



David P. Czech

I have practiced as an attorney in Chippewa Falls for the past nineteen years. In addition to being a firm believer in Chi-Hi academics, I am a strong supporter of its many athletic and extracurricular activities. I have volunteered at Chippewa Falls High School (Chi-Hi) as both a football and strength and conditioning coach. I graduated from Chi-Hi in 1989 and currently have three children enrolled at Chi-Hi. After many years on the YMCA Board of Directors, I ultimately advanced to the position of President of the Board.

**Why did you decide to run for the Board of Education?**

I have always done what I can to support Chi-Hi. With my economics and law school degrees, the Board of Education seems to be the best way to continue supporting Chi-Hi. Many people have encouraged me to run over the years; now that my kids are old enough, I can dedicate the time necessary to be fully invested in the Board. When the Board had to replace Jim Dimock (my 6th grade teacher) last year, I took the opportunity to follow his example of giving back to the community.

**What do you see as the greatest challenges facing public education?**

The biggest challenge facing public education is competing political interests. Ultimately, everyone says they want to do what is best for the kids. However, certain factions seem to think that the taxpayer is the only thing that matters. Others are tied up in issues that compete against the children for the almighty taxpayer dollar. This is a problem that can only be solved by electing members to the Board that will weigh issues based upon their merits without feeling beholden to special interest groups.

**As a Board member, what will your top priority be?**

The new school proposal is obviously the biggest issue right now, but I cannot say there has been enough information presented to the Board to take a stand one way or another. I would treat this decision very much like a decision to purchase or repair my own home. The Board has a responsibility to ensure, as efficiently as possible, that the kids and teachers have a safe and adequate environment in which to learn and teach. If I can be convinced that the most economical way to arrive at that goal is to repair or replace, I will vote with that in mind.

I did not respond to the questionnaire I was provided by the teacher's union. If they want someone who will vote in their favor in return for getting elected, it will not be me. That would be my response to anyone from the taxpayer alliance that wanted to see how I would vote. If not being supported by those with a vested interest costs me the election, then so be it. It would go against everything I believe in to run any other way. Politics is the problem with the School Board, not the solution.



Jennifer Heinz

I am a 46 year-old mother of three, a Wisconsin native, and proud product of Wisconsin public schools. I hold a BS in Education from UW-Madison where I also competed on the women's rowing team. I later obtained my Juris Doctor from the University of Wisconsin Law School. As an attorney for DHFS, I litigated license revocations and drafted proposed legislation. As an Assistant District Attorney for Eau Claire County, I prosecuted various misdemeanor and felony cases, specializing in felony drug prosecutions. Most recently, I've had the pleasure of combining my legal interests with my passion for education by teaching government, ethics and legal courses full-time at Chippewa Valley Technical College.

**Why did you decide to run for the Board of Education?**

Our schools matter to me. When my husband Todd and I chose Chippewa Falls for our home, a major factor in that decision was the quality and reputation of the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District. I want to ensure that our daughter (our last child in the K-12 system), and all children in our district, continue to receive the quality education needed to prepare them for a changing world. That takes work. My experience teaching, developing courses, drafting curriculum, serving on advisory boards, acting as a legislative liaison, volunteering with PTO, and as a long-time Big Brother Big Sister, as well as other community involvement, has prepared me to be an effective member of the Board.

**What do you see as the greatest challenges facing public education?**

Cuts in state funding are forcing Wisconsin schools to operate on increasingly lean budgets. We have a duty to keep class sizes small, meet the needs of diverse learners, provide sports, music and arts programs, and do all we can to produce smart, strong, healthy individuals. That's no small task. I am grateful to past School Boards, administrators, teachers and community members who have worked to position our district on very solid financial ground. Future Board members will have a duty to maintain this tradition of fiscal responsibility while searching for innovative ways to meet the short and long-term needs of our students and the district.

**As a Board member, what will your top priority be?**

Most pressing appears to be assessing our facility needs and deciding what to recommend to the community for referendum. The community deserves Board members who do their research, listen to the full range of perspectives, and draw conclusions impartially. My experience has prepared me to help lead our district during this critical period. I truly believe there is nothing more important than to equip our youth with a strong education so they can take their places as tomorrow's leaders. If elected, I will work hard to provide that for our children while maintaining fiscal responsibility and a strong respect for the concerns of district residents.



INCUMBENT

Melanie Sinclair-Schaller

I was born and raised in Chippewa Falls and graduated from Chippewa Falls Senior High School (Chi-Hi) in 1966. I went on to college and graduated from UW-Eau Claire with a master's degree. For thirty-two years, I taught English at Chi-Hi. I have three daughters who graduated from Chi-Hi and currently have two grandchildren attending the Chippewa Falls Schools. I have been on the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District Board of Education for three years. I am running for a second term.

**Why did you decide to run for the Board of Education?**

My parents were both educators at one point or another in their lives, and education was an important part of family discussions as I was growing up. My brother and I were both encouraged to further our education after high school. As a teacher, I saw the need for people on the School Board who understood education and the changes that were occurring, and who also had the time to devote to being Board members. From past experience on the Mega Board, I knew the time as well as the skills required to be a Board member and I felt I was qualified.

**What do you see as the greatest challenges facing public education?**

There are many. Increasing revenue limitations imposed at the state level continue to challenge school districts. At the same time revenues are being limited, mandates imposed by state and federal governments are leaving districts to decide where their limited funds will go. Testing has become so invasive that teachers have difficulty finding time to teach. Lastly, there are forces in society that continue to foster the belief that public schools are the worst places from which a child can get a good education. While that belief is a myth, it persists in our society; battling it is demoralizing and tiring. Public schools set our country apart from other countries. Preserving, improving and supporting them as the great equalizer they have been and should continue to be is perhaps the greatest challenge we face.

**As a Board member, what will your top priority be?**

A priority is just that...the most important issue to which the Board should attend. I will listen to our community as we struggle through the decisions we'll need to make concerning our facilities in the next year or two while simultaneously paying attention to the concerns the community has regarding the quality of current educational offerings, and our annual budget. I believe we have a quality staff. Another important aspect of being a Board member is listening to our staff and understanding their needs.



INCUMBENT

Kathy Strecker

I am originally from Melrose, WI and attended UW-Madison. I have a degree in International Business and Economics and have enjoyed a career in International Finance. I moved to Chippewa Falls twenty years ago. My husband and I have three children and live on a small farm where we raise pastured beef and poultry.

**Why did you decide to run for the Board of Education?**

I was very fortunate to be appointed to the Board of Education last year to fill a vacancy. This opportunity has allowed me to work with some hard-working, dedicated Board members who value education as much as I do. I have learned many things about being a productive member of the Board of Education and feel there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. The current Board of Education faces many challenges that will have a great impact on our district as we move forward. There are many needs that need to be addressed in the area of infrastructure throughout the district. Decisions need to be made in regard to facilities so that we can provide a safe environment and continue to concentrate on education into the 21st century.

**What do you see as the greatest challenges facing public education?**

Many factors pose challenges to public education. We need to keep the focus on the students by offering challenging, progressive educational opportunities and meaningful educational choices so they are ready to make decisions about the college and/or career choices that are available to them in today's society. The challenge is to accomplish all this under the budgetary constraints that have been placed upon schools districts.

**As a Board member, what will your top priority be?**

My top priority as a Board member will be to continue to strive to find ways to provide excellent and meaningful education for all students in the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District and in a safe, yet welcoming environment. I feel it is very important to address the facilities concern that the district is facing. As a district, it is also crucial to provide educational choices that are progressive, especially in the areas of Science, Technology and Math. We must realize that student needs and challenges are varied and complex and ever-changing and we must address all these needs. I feel that the Board members must be able to work together and provide answers that are clearly communicated to the staff and community and support the goal of having an excellent, top-ranked school district.

**MEGA RESULT**  
 Students will graduate prepared to succeed in post-secondary education and careers, having the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to achieve their personal goals and contribute to the common good.