

QUESTIONS FOR THE **CANDIDATES**

Alex Janorschke



What do you see as the most important role of a school board member?

I believe the role of a school board member is to best implement paths and goals for what parents, administrators, and faculty would like to see within the school district. This entails being transparent and honest with all parties involved, and understanding what constitutes reasonable compromise. I would anticipate many lengthy and sometimes difficult conversations with concerned members of the community from all sides, as many issues have evoked unprecedented scrutiny of the public school board system.

Why did you decide to run this year, and why should the community vote for you as a school board member?

One of the main reasons my family made the decision to move to Gilbert in 2018 was because of my wife Jessi's great experience with the Gilbert School District growing up and we wanted the same for our children. Our oldest, Clay, started preschool this fall and we have a two year old daughter as well. I am seeking a position on the board because we developed concerns over the past year about cultural shifts that were occurring in public schools across the country. Covid-19 mitigation strategies in schools don't seem to give enough credence to other factors besides safety, and radical political stances are being accepted as commonplace and taught at too early an age for children to have the critical thinking skills to interpret them as such. I want to be a voice for parents and members of the community that want our midwestern values to be preserved, and for our kids' education to focus on fundamentals and prepare them for higher education and career paths after graduation.

Please identify what you think is the greatest challenge our district faces.

In the short term, a large issue that presents itself is ensuring that students are able to achieve academic standards after an unexpected past year. Many of the public school students (especially the younger children) suffered a reduced quality of education and making sure that ground is made up will be a tremendous challenge. This is not a slight against teachers; I think they were presented with an impossible situation and went above and beyond to provide the best resources they could. In the long term, being proactive and preparing students for future opportunities will take foresight and research. Providing classes and resources that prepare students for demands that are present in careers such as the technology sector or trade school would help Gilbert students stand apart when applying for Universities or job opportunities.