



Julie S. Gordon, Candidate for District 113 Board of Education
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RNA Meet and Greet
March 2, 2017

RNA QUESTIONS

1. State your reasons for seeking a position on the District 113 School Board.
2. Describe the skills, talents and experiences you would contribute to your position.
3. Write a brief job description of your view of this position, including the time commitment required.
4. What do you feel are the most important issues facing District 113 and how would you address those issues?
5. How would you reach out and engage all members of the community?

1. State your reasons for seeking a position on the District 113 School Board.

When first elected to the District 113 Board of Education nearly four years ago, I was excited to get personally involved with our already high-performing District and to 'give back' to a community that had given our family so much. I believed that my background and experience would help the Board appropriately address issues, and ensure focus on the improvements necessary to grow the level of educational excellence at both Highland Park and Deerfield High Schools.

Over these past four years, I have been an independent and rational voice on the District 113 Board, promoting and supporting those actions that I believed were in the best interest of our District, our students and our community. I am proud of the significant progress at District 113 during my first term in many areas, including strengthening our curriculum and instruction, initiating strategic planning, enhancing Board and District communication and outreach, and improving many processes to be more effective and inclusive. I'm also pleased that we are nearing completion of our \$89 Million referendum facilities project—on time, on budget, and on scope—and the schools look incredible!

We are now well positioned to elevate our District to a new level of excellence. I'm excited to learn from past challenges and build on successes. It would be my honor and privilege to serve a second term to work with the Board, the District and the community to lead us through this upcoming, exciting period of growth.

2. Describe the skills, talents and experiences you would contribute to your position.

I bring professional, business and governance (corporate and educational) experience to ensure District 113 is governed for long-term success.

Professional and Business Background:

- President and C-Level Roles, Hewitt Associates, 2005-2010
- North American Market Leader, Retirement Business, 2002-2005
- Pension Actuary and Business Leader, 1978-2002
- Fellow, Society of Actuaries, 1984-current

Governance (Corporate and Educational) Experience:

- High School District 113, Board of Education, 2013-current (currently Vice President and co-chair of Finance Committee)
- Junior Achievement USA and Chicago, Board of Directors, 2009-2012
- Hewitt Associates, Board of Directors, 2002-2009
- Hewitt Associates, Executive Committee, 2000-2002
- Women-in-Leadership (Hewitt) Governance Council, 2007-2010



3. Write a brief job description of your view of this position including the time commitment required.

As a member of the Township High School District 113 Board of Education, my obligation is to govern in support of quality education of all students, following these foundational principles of effective governance:

- a. Clarifying the District’s purpose (i.e., establishing our District’s mission, vision, goals, outcomes);
- b. Connecting with the community;
- c. Employing the District’s Superintendent, and holding him/her accountable for District performance and compliance;
- d. Delegating authority;
- e. Monitoring performance (i.e., using data and other information to determine progress towards goals and compliance); and
- f. Taking responsibility, as a board, through good governance.

In addition, I view my obligation as being supportive of, and compassionate to, our wonderful staff and our incredible students.

I have found that the time commitment required to do this ‘job’ well varies greatly, and is best described as ‘whatever it takes to provide the governance and support necessary for the District’. My retirement status enables me to have the time and energy necessary to devote to this important role.

4. What do you feel are the most important issues facing District 113 and how would you address those issues?

The most important issues facing District 113 include:

- First and foremost, keeping our focus and our resources on our students’ success and well being;
- Enhancing curriculum and instruction to best position each and every student for future success in this changing world;
- Improving student wellness and reducing alcohol and substance abuse in a meaningful way;
- Balancing financial budgets in the face of both limited revenue growth (e.g., from pension cost shifting and reductions in state, federal and local funding) and increasing expenses;
- Reviewing and improving ineffective processes and practices (e.g., unnecessary homework; inconsistent grading within departments);

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*“Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”
--Martin Luther King Jr.*

*My tenets of good governance:
transparency, honesty,
responsiveness, respect,
equity, inclusiveness,
effectiveness,
accountability, data-
driven decision making*

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- Successfully hiring, transitioning and mentoring new District leaders;
- Supporting staff in the face of increasing regulations, assessments and demands; and
- Continuing to enhance the District's and Board's communications and relationships with all stakeholders.

As a District 113 Board member, it is my responsibility to ensure these issues, and other issues important to our community, are incorporated into our District's strategic plan—and to hold our Superintendent accountable for addressing these goals and delivering on expectations.

Providing a well-rounded education that allows all students to learn and succeed at a high level—academically, emotionally and physically—will continue to be my top priority

5. How would you reach out and engage all members of the community?

I believe in creating both formal and informal opportunities to reach out and engage staff, students, parents and community members. Formal interactions should continue through the newly created 'Sounding Board' sessions that the District 113 Board initiated this past year for both staff and the community. In addition, formal input and community engagement is important through creation of inclusive and diverse committees, well-designed surveys and District policies that encourage meaningful stakeholder involvement.

Informal interactions occur by a Board member 'being present' at school and community events to listen, learn and share. They also occur by being responsive, by being available and by caring.

If re-elected, I will continue to focus on expanding both formal and informal opportunities for community engagement and involvement. Our District and our schools are strongest is we view the education of our students as a partnership with our community.

