

DISTRICT 87 – SCHOOL BOARD

CANDIDATE: ELIZABETH FOX ANVICK

BACKGROUND

I am Elizabeth Fox Anvick and I am running for re-election to the District 87 School Board, after being elected in 2017. I work for State Farm Insurance Company in Enterprise Technology. I have lived in Bloomington for 23 years. Education has been a very large influence in my life. I am the daughter of educators, wife to an educator, mother to 2 students in District 87, and friend to many educators. I understand the impact a quality education can have on individuals and a community. One of the most rewarding aspects of being on the board is being able to see first-hand the vast and varied accomplishments of the students. They are a constant reminder that “Today is a great day to be in D87”. I am proud to bear the responsibility of nurturing the partnership between the board and the community and want to continue to enhance it.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?

I am seeking re-election because it is a rewarding and impactful way to serve my community. It is also important to me to demonstrate for my daughters the role of service and giving back to our community. It would be my honor to continue to serve our community in helping guide one of the most valuable assets Bloomington can boast of: our public education system in District 87. I want to continue to make sure that diverse voices are heard from in decision making matters. One of the most critical things a school board does is the selection of a superintendent. We are entering that phase, and I want to be a part of the process and pick the right fit for D87.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?

The D87 school board continues to be financially prudent and is in the lower 1/3 of tax rates for surrounding areas, yet continues to make improvements to facilities. This year has been challenging to everyone, but the efforts of our teachers have been nothing short of heroic, as is the work of support staff in keeping the schools running and clean in our mission to return to school in a way that is as safe and as normal as possible. District 87 has a proud history of diversity in our schools; we continue to improve, learn, and change, ensuring everyone feels welcome in the classroom. D87 continues to stand out in order to attract quality teachers while the state faces a teacher shortage crisis.

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CANDIDATE: BRIGETTE BEASLEY GIBSON

BACKGROUND

My name is Brigette Beasley Gibson and I'm married with two sons. I have a 30 year career with State Farm Insurance Companies. I currently work in Agency Recruiting as an Agency Career Track Manager. I've been active in District 87 for over 20 years as a parent of two students that attended, Washington Elementary, BJHS, BHS. I was always an active parent and volunteered consistently, attended school programs, led fundraisers, held leadership volunteer positions in the band programs. I was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board in 2016 and was elected to serve a 4-year term in 2017. I serve as board president and co-chair the districts Equity and Inclusion Committee. I've been an active community volunteer in Bloomington serving at the Safe Harbor and the Boys and Girls Club for many years.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?

I have a passion for education and community service. Serving in leadership roles on the board for the past three years has afforded me the opportunity to develop a solid understanding the internal workings of the district, built strong relationships, and make decisions as a board member that will have an impact for years to come. My vision is to continue to focus on serving District 87 and the community to impact children, families, remain a voice of the community and assist with the selection of leadership positions in the upcoming years. The goal is to find ways to support parents and build more community awareness of the success in the district. Also, work with leadership to ensure students are achieving at their highest potential.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?

The most pressing issues will be determining how to safely return to school full-time, the teacher shortage, the budget and new leadership in the future. Also, teacher and administration appreciation for efforts during the pandemic. I will work with the board and district leadership to continue surveying parents and staff to get input on the decisions that are made, maintain strong relationships, research, ask questions and remain committed to hearing all sides to make the best decisions to build on the strength of the district with long term and short budget impacts in mind. I will stay involved with the diversity and inclusion efforts to make improvements as appropriate to ensure students are learning at high levels across the entire district.

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CANDIDATE: DR. CHARLES IRWIN (CHUCK IRWIN)

BACKGROUND

As a candidate for re-election, I have over 33 years of experience as a public-school teacher and administrator. My wife, Cyndy, and I moved to Bloomington after retirement and have been residents of District #87 for 15 years.

I believe it should be the duty of the Board, to provide the youth of our community with the best educational experience possible, within the financial resources at our disposal. We want all children to have the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential. Our goal must be to enhance the experiences of all students through the quality of teachers and administrators hired and the curriculum taught. It is critical that our students learn how to be life-long learners. This goal is also enhanced by a board that is proactive in establishing policies that help to ensure the quality educational program that we all desire for the students living in our community.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?

Returning to in-person learning requires planning, as some students have lost ground in their educational skills and grade-level mastery. I would like to help facilitate the development of educational programs and services needed by our students. Since Dr. Reilly is retiring, the district is looking for new leadership. The most important duty of the school board is to hire the superintendent. I would like to be involved in this important decision and feel that I have the experience and knowledge needed in making this decision. My candidacy offers a voice to households that no longer have children enrolled. It is important that their views be represented but also that their view can be informed by being apprised of successes and financial needs within the district.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?

The economy is an issue for all voters—keeping the tax rate stable. For voting parents, returning students to the classroom is the #1 priority, along with a curriculum that encompasses the needs of all students. Voters must see that excellent education and a changing tax base are not mutually exclusive. Community access to school facilities for events, students/teachers providing programs for community groups, and school-encouraged student community service help voters see tax dollars at work--the impact good schools have on their community. Finally, it is the duty of all Illinois school boards and voters to collectively demand fully funded schools from the State of Illinois.

Late/revised state aid payments prevent school districts from adhering to established budgets and diminish educational possibilities for all.

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CANDIDATE: FITZGERALD SAMEDY

Candidate did not respond to the questionnaire.

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CANDIDATE: JON REED

Candidate did not respond to the questionnaire.