
Tony Vosooney

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25th October 2020

Mahtomedi School Board

Jucy Payne
1520 Mahtomedi Ave
Mahtomedi, MN 55115

Dear Ms. Payne,

I write expressing my interest in being appointed to the Mahtomedi School Board. My interest lies in serving for the betterment of the District's students, staff, and the zephyr community. I don't come to the board with any particular single issue I wish to address except to continue the work of achieving the goals laid out in the district's strategic plan.

I feel I can provide the board with two unique prospectives that will assist it in its upcoming work. Having extensively volunteered in our elementary schools, I bring a strong background to the needs of our youngest learners and the challenges they and their families face. Secondly, not having a child in middle or high school yet allows me to view these schools with a mindset not yet biased from having lived through those experiences.

I look forward to the work of being a school board member and live up to the ideals we have for all of our students.

Sincerely,

Tony Vosooney

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SKILLS

Having been an active community member since becoming a Zephyr in 2013, I have the ability to listen, critically analyze data, and build relationships to solve complex problems and make positive impacts.

EXPERIENCE

IGC Technologies, Milwaukee, WI - *Technical Area Sales Manager*
2007 - 2010

Tenor High School, Milwaukee, WI - *Science and Math Teacher*
2006 - 2007

University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN - *Lab Researcher Department of Food Science and Nutrition*
2003 - 2006

EDUCATION

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN - *B.S. Chemistry*
2003

Community Involvement

Pack 89 Cub Master - 2018 - Present

Mahtomedi Elementary PTO -2015 - Present (President 2017-2018 school year)

Multiple Mahtomedi IDS #832 Advisory Committees -2015 - Present

Early Childhood Advisory Committee Member -2014 - 2017

MAHTOMEDI PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL BOARD APPOINTMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

DIRECTIONS: Please respond briefly to the following questions and **return with your letter of interest and resume** to Lucy Payne at the Mahtomedi Public Schools, 1520 Mahtomedi Avenue, Mahtomedi, MN 55115 or lucy.payne@isd832.net by due by noon on Monday, November 9, 2020.

1. Your Name: Tony Vosooney

2. Why are you interested in serving on the Mahtomedi School Board?

I want to advance the interests of our students, staff, and the zephyr community. I am excited to dig into the work that was started in creating the district's strategic plan. Our community came together to discuss who we inspire to be and put that into a mission and action statements. We need to honor the multitude of discussions had and create this future. Additionally, we also have lofty goals set in the world's best workforce we need to not only reach but exceed. This all has to be done with constant vigilance to a budget that due to a multitude of factors many outside of local control will remain challenging for future years.

3. How have you been involved with this or other school districts and educational programs? Have you served on any other boards?

I have been extremely active in various school roles from classroom volunteer to being part of the elementary PTO and sitting on the board (4 years) serving as President 2017-2018 school year. I have lead or assisted on a multitude of PTO committees and still do. I have also served on various district committees including the Curriculum Advisory Committee, Strategic Planning Team, and Incident Command Team. Outside of the schools I am currently Cub Master of Pack 89 and have assisted with St. Andrews's youth and childrens ministry in various volunteer capacities.

4. What experiences or talents can you bring to the Mahtomedi School Board?

I seek opportunities for positive impacts. I value to the ability to be present and listen. It amazes me how many times there are simple impactful solutions to improve complex challenging issues. For example, having planned and run the Elementary Fun Fair multiple times, it was a simple conversation that led to an introduction of a special pre-opening of the Fun Fair for students who would benefit from a quieter and less crowded space. This change only required some effort and allowed the Fun Fair to include more students and families. Another example at Wildwood was taking the time to talk with the pre-school program before using space they count on in their day to day operations. Then including the preschool students as a valuable part of wildwood. These pre-school students beamed at being like the "big kids" and the pre-school teachers and staff felt appreciated. A little appreciation can go a long way. As a school board member, I want to continue finding creative solutions that impact all of our buildings, students, and community.

5. What do you believe are the most pressing issues facing the Mahtomedi Public Schools?

Currently, learning during a pandemic is the issue the board has to address. The challenge of balancing everyone's desire for in-person learning with the recommendations of public health experts. The board needs to work to get the community at large to support the hard work the schools are doing to keep students safe while at school. The community's actions dictate the number of covid cases and the best way the community can assist with the goal of in-person learning is to take the actions to follow public health experts guidelines to reduce community spread. No matter what learning model the district is in we need to work to constantly improve how we reach and support students during this trying time as well as effectively communicate with the community.

While COVID has to be subject 1A - the board needs to make sure the district is positioned to excel once COVID restrictions are behind us. Mahtomedi can't simply go back to how things were before. Using the strategic plan as our guide we must take be ready to leap into better tomorrows for all zephyrs. I know that there are many opportunitiesveimproacross our district in all our buildings to improve in all the areas of our strategic plan. This work also extends to the community as we grow as a distric into wat we inspire to be.