

Why are you running for school board?

As a lifelong resident growing up in Greenwood, I'm forever grateful for the education and experiences I received from Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools and would love the opportunity to give back and serve the district and community. I take great pride in our community and school district and understand that we'll face some challenging decisions as the school district continues to grow. My goal is to listen to all stakeholders and work with our current board to help create a plan to be ready for any future obstacles that come our way. What we have in our Ashland-Greenwood community is special and it is important that we continue to support growth while maintaining our small town values in the process.

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 tax payers?

I believe we can provide an excellent education and strong extracurricular opportunities for Ashland-Greenwood students while also being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. As a school board member, I would support carefully evaluating how every dollar is being spent and making sure our priorities remain focused on the classroom, student achievement, and opportunities for students. Before asking taxpayers for additional funding, I believe the district should look for efficiencies, evaluate existing programs and expenditures, and make sure we are getting the greatest possible value from the resources we already have. At the same time, we have to recognize that providing a quality education requires adequate resources. My goal would be to find the right balance: investing in our students while respecting the financial impact those decisions have on local property taxpayers. I want Ashland-Greenwood to be a district where our students have opportunities to succeed, our teachers have the resources they need, and our taxpayers can have confidence that their money is being spent responsibly.

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?

As enrollment grows, I believe we need to be proactive rather than reactive when it comes to staffing. We should use enrollment projections, class sizes, student needs, and input from teachers and administrators to identify staffing needs early. At the same time, I believe we have a responsibility to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. That means making sure we have the right people in the right positions and that staffing decisions are based on student needs and measurable data. I trust our administration and our staff, as they are the ones who are in the buildings and classrooms, and so if they have a staffing need I want to work as a board to find a way to meet it. I plan to go into the buildings and analyze the data to see for myself what our schools are living everyday. I would support maintaining appropriate class sizes, ensuring students who need additional academic or special-education support have access to it, and making sure teachers have the resources and support they need to be successful.

Ultimately, my goal would be to balance two important responsibilities: providing every student with the support they need while being fiscally responsible with the resources entrusted to the district.

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

I believe Ashland-Greenwood faces several important challenges, including managing growth, maintaining financial responsibility, retaining and supporting quality teachers and staff, and continuing to provide strong academic and extracurricular opportunities for our students.

The school board should take a long-term approach to these issues. We need to carefully monitor enrollment and financial projections, prioritize spending that directly benefits students, and regularly evaluate whether our programs and resources are producing the outcomes we expect. I also believe supporting our teachers and staff is critical. They are on the front lines every day, and the board should listen to their concerns, provide the resources they need, and work to create an environment where good educators want to stay.

Finally, I believe communication and transparency are essential. Parents, taxpayers, teachers, administrators, and community members should understand why important decisions are being made and how those decisions affect students and taxpayers.

My goal as a board member would be to keep students at the center of every decision, support our educators, plan responsibly for the future, and be good stewards of taxpayer dollars.