

## **Part 1.**

### Contact Information

Philip R. Hood

### The board and/or position to which you are applying

Lake Bluff Elementary School District #65  
Board of Education

## **Part 2.**

### Why do you wish to serve on this board?

Endorsed by the Lake Bluff School Caucus and approved by the Board of Education to an appointed term in May 2015, I have enjoyed my service on behalf of our community.

Completion of a new school district strategic plan which addresses important student needs while remaining financially prudent is why I wish to continue to serve in this capacity.

### What strength, skills, and personal attributes will you bring to this board position?

It would be personally disappointing to take the experience gained over the past 18 months of board membership and not apply it to another term on the board.

In my professional capacity as Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations and Secretary of the College at Lake Forest College, I bring to the board a background in organizational leadership, volunteer management, strategic planning, human resource management, and board governance.

My professional and personal background is grounded in service and committed to the development of resources and strategic operations which promote strong student achievement. To this end, I believe that I have served as a collaborative board team member and effective steward of district resources.

Finally, I do have children in both the elementary and the middle school. It's important for the board to be comprised of those who currently utilize district resources and those who do not.

### What do you see as the most pressing issues facing this board?

While the school district is fiscally sound and maintains a healthy fund balance, the unfavorable resolution of any number of unresolved state-wide issues could place the district's fiscal health in

peril. These could include changes to how pensions are currently funded, implementation of a property tax freeze, and/or the forced annexation of students from neighboring school districts, among others.

While mindful of these possible financial issues, the school district must also do its best to advocate for a smoother matriculation of some of our most high achieving students into Lake Forest High School. In addition, I think there is a strong appetite among students and parents for expanded enrichment programs.

Balancing parent, student, and taxpayer expectations in this fiscal environment is the most pressing issue facing the board at this time.

What decision or goal reached by this board are you most please with, and why?

I try to balance the interests of the school district, students, and the tax payers of Lake Bluff. I hope to do this well by asking what I believe are important questions these constituents may have regarding issues facing the district.

I'm proud of the work that was done by the Lake Bluff community, the school district, and school board to plan, finance, and complete the renovation of the middle school. It was very much a collaborative spirit which came together to get this project done.