

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE

Nikki Sturzl



My Motivation

I am running for the Elcho School Board because I am deeply committed to the future of our community, and I believe that every student deserves a supportive and engaging learning environment. Over the past few years living in Elcho, I've seen the impact that strong educational leadership can have on students, teachers, and families. I want to ensure that our school is a place where every child has the opportunity to succeed, and where educators are empowered to do their best work.

Shaping the direction of our school district requires collaboration between the school board, administrators, and the community. I believe our schools should foster an inclusive and diverse culture focused on providing equitable opportunities for all.

My experience is grounded in direct mentorship of students. As a Elcho Girl Scouts troop leader, troop meetings and activities are planned and led with an emphasis on leadership, teamwork, and confidence-building. My role involves organizing outings and community service projects, coordinating volunteers, managing troop finances and produce sales, and maintaining regular communication with families. This has given me a firsthand understanding of what our school needs to thrive and how we can make decisions that align with the values of our community. Effective leadership is not just about making decisions, but about bringing people together, understanding diverse perspectives, and collaborating for betterment of our children's education.

Education Philosophy

Education is a transformative experience. It should be one that empowers students not just academically but also socially and emotionally. My philosophy centers around creating an inclusive, supportive, and challenging environment where every student feels valued, capable, and encouraged to reach their full potential. I see education as a community effort. Teachers, parents, students, and the community all play a role in a child's growth.

Community Engagement and Strong Governance

The board serves as a voice for the community, engaging with parents, students, and staff to gather input, advocate for the district's needs, and ensure that policies reflect the community's values. Advocacy efforts extend to securing resources and funding from local, state, and federal governments. Ensuring school safety and student well-being is another priority, including overseeing policies related to school climate, mental health services, and emergency preparedness.

Effective school boards are committed to creating an environment where students feel safe, supported, and valued, allowing them to thrive academically and personally.

Our Priorities and Future Vision

The district benefits from having a team of committed and passionate educators who go above and beyond to ensure the success of their students. Teachers in the Elcho School District are known for creating innovative and engaging learning experiences that cater to the needs of their students. Beyond the classroom, many educators also take part in extracurricular activities, mentorship programs, and community service initiatives.

This dedication ensures that students receive the academic and emotional support they need to thrive, contributing to a well-rounded educational experience. Elcho School District excels in offering a well-rounded education that goes beyond academics to include opportunities for extracurricular social-emotional development, and career readiness.

We should also be committed to providing an education that extends beyond the classroom. The district places a strong emphasis on preparing students for either college or the workforce. Career exploration, internships, athletics, and the arts give students the chance to develop critical life skills, build confidence, and pursue their interests. Prioritizing academic excellence and personal growth helps ensure that students leave prepared for the challenges of the future.

Budget Plan

As a candidate for the Elcho School District Board, I am committed to ensuring that every dollar of our school budget is spent in a way that directly benefits our students, staff, and community. It is critical that we prioritize our spending that reflects our core values, academic excellence, student well-being, and fiscal responsibility. Our teachers are the backbone of our educational system, and it is crucial that we invest in retaining and attracting high-quality educators. Competitive salaries, benefits, and professional development opportunities will be a top priority to ensure that we continue to provide an excellent education for our children. Investing in our teachers is investing in our students' future. Every student deserves an opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background or abilities. The mental health of our students is just as important as their academic performance. We must invest in counselors, social-emotional learning programs, and wellness initiatives that support our students' emotional and psychological needs. As your school board member, I will ensure that adequate resources are allocated to create a safe and supportive environment for every child. A well-rounded education goes beyond the classroom. From sports teams to arts and music programs, extracurricular activities are essential to developing leadership skills, teamwork, and creativity. I will advocate for continued funding of these programs, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to explore their passions and interests outside of traditional academics.

In the event of budget cuts, maintaining the quality of classroom instruction would remain a top priority. Teacher salaries, classroom resources, and curriculum development are essential as they are the pillars of student success. Support services for students with special needs also must be safeguarded. These students depend on individualized support and services; cuts here would be detrimental. These services help ensure that all students, regardless of their learning differences, have access to a quality education.

My Best Hopes for Elcho School District

We must vigorously ensure academic excellence for every student. Elcho School District can become known for providing a high-quality and personalized education where every student, regardless of background or learning ability, is given the tools and opportunities they need to succeed. Whether students are preparing for college, vocational careers, or other paths, my vision is for them to leave Elcho schools confident, capable, and ready to take on the world. As a board member, I will work tirelessly to ensure that the district prioritizes not only academic excellence but also emotional, social, and developmental growth. Together, we can build a school district our entire community can be proud of.

I'm running for school board because our school is the heart of our community. As a parent, Girl Scout troop leader, and active community member, I value listening, collaboration, and putting students first. I would be honored to earn your trust and your vote.