

School Board Elections

By: Larry Guggisberg – GMR School Superintendent

If you watch T.V., read a newspaper, wander the internet, listen to the radio or see campaign signs on lawns, roads and highways you are getting flooded with campaign efforts for the November 3rd General Election. Elections at all levels of government Local, State, and National will be held in just over three months.

One of the ballot questions in this fall's November 3rd General Election will be for electing three new Greenbush Middle River School Board members, each for a four-year term. There are three School Board seats up for election, the seats are currently held by Mr. Brandon Kuznia, Mr. Joseph Melby, and Mrs. Laurie Stromsodt. Resources about becoming a school board candidate is on the school's website <www.middleriver.k12.mn.us> under the *Administration* tab.

So, using the lingo of my favorite Spring sport, who is going to *step up to the plate* to run for the school board? It is important for GMR School District residents to consider running for or coax others to run for the School Board this coming fall. To follow are some ideas I've taken from the state School Board Association for people giving consideration towards being a school board member.

The decision to run for your local school board (or any public office) is one to which much thought and consideration must be given. Serving as a board member is one of the most important responsibilities that a citizen can undertake. If elected, the educational standards which you, together with your fellow board members, establish will affect the future of the students and the community. Being a board member is a complex and varied position, and often is frustrating as you struggle long hours with difficult choices. Decisions need to reflect what is in the best interest of all students and all citizens. This demands a constant effort and strong commitment to serving other people. However, it is also rewarding as you watch students succeed and go on to lead productive lives as the result of educational opportunities you helped to create.

So what does the School Board do?

The major function of the school board is to provide leadership, policy development, and communication. This is usually accomplished by adopting policies which the administrators and staff carry out.

Other School Board roles include:

Long range planning	Ratifying collective bargaining agreements
Care and maintenance of facilities	Public relations
Legislative involvement	Superintendent evaluation
Budget adoption, revenue management, and expenditure authorization	

What Makes a Good Board Member?

Effective school board members share a number of common characteristics, but it's important to realize they did not become effective the instant they were elected. Many qualities are acquired through experience and are important to consider:

There are many resources available for residents considering running as a school board candidates. The MN School Boards Association provides such resources at the following website: <<http://www.mnmsba.org/BecomingASchoolBoardMember>>

Over its proud past, GMR School Board members shared and demonstrated a number of positive characteristics and were also able to work as a team member. If you are willing to devote your time and talents to govern the GMR School District and meet its challenges and opportunities, think about filing for candidacy. Filing in the School District Office takes place between July 28 and 5:00 pm on Tuesday, August 11th. GO GATORS!