



Question 5: What makes you the most qualified candidate for this office?

4-Year Candidates

Ruthina Malone:

"I am seeking a Board of Directors seat to offer my skills and experiences in service to the community. I am particularly focused on being a voice at the table for groups who may have felt marginalized in our district, including students and families of color as well as students with special needs and their families.

Since my daughter started attending school within the district, I have taken an active role as a parent and community member. I served as the treasurer for a before and after school program

and spearheaded the acceptance of families that receive childcare assistance, adding stability and security for lower-income families. I also served as treasurer of our PTO, improving transparency in accounting and increasing our revenue. I have been an active volunteer for special events, projects, and fundraisers.

Besides being an active parent, I also bring with me a host of professional experience that is detailed on my attached resume. You should note that I have several years of experience related to financial reporting and interpreting which will be key as a board member. I also offer keen insight on how to effectively supervise staff. In my current role as Departmental Administrator, I have a staff of 10 that directly report to me.

I am also the wife of a school teacher in the district and as such I have a direct connection to the issues and concerns on the minds of our teachers. "

Janet Godwin:

"My personal and professional experiences come together to make me uniquely and extremely well qualified for the office of school board member.

a) I am a mom. I have two children who have gone to Iowa City schools. My daughter attended Longfellow, Southeast, and graduated from City High. My son will be starting 6th grade this fall at Longfellow. I've experienced first-hand the care and expertise of our teachers, staff and principals.

b) I am a long-time community member and know our community well. I moved to Iowa City in 1987 to attend graduate school. I earned a master's in English and completed extensive coursework in instructional design and technology at the University of Iowa.

c) I have extensive experience leading and managing large organizations. I started at ACT in 1990 in an entry-level content development role. Over the years, I worked my way up the organization, assuming greater levels of responsibility. In my current role of Chief Operating Officer, I oversee ACT's testing operations, project management, quality, audit, risk and security functions.

d) I am a strong leader. Strong leaders create a vision and rally people behind that vision. They create challenging goals and provide support for reaching them. They hold themselves accountable when things go wrong and highlight their teams, not themselves, when things go well. Strong leaders are humble, they listen, they continue to learn. They make tough decisions based on accurate data and stick



to those decisions. I have honed these leadership skills and welcome the opportunity to apply them on the school board.

e) I have a great deal of board experience both as a board member and an executive who is accountable to a board. A good board puts good people in place, sets goals and holds them accountable. In my role at ACT I am accountable to a board of directors and work closely with them. I have also served on the Johnson County Community Foundation board and the Iowa City Community School District Foundation board. I understand first-hand how a board can operate to create transformational change and stabilize organizations. "

JP Claussen:

"My teaching experience. Especially having been a special education teacher, I feel I am in a unique position to ask the right questions and to help the District get on track with Special Education so that the State and Federal government don't continue to find ICCSD in violation of various policies and laws. In addition, I know how Board policies and directives affect the teachers and students in the classroom, and can provide that important perspective to my fellow Board members.

I also have the communication and interpersonal skills necessary to build positive relationships with my fellow Board members, as well as the Administration, in order to have positive and productive conversations, even if we may, at times disagree."

Karen Woltman:

"I am a graduate of the University of Iowa College of Law. In recent years, I have served on the Department of Education's Assessment Task Force and have served two terms on the State Board of Health. It has been my experience that if we do not take disagreement personally and we are open to hearing and considering the perspectives, knowledge, and experiences of other stakeholders, we can improve decision making."

Laura Westemeyer:

"Our district administration has lost its way to care for all of its families and students and as a result, has lost trust of many members of our community. We have had many well meaning people join our school board, but I feel some have adopted the attitude to go along to get along, instead of holding the district accountable and ensuring that policies are in the best interest of the whole community. Many people in our ICCSD community feel forgotten and ignored. As a business owner, I know the importance of taking care of all of one's customers, and addressing concerns or issues quickly and efficiently. Taking over one year to address the various problems that are causing concerns and issues in our school community seems irreprehensible to me. I can be the conduit for effective change in our district that will lead to better outcomes and more community support."

2-Year Candidates

Shawn Eyestone:

"I have been involved with the district for 10 years. I have been a committed member of Elementary, Jr. High and now High School PTO groups. I have been a Treasurer for two of those groups for a combined 8 years. I have been involved with the District Wide Parent's Organization for 7 years. Five of those



have been as an executive officer having been elected twice as President. I have served on the Liberty High Transition team as well as the School Improvement Advisory Committee. I have served as the DPO representative to the ICCSD Foundation Board. All of this shows my commitment to spending time and energy to improve our district. It has also allowed me to gain perspectives from several different groups and areas of our district.

In my professional life, my years as a manager has allowed me to work with many personality types. It has given me the opportunity to work on communication skills as well as learning how best to work as a team to reach a common goal. I have also had to work on multi-million dollar annual budgets. I've had to create the budget and stick to it. My lab is an analytical lab which means I spend most of my days looking at data trying to see the big picture to determine next steps. I believe this correlates well to what I would need to accomplish as a Board member."

Charlie Eastham:

"I retired in 2007 from Health Care Information Systems at The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and live with my wife, Karen Fox, in Iowa City. Our children, now well into adulthood, attended Longfellow, South East and City High. They each tell stories of special teachers, friends and, sometimes surprising, experiences during their school years.

In high school in my hometown in Texas I was in a vocational training program. I attended a local community college before enlisting in the U.S. Navy for four years. After graduating with a B. A. from Texas Christian University I served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Malaysia and then came to Iowa City in 1971 to attend the University of Iowa Law School.

My current and past service on the following boards, commissions and organizations has provided a network of relationships and experience with addressing complicated institutional and community challenges that I believe will aid my work on the District Board of Education:

- ICCSD Equity Committee
- ICCSD Support for Immigrant Students and Families Taskforce
- Center for Worker Justice
- Black Voices Project
- Coalition for Racial Justice
- FasTrac
- Little Creations Academy
- Johnson County Empowerment Board
- The Housing Fellowship
- Iowa City Housing and Community Development Commission
- Iowa City Planning and Zoning Commission
- University of Iowa Staff Council
- Consultation of Religious Communities"