaining strong academic programs, supporting teachers and staff, providing opportunities for students to participate in activities, and maintaining safe and effective facilities are important investments in our students and community. At the same time, we should continually look for efficiencies, eliminate unnecessary spending, pursue available state and federal resources, apply for available grants, and collaborate with community partners before putting pressure on local tax roles. I would also expect those decisions to be communicated clearly and transparently to taxpayers and presented in a manner that each and every taxpayer understands clearly.

Ultimately, taxpayers are partners with our schools. Many of them are parents and grandparents of our students, but every taxpayer contributes to the strength of our community. I want Ashland-Greenwood to be a district that provides students with outstanding opportunities while recognizing that those opportunities are funded by the people who live here. My approach

would be to ask good questions, examine the data, prioritize student needs, look for efficiencies, and make financially responsible decisions with both the present and long-term future of the district in mind.

With growing enrollment, appropriate staffing levels are a concern. How will you ensure effective staffing levels are in place to address the varying needs of all students?

With growing enrollment, maintaining appropriate staffing levels is essential to ensuring that every student receives the attention, support, and opportunities they need to be successful. I believe staffing decisions should be driven by student needs, enrollment data, and the long-term goals of the district—not simply by maintaining a particular student-to-teacher ratio. As a school board member, I would expect the administration to regularly analyze enrollment trends, class sizes, student needs, special education requirements, course offerings, and other factors that impact staffing. I would also want to understand where additional support is needed and whether existing staffing and resources are being used effectively.

I believe it is important to listen to teachers and administrators because they see firsthand where staffing challenges are affecting students and learning. Teachers should be our greatest ally moving forward. At the same time, we have a responsibility to taxpayers to make thoughtful and sustainable financial decisions. This means thoughtful considerations before adding positions, including how current staff and resources are allocated, opportunities for collaboration, and whether staffing needs are temporary or part of a long-term enrollment trend. Most importantly, I would support staffing levels that allow us to meet the varying academic, social, and extracurricular needs of our students. As enrollment grows, we need to plan ahead rather than simply react when classrooms or programs become stretched. My goal would be to ensure Ashland-Greenwood has the right people, in the right positions, at the right time, while maintaining a responsible, transparent approach to the district's financial resources.

What are other key issues facing the Ashland-Greenwood school district and how do you feel the school board should address them?

One area I would like to see continued emphasis on is career preparation. Students need options beyond a traditional four-year college pathway. I believe the district should continue strengthening career/technical education, internships, apprenticeships, dual credit opportunities, and relationships with local employers. I would support expanding partnerships with local businesses and community organizations to give students more opportunities to explore careers through job shadows, internships, apprenticeships, work-based learning, and part-time employment. These experiences can help students connect classroom learning to real-world opportunities while also helping local businesses develop the future workforce in our community. This ensures students have adequate options in growing fields to be successful moving forward after graduation.