

Education

Clarion Area Elementary School
Clarion Area Jr/Sr High School
Penn State Erie - Bachelor of Science (Computer Science)

Work Experience

Software Engineer - Vocollect/Honeywell 2005-2020
Web Applications Engineer - ZOLL Medical Corporation 2020-Present
The most applicable skills are my experiences working in teams to solve problems. I may also be able provide informed input on technology choices the school makes for both infrastructure and teaching tools.

Community Involvement

Member of Wilkins PTA
Woodland Hills Foundation HUGS Volunteer
Boy Scout Volunteer

Why are you running for School Board?

I am disappointed by the sharp decline in transparency, lack of community input, and the dismissive and sometimes hostile response to parent concerns.

Agenda items are frequently voted on that do not include basic information like contracts or identifying the funding pool that money will come out of.

All standing committee meetings have been permanently cancelled. All district level meetings that included discussions with parents and the public have been eliminated and replaced by a single recurring parent meeting that is poorly advertised.

My initial goals as School Director will be to advocate for community involvement and to encourage other board members to mandate the district include parents and the community in appropriate decision making prior to items appearing on board meeting agendas and to demand that items before the board contain the required information to make informed decisions. I hope that those changes will result in better decisions as well as early community and parent buy-in and be consistent with funding requirements from programs like Title 1 and ESSER.

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

It is important to us that quality education is accessible to everyone in the community. Since our children have become school age, our family has invested in our schools to participate in programs

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and events to improve education and community involvement such as volunteering at book fairs, movie nights, uniform giveaways, and more.

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

I appreciate elementary building administration support of PTA activities and parent involvement. I also have had good experiences with communication and availability of many of the teachers

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

I think the biggest challenges of WHSD are lack of community involvement and lack of community trust. The first steps to solving these problems are to reinstate committee meetings and to require contract and funding information be present in agenda items.

Giving the community opportunities to provide input and feedback on how the school is run will address both of those problems. Right now parents feel shut out and that they have no influence on how the schools they send their children to are run. If we have opportunities for open public discussions about district decisions, better decisions will be made and parents will feel invested in the decisions and will be more inclined to support them.

There have been some agenda items missing information that could be viewed as problems simply because we don't know how contractors were chosen or what they are actually being paid to do. Having requirements like the source of funding and contract terms attached to agenda items will help to build trust with the community that decisions are made in the best interest of the district.

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

As elected officials, the parents and community members that elected us should always have a voice in our decisions when information can be public. With that being said, my initial approach to weighing conflicting interests will be to consider the groups most impacted by decisions as well as those with the least influence so that their input is not lost.

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

It is my view that the school board should not have a direct role in determining curriculum. It would be the job of the administration to propose curriculum with data and research to support their proposals so that the school board can approve curriculum decisions with confidence that they are made in the best interest of the district. School board members should withhold support for

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curriculum changes if supporting data is missing or does not justify the decision or if reasonable feedback from constituents raises enough concern. It may be appropriate for school board members to propose minor changes to existing curriculum with a clear benefit presented, but they should not be dictating what should or should not be taught in classrooms if it is inconsistent with reputable research.

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

I hope to have encouraged public confidence in the district by increasing transparency and restoring or creating avenues for community involvement so everyone has the opportunity to feel a sense of pride from having a real voice in the direction our district takes.