

# SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE

## Paul Gray



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?**

I’m motivated in helping students and staff all become the best they can be today and the future. I’m currently a supervisor for the town of Elcho working with my fellow town board members to keep our town a safe and enjoyable place for people to live and raise their family.

**What is your educational philosophy?**

My educational philosophy is to inspire our students to become well educated so they can thrive not only in the workforce but also as parents. Community service is an excellent way to demonstrate that working together will lead to a successful contribution to society. Students deserve equal access to a quality education that respects diversity, addresses individual needs, and promotes lifelong learning.

**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?**

The school board has the leadership role on how a school district runs. They don’t manage day to day classrooms but set the direction for our school. School board members approve the budget, determine the vision and policies of the district, approve the budget, hire the district administrator, and make decisions that are equal for all.

School administrators run the school day to day. They manage the resources and budget. They ensure that teaching and learning run smoothly while also communicating with parents, community, and school board.

**Some of the duties of both the board and administrator overlap, but they each have specific duties related to their responsibilities. We are all in these positions together to try and make our school district the best it can be for our students, teachers, and parents by making the right decisions that are not always going to be popular with everyone but need to be made in a civil and orderly way.**

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

#### **Strengths of our District**

Our Elcho school district community unites to invest in and improve our school through referendum. Many alumni come back to teach, showing the schools lasting impact. Our school staff are involved in community services such as special event workers, coaches, advisors, and volunteers

#### **Weakness of our District**

Low participation in extra-curriculars- boys and girls have only enough athletes for one team and sometimes no team at all. Fewer specialized staff due to a small budget. Limited course offerings due to small enrollment.

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

My budget priorities include hiring proficient teachers, purchasing highly effective learning materials, and technology. As far as the budget cuts go, I will need more background knowledge from administrators, teachers, and community.

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

I believe in a thriving school where every student feels valued, supported and successful. A growing enrollment, strong programs, and a united community help students become confident, motivated and prepared for life beyond school.