

**NORWALK COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
School Board Election Candidate Profile for School Website and Media Distribution**

**Picture of Candidate (please submit current photo, preferable in a JPEG format).**

**Name of Candidate:** Dana J. Schuemann

**Address:** 2019 SE Adams Street, West Des Moines, IA 50061 (Norwalk School District, Orilla area).

**Link to any candidate website information (i.e Facebook or other social media if available)**

**Tell us about yourself, your family, occupation and educational background.**

**Family:** Husband of 22 years, Jim and son Asa is a junior at Norwalk High School.

**Occupation:** VP & Chief Compliance Officer at West Bank in West Des Moines.

**Educational Background:** (K-12) Norwalk Graduate- Class of 1983, University of Iowa BA in Industrial Relations/Human Resources 1987, University of Iowa Law School Juris Doctorate 1990.

**Please list any previous service on a school board or school committees.**

Incumbent on the School Board since fall 2015.

Served on the Health/Wellness, Policy and Instructional Services Board Subcommittees since being elected.

Represented the Norwalk School Board at the Warren County Conference Board meeting.

Elected to the IASB (Iowa Association of School Boards) as the District 8 Director, representing 27 school districts (including Norwalk) that are located in south central Iowa. If re-elected to the Norwalk Board, will continue to serve that IASB term until fall 2022.

Serve on the Governance/Policy Subcommittee for IASB.

Advocate for Public School resources thru the annual IASB Day on the Hill at the Iowa Statehouse.

Participant in the annual Legislative Roundtable where the Council, Chamber and School Board host our local Senators and Representatives to discuss issues of interest to Norwalk.

**How long have you lived in the Norwalk Community School District?**

Since I was 3, so over 50 years – not counting time spent in Iowa City for college.

**What excites you most about the school and/or community?**

In a word: everything. Norwalk is in a very exciting time right now with construction both on the commercial and residential side. With this growth, we are seeing fresh opportunities that both challenge and invigorate us to consider new possibilities. Whether it's the recently added businesses and jobs, or the innovative elementary school and parks, we are surrounded by quality new experiences. In the schools we are reaching new heights in terms of student achievements –

both academic and extra-curricular, increased graduation rates and teacher /staff quality. I'm always proud to be a Warrior, but never more so than in this last decade of progress.

**Why are you running for the School Board?**

I was fortunate enough to be elected to my first term on the Norwalk School Board in Sept. 2015. During these first 4 years, through conferences, board meetings and training I've done all that I can to learn and absorb the particulars of school board oversight and proper district budgeting, policy making and vision/goal setting. I believe I've been an effective board member for this community. I am still willing and able to serve and think a second term would only continue the opportunities for me to put these skills to use for the community and school district. We have some unfinished business that I would like to see through to completion if the voters will allow. We have construction projects and plans that are not yet fully completed. There are ongoing cybersecurity and physical security initiatives that I've taken a special interest in given my bank security background. Importantly, this board has a vision for improving student academic success, enhancing employee experiences, improving communication, encouraging leadership and managing our growth. I would like to still continue offering my assistance with these goals.

**What qualifications do you believe make you a viable candidate?**

My day job involves a lot of regulatory, policy, budgeting, training, data privacy, and bank security. All of those topics have, at times, translated into helpful knowledge for school board agenda items. I am now well versed not only in school board protocol generally, but in Norwalk goals and agenda items specifically. I contribute to our local discussions from my professional perspective, as a parent of a student in the district, and as a former Warrior myself. Volunteering for a school board position is a time consuming venture and one that I've shown over the last 4 years I'm capable of and still willing to take on. I enjoy and value the time that I've spent in this role as a Board member and feel I still have more to give to the board and the district – both locally and as our IASB representative director.

**Do you have any specific goals for the District? If so, what are they?**

The general rule is a Board member shouldn't have pet projects or be focused overly on a specific goal to the exclusion of others. But, of course, after being on the board for several years, there are projects that capture your heart and mind. Currently I'm focused on helping the district establish and maintain physical and cybersecurity to the extent our budget will allow. As important as educational programming is, keeping our kids safe and their data private is increasingly important in today's world. I feel Norwalk is making great strides in this area and I'm proud that we are leading this work. Further, I know this entire board will be pleased when the final piece of our school remodeling is completed and Oviatt Elementary is again fully functional for the fall 2020 classes. Construction projects can seem never-ending but it's all worthwhile when you see teachers and happy kids enjoying the new spaces and excited about their schools. Lastly, I've been involved in a long term project of aligning our board/school policies with best practice recommendations and accurate descriptions of how our district

handles things. This can be dry work, but it's very important to unify and guide employees, students, staff and community members through school district practices.

**Are there any specific changes you would like to see made within the school district? If so, what are they?**

Mental health issues are on the rise amongst Iowans of every age and school aged children are no exception. While the legislature and Governor are starting to focus on this critical area, funding for necessary resources is not coming quickly enough to meet rising needs. From critical student needs to classroom discipline and student counseling, I want our district and districts across the state to continue to advocate for appropriate funding, staffing and guidance in this arena. I'm glad that Norwalk is aware of these issues and working as best they can to address the challenges. This is not so much a change for us, but an ongoing focus and a wish for more funding.

**Have you been active in other community projects? If yes, please describe.**

Yes. I serve on the Neighborhood Finance Corporation Board of Directors in Des Moines. This non-profit group provides low cost and forgivable loans to homeowners in targeted neighborhoods in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids for rehab, remodel and home improvements. They also purchase homes for renovation and resale to improve neighborhood property values. They partner with the cities, residents, community based organizations and the business communities to fund and offer these housing opportunities.

My Director position on the IASB board helps provide over 324 member school districts throughout Iowa with services like insurance, training, financial investment services, governance/policy assistance, legislative advocacy assistance in support of public education causes, cybersecurity programming, human resource aids, and construction project consulting, just to name a few. Through membership with this organization local school districts can enhance their value to their communities and schools via economies of scale and shared knowledge/experience.