

Gerry Miller

1. What is a school board member's role and responsibility? How does that role differ from the role of the superintendent or administration?

The board member responsibility is to bring forth an honest, open mind in order to put forth the policies that will enrich the education of our children. It is to make sure they not only vote to implement policies that grant certain protections for only some of the students, but to be inclusive, fair and equal for all students.

It is to ALWAYS make the students educational experience their number one priority.

They are to be the goal setters for the district as well help with the usage of all the resources available to the district.

The Superintendent is to take the policies and resources and implement them into the school system.

The Superintendent is also an invaluable resource for the school board as the issues being addressed are what they must deal with daily.

2. What Makes you the best candidate for the Rice Lake Area School District Board of Education? What experience, knowledge or special skills do you possess that will make you a unique addition to the Board?

I currently have 2 children attending school in the district. This means I have firsthand knowledge of what our children are learning and have a very personal interest in our education system.

My personal strengths are:

- Ability to listen to both sides of a discussion prior to making any decisions.
- Placing high value on logic and common sense in discussions
- Accepting and encouraging input from diverse backgrounds to play a part in the decision-making process
- A firm belief that this school district has, and has proven its ability to achieve greatness
- As a child I struggled with schooling, so I have an intimate knowledge of what it takes to overcome these struggles and succeed

I believe all these strengths will be a benefit to the board in helping all of our students avoid failure

3. What issues do you believe your district needs to address in its academic program and offerings? What changes would you recommend?

One issue I would like addressed is the seeming deterioration of our physical health priority. Physical activity releases endorphins in the brain and makes learning more attainable. This however needs to include physical fitness as well as good nutrition, in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

There are currently a few divides that exist, this needs to be addressed and resolved. I will be more detailed regarding these in the following questions.

4. What is one thing about the Rice Lake Area School District that you would like to work to improve?

This is one of the divides from the previous question.

I would like to see more community involvement when it comes to exposing our students to the career opportunities that are right here in Rice Lake. There is a great need for employees in our area right now and keeping kids in the area or getting them back after college would be great.

I would like to help with the implementation of more internships and job shadowing, to show kids what we have to offer locally.

5. What is one thing about the Rice Lake Area School District that you would like to work to improve?

Once again referring to the divides.

We need to focus on equality and not equity, pushing students to greatness and not limiting them to conformity. Letting them know they can be great in whatever career path they choose. Whether that path is a 4-year degree, a technical college degree or a journeyman program. All should be considered as successful options.

I would also like to see us move back in the direction of a love for this great United States, just like families, there are always problems, but together we can work to fix them!

6. What is the best way to address differences of opinion on the Board or between the Board and the Administration?

First and foremost – RESPECT, on both sides of the opinion.

There will always be differences of opinion in any group of people. The best way is to let discussion happen in an open and respectful manner. Everyone on the board is there because we feel very passionate about getting the best education for this next generation of children. Sometime that passion can lead to heightened emotions. We need to let facts and not emotions rule the discussions and dictate the policies. The best way to move forward is to work together to find solutions, and the only way to do that is through mutual respect and listening.