

## Part 1

- 1) Julie L. Gottshall
- 2) Applying to District 65 School Board

## Part 2

- 1) Why do you wish to serve on this board?

I have served on the D65 Board for the past four years and would welcome the opportunity to continue in that role. As presently composed, the Board functions smoothly and effectively in partnership with the administration. Together, we have developed core principles and achieved outcomes that have benefitted the community and the District academically, financially, and operationally. I believe that continuing on this course will provide stability to the District and allow us to solidify the gains made.

- 2) What strengths, skills, and personal attributes will you bring to this Board position?

As a practicing attorney, I bring a willingness to ask questions and challenge assumptions; an ability to closely analyze legal documents and policies; and an expertise in human resources and negotiation. [I actually enjoy serving on the Policy Committee!] As the mother of two daughters, one at LBMS and one at LFHS, I bring a drive for excellence in our schools – both academically and culturally – and the ability to serve as a conduit between the user group and the administration. As a long-time resident and former member of the Lake Bluff Library Board, I bring a passion for the values of service, community, collaboration, and respect that make our town such a special place.

- 3) What do you see as the most pressing issues facing this Board?

- Developing a new strategic plan that continues to promote academic achievement for all demographics and ensures financial stability
- Navigating a challenging political environment, with the uncertainty surrounding school financing, pension reform, and neighboring school districts

- Retention and succession planning for key administration positions

4) What decision or goal reached by this Board are you most pleased with, and why?

Obviously, the successful renovation of LBMS is a key legacy of the current Board. We accomplished the makeover by deploying a percentage of the reserve while still maintaining a healthy fund balance, and engaging extensively with all stakeholders to achieve a state-of-the-art educational facility of which our town can be proud.

The renovation, however, is the byproduct of what I consider to be our greater achievement – the establishment of a cooperative and multi-faceted Board that provides appropriate levels of support and oversight to a strong administration. Working together with a healthy regard for our respective roles, the Board and the administration have established a culture that strives for academic excellence, fiscal prudence, accountability, and community engagement. I hope to continue to serve in furtherance of these values.