

Education

Penn Hills Senior High School, Robert Morris University, Point Park University

Work Experience

Manager of Project Manager, Manager of Member Experience and Consultant. These roles have provide me the opportunity to conduct proper project planning, identify risk and provide mitigation plan as well as provide mid year and annual budget forecasting. Additionally, I have experience in LUMA Human Centered Design.

Community Involvement

Currently a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated whose mission is based upon providing community service. I have volunteered previously at Edgewood's Fun Day and Frosty Shop. With my career at Highmark we have volunteered with the local food bank.

Why are you running for School Board?

I am running for school board with the agenda to ensure every student receives quality education, bridge the communication gap between the school district and the community in which it serves. As a member of the Woodland Hills School District school board I plan to ask challenging questions and vote in the best interest of the constituents of Region 1. I will work across the political lines to support our teachers, and colleagues to deliver the best strategic plan for the school district. I had faith the administration team would do their due diligence when making financial decisions, I had faith the school could get back to the positive image they once had been. However, it has become apparent the community is no longer factored in decisions being made, Transparency and community partnership are no longer desired and that needs to change. I plan to use my experience managing cross functional teams, and risk mitigation practices to ensure Woodland Hills remains a school district which community members can trust regardless of their political affiliation. I plan to work collaboratively to ensure this standard of excellence and positive community relationship remain a staple for all Wolverines.

Why is quality public education important to you and your family?

Public education shaped my entire educational background and I am honored to have the experience I had within the Pittsburgh area. Education has been a place in which I was free to express myself, I had teachers who challenged me because they knew I was capable, and the curriculum programs that were available to me allowed me to understand my strengths and how to prepare for college. Completing my senior research paper provided me the tool needed to perform

proper research which I used during my college experience. I can recall in my Anatomy and Physiology class my teacher challenged us to learn every bone within the face, and while it was challenging he knew in order to achieve high academics we had to learn what skills and tools we needed to study for large exams. I would like to ensure both my children benefit from public education in the same manner I have.

What are 2-3 strengths of WHSD you would work to support & maintain?

1) Improving the transparency and community relations is also a top priority I would like to address as a school board director. As I compare the Woodland Hills School District board meeting to other districts in close proximity there is a vast difference on how information is communicated. Additionally, recently several business decisions without proper research being conducted which I plan to end as a school board member.

2) As a certified project manager I plan to ensure programs are developed within the district with clear business objectives, projected financial outcomes and executed as defined in the timeline.

3) Community members are key to a district's continued success and as a school board director I plan to ensure the constituents in Region 1 have a voice at the table and as confident I will be working as a representative for them.

What are 2-3 challenges WHSD is facing and what potential solutions do you have for those challenges?

1) Transparency with the public. Which I plan to ensure community members feel encouraged to attend and feel their voice are being heard. As we have noticed often times as parents we hear about changes in the district via our children which does show the administration values parents input.

2) Challenges with ensuring we keep our educators and other key resources within the district. This is a easy fix by ensuring we promote from within the district and allow our educators with appropriate credentials and experience an opportunity to stay within the district they value.

When faced with conflicting interests, how would you find balance between stakeholders (teachers, administrators, parents, community members, students, Board members) and make decisions?

As a manager there is are often times where I am faced with resources having a difference of opinion, or issues coming to an agreed upon decision. The key to remember in those situation is what is the desired income which will be beneficial to all parties, there are times when we have to compromise but every party should feel they did not have to "give up everything" to make the other

side happy. An effective plan should include ideas from all sides, and individuals should be respected during the conversation and assumptions should not be at the discussion table.

Explain the role the school board should play in determining the curriculum and what is taught in the classroom.

The school board has a role to hearing what educators who are teaching the curriculum view as valuable. The board should ensure resources are provided to support our teacher with ensuring our children have the best educator. If the school board would like to make recommendations that should only occur once they have sat in classrooms to hear the conversation between teacher and student. Board members needs to also recognize challenges educators are faced with considering changes in the times and they should feel the board is working to assist them not to cause additional stress or challenges.

If elected, at the end of your term, what lasting impression would you hope to have left behind?

I would want my lasting impression to be "she cared". Whether the comment comes from my community members, educators, paraprofessional or other board members. I want to ensure no one within this district felt decisions were made without the impact to the community taken into account. I have seen several other district board members reading to the children within their respective areas, attending school events and just showing up to show they are not just there when the cameras are on but there when the student need them.