

LIZZY GARLOVSKY - CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 113 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ravinia Neighbor's Association Candidate Questions for March 2, 2017

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

I seek a position on the District 113 School Board because I have a vested interest in the long term strength, viability and excellence of District 113 and all it has to offer to the community at large. As a graduate of Highland Park High School (Class of 1989), I have always been proud of my education and want to be a conduit for information for the community which I was fortunate enough to grow up in and now, where I am fortunate enough to be raising and educating my own children. I want to be an advocate for all students and a voice for the community on vital issues including academics, athletics and the arts. I am running for a position on the Board to promote each individual student's opportunity to grow and reach his or her potential while managing change and reducing stress.

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

My local education, upbringing, vested interest as a District 113 parent and career experience in law, make me uniquely qualified to be an asset to the Board. I am active in my community and the education of my children. I am a member of the DHS PTO and the Parent Advisory Committee. My career experience includes the representation of children as a Guardian ad litem in Cook County, a Wealth Advisor at JP Morgan and, currently, a partner at the law firm of Robbins, Salomon & Patt, Ltd. All of these roles, in juxtaposition with my education and upbringing in Highland Park, have more than prepared me to be an inclusive and effective member of the Board. I have deep roots and strong ties in the community. I am approachable, passionate and determined to collaborate with and be accountable to all stakeholders to pursue excellence in education for ALL students of District 113.

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

The job of a Board Member is to be a voice for the community on all issues presented to District 113. A Board Member must work collaboratively and inclusively with the other Board Members to carry out the Board's responsibilities to all stakeholders including students, parents/guardians, staff, administrators and taxpayers. Practically speaking, the Board sets overall policy for the District and is the body to whom the Superintendent reports. A Board Member works together with the entire Board and not independently to achieve the Board's mission of providing excellence in education to our students by providing them with the best resources available within our budget and supporting them in a physically and emotionally safe, secure environment.

The time commitment required is open-ended. Of course there are set, required meetings, which take place bi-monthly, however as a Board Member, there are additional responsibilities. Such responsibilities include, without limitation, preparing for the meetings, joining and participating on Board committees, being a liaison for community-related organizations and projects and being available to communicate with all stakeholders. The intangible aspects of the "job" as a representative of the community may be difficult to quantify but I am prepared to assume those aspects along with the defined commitments.

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

Our District's ability to deliver unparalleled education to ALL students while remaining fiscally responsible is the key issue for the Board. Likewise, the Board must work collaboratively and collectively with the administration to provide EACH student with every possible opportunity to reach their own potential. Working within the budget, this means offering a rigorous and diverse curriculum while promoting a supportive learning environment that is physically and emotionally safe for everyone. In pursuit of this goal, overall stability for the District must be a focus with a strategic plan as a foundation.

In addition, the transition of senior leadership under Dr. Dignam presents both challenge and opportunity for the District and the community. The Board Members must work diligently, collaboratively and cooperatively with each other and with Dr. Dignam to promote a seamless transition and to promote stability within the District. Stability, both financially and with respect to District leadership, along with open communication from the Board, will be paramount to the District's continued success in its delivery of the best resources that our students need to succeed. Working within the budget, this means offering a rigorous and diverse curriculum while promoting a supportive learning environment that is physically and emotionally safe and secure for everyone. This also means helping control stress and anxiety along with substance abuse among teens in our community.

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

I would reach out and engage all members of the community by acting as a conduit for information from the Board as a whole, and by promoting open, honest and thoughtful communication among all stakeholders. I am willing to make myself available to listen to all community members and bring their issues to the Board.