

# SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE

## Dave Visser



Thank you for your willingness to run for the Elcho School Board. There are two seats open for the upcoming spring election. As a way to help constituents learn more about each of you, I have prepared some questions for each of you to answer. Your answers will be shared out through Facebook and the District website.

In addition to the following questions, I would like you to share a photograph and prepare a general statement about your “why” for wanting to serve the Elcho School District.

**What motivates you to run for the Elcho School Board and what specific skills or experiences will help you serve effectively?**

Being a long time resident, alum, parent and a local business owner, I find it imperative to have a strong school district in our area. I have 20 years of experience on this school board as well as board experience in other organizations. Being a business owner, I am familiar with the challenges in staffing, finance, and navigating legal requirements of operating an organization.

**What is your educational philosophy?**

I believe learning for kids is just as important as food and clothing. I believe that children excel when they are challenged and pushed to achieve more than they thought they could. Every child learns differently so it is important to provide many opportunities for success. In my opinion, the best teachers are able to connect with their students and develop/adapt their methods to allow each student to succeed.

**What do you believe are the primary roles and responsibilities of an effective board member, and how does that differ from the role of the District Administrator?**

Effective board members are engaged in promoting the success of the district. It is important to have a full understanding of the challenges the district is facing and work with the administration to develop strategies to overcome those challenges. This understanding comes from being aware of the day-to-day workings of the school, reading and understanding information provided by not only the administration, but also outside sources thru personal research and personal development thru the school board association activities.

**What do you see as the top two or three strengths and weaknesses of our district, and how did you determine these needs?**

The strengths of our district are in our staff. We have a great group of dedicated teachers who really care about their students. We also have a great building that is conducive to learning. Also, we have a very supportive electorate who supports our school referendum after referendum. Weaknesses include our size. Because we have lower numbers of kids, we struggle with economies of scale. Not something we can easily change unless the number of our students increases. Also, the state funding formula is against us, as stated from our auditors in the past. We receive so little funding from the state, yet are mandated to provide services that are not funded adequately. Again, not something we can easily change.

**What are your budget priorities, and if budget cuts become necessary, what areas would you prioritize for protection?**

In my experience on the Elcho school board, the budget is always a challenge for those reasons in the above question. Our purpose is in education and that is where the budget priorities must lie. Providing quality staff is paramount in providing a quality education and that must be a priority.

**What are your best hopes for the future of the Elcho School District?**

It is and has been my hope that Elcho provides a high quality education for our students first and foremost. I also want the Elcho School District to be an example of how effective and efficient small schools operate and be a model school for other small schools in the state.

**My “why” statement:**

I am running for the school board because I want to continue the work that I have been a part of for the last 20 years. We have an awesome small school that is making a positive difference in the lives of the kids in our district and I want to make sure that continues and improves!