

Justin Skelding



1. Please tell us a bit about yourself, including what motivates you to run for school board?

My name is Justin Skelding, I work at Exact Sciences as an OEM Kit Supply Manager. I was born and raised in Janesville WI and hold a Bachelor's in Business from Whitewater and an MBA from UW-Madison. My wife, Christy Skelding (Fenley) is a Mineral Point Alumni and together we have a 5-year-old daughter, Harper. What has me motivated to run for school board was my involvement in the reopening advisory committee and to help make a positive

impact on Mineral Point. I want to continue to do the great work done by previous families and school boards to develop a high performing school district. I was fortunate enough to be part of a parochial school system as a kid that required the same out of its students as MP does and I want to make sure my daughter gets to have that same kind of experience and outcome.

2. What qualities/behaviors should a school board member exhibit?

I would say someone that is accountable, driven, can think critically and is looking to make a positive impact on the community. I think the candidate also needs to challenge the status quo so that we can foster an environment of continuous improvement.

3. How do you see your role as a Board member as benefitting the overall education of students in Mineral Point?

- Support the Administration in achieving high results by providing guidance and oversight of staff, curriculum, etc. Let them do the day-to-day operations but make sure metrics are pointing towards success
- Ensuring our budget stays on track to properly fund and support not only the education, but the sports, arts, and all other activities to give our kids the best experience and provide them with the skills to be future leaders.

4. What procedures and processes are most important to making the school board run effectively?

I think there needs to be efficient use of the time in board meetings to address the needs at hand and prioritize where time is spent. I would like to see the items being covered impact our top 3 priorities and focus our efforts there when we can. I also think it's incumbent on us to be prepared for board meetings and come with questions ready.

Skelding, continued --

5. Please describe what you feel a successful superintendent and school board relationship should look like to move the district forward?

One that has shared goals and challenges each other to deliver the best results for our kids and our community. If we have a shared vision, that will be the road map to success. Egos or personal missions must be set aside; the kids are the focus.

6. What do you think the Board's role is in advocacy? What education-related priority would you lobby the Governor and Legislature to include in the next state budget?

I think it is one of our key roles. This goes to my comments about looking inwards and challenging ourselves to continue to grow. We should lobby where we can for funding on new initiatives to deliver the best educational experience.

7. What type of education and training do you feel should be required of board members so that they are able to fulfill their roles as leaders and important decision-makers in the district?

The board ought to be a diverse group of people from different backgrounds, professions etc. I do not think everyone needs a college degree or have an education background. I would like diverse thoughts and discussions to look at all possible scenarios of tough decisions that will come across our "desks". This approach will allow for the best possible outcomes.

8. What is a need that must be a priority for our district to address? And why do you see this as a need to be prioritized?

In my short time here, I have had the opportunity to see what great teachers we have, and I think one of our priorities is to continue to maintain that by looking inwards at support systems, performance, and other metrics to deliver that standard. My wife and I decided to build here really for the school district, and I want that to maintain as our daughter grows.

9. Describe your decision making process. How do you gather and evaluate information?

I am a strong believer and user of data to make decisions. I start out with understanding what is the problem statement and what is it resulting in. I then use techniques such as 5-why's and other problem-solving tools to understand the root cause of a given challenge or opportunity and develop solutions based on that data. Metrics are also needed to gauge the performance of those solutions so that we can see success or challenges and pivot accordingly.

10. The pandemic has been challenging for everyone -- students, families, staff, and the community. What do you think is something the district has done well during the last year, and what do you think is something that could be improved upon?

I would say the district did a great job at managing something we have never done before. Hindsight is always 20/20, and there are things I would have done differently on the advisory committee, but I think we all did what we did for our families and to keep everyone safe. I also thought the communication from the school was very well done and timely.

11. What is the most important issue in this election and how would you address it?

Skelding, continued --

- Getting our kids back to 5 days a week and understanding any gaps with kids and staff because of COVID-19. I really want to make sure that the kids who excelled continue to excel and ones that might need some help, have options and support systems to get back on track towards their dreams and goals
- Making sure the school construction project remains on budget and timeline