

Robert Janetka



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

My name is Bob Janetka and I have lived in Mineral Point with my wife and daughter, who is currently a junior at the high school, since 2015. We chose to live in Mineral Point for many reasons, including the strong reputation of the schools. I am a retired human resources professional and educator, which allows me time to give back to my community. I believe civic engagement is essential for a thriving community. Since moving to Mineral Point, I have become steadily more involved in local organizations and volunteer work. Serving on the school board would be a natural extension of these efforts.

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

School board members should be professional, collaborative, and respectful. Strong listening skills are a must. These qualities should be extended to fellow board members, district staff, faculty, students, and other community members. Respectful environments encourage participation and are necessary for high-quality discussions.

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

As a board member my role would be to study and solicit input on the diverse issues up for consideration. I then would help prioritize which issues are most pressing. I would help reevaluate priorities that were potentially sidelined due to the new and urgent challenges brought on by the pandemic.

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

The board has a set of established policies and procedures in place to help ensure open and effective meetings. The district also benefits from having great administrators in place to help with the efficient and orderly administration of district business. Continuing to stream, record, and post school board meetings ensures the business of the board is truly open, transparent and accessible.

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

The role of the school board is to set general policies and priorities for the district, with input from the superintendent, staff, students and constituents, and to evaluate the overall operation of the district and the superintendent. The superintendent provides input on the needs of the

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district and administers the policies and day-to-day operations of the district. The school board should be focused on long-term goals and “big picture” items and allow the superintendent the latitude to effectively implement the policies and plans of the district.

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 would like to learn more about the history of the Board’s lobbying efforts. If appropriate, I would encourage the board to support additional funding for rural broadband. The pandemic, along with weather cancellations of the past few years, have highlighted the need for increased infrastructure in this area.

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?

At a minimum, board members should be very familiar with the roles and responsibilities of their elected position. Board members must be good communicators. Board members should familiarize themselves with the information available from the Wisconsin Association of School Boards and have an understanding of all the district services and facilities along with the staff and students who utilize them.

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?

Our current board, school administration, teachers, staff, and students have already sacrificed so much and have done an excellent job mitigating the impacts of the pandemic in our schools. I think it is important we continue to seek out and embrace the best medical advice we can regarding how to see the pandemic through to the end in our district.

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

I try to gather information from as many people and other resources as practical. As I am collecting information, I try not to make any conclusions before I have completed my research and analyzed what I found. I also try to be aware of any preconceived notions I may have about a topic. I try to look at the information from as many sides as possible before making a decision.

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?

It certainly has been challenging for everyone. The district has been conscientious in its efforts to safeguard the health of its employees, students, and, by extension, the community. In the beginning of the pandemic, I think it was difficult to take into account the tremendous extra effort required of our staff to pivot through the different learning models. I was concerned this extra challenge may not have been fully appreciated.

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

Pandemic fatigue. I plan to bring energy and resolve to move forward in a respectful manner amid the challenges following this pandemic.