

Sally Davis

District 115 School Board

1. Why do you wish to serve on this board?

I simply wanted to be of service to our community when I applied in 2015 to fill a mid-term vacancy on the Lake Forest High School Board. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunities given by Districts 65 and 115 to my son, who is currently a Junior at LFHS, and I wanted to use my time and talent to say thanks.

I am seeking election in 2017 for these same reasons, but I can add that I want to serve on this specific Board with its current Members because we built a strong, cohesive team. Our Board is doing important work together to deliver the District's ambitious Mission and Vision.

The Lake Forest Caucus recognized the value in keeping our relatively new Board stable after a period of unusually high turnover by choosing me as their candidate on a one-time basis to continue in the seat traditionally held by a Lake Forest resident. I am grateful for their support.

2. What strengths, skills, and personal attributes will you bring to this board position?

As the only lawyer on the current D115 Board, I provide a unique skill set and point of view:

- During the criminal prosecution and end of employment of a former teacher, I drew on my previous trial practice in meetings with the Board's counsel.
- When community members raised concerns about protecting the privacy of LFHS students' information with a vendor that provides student-specific data analyses, I suggested contractual stronger protections.
- As the Board's liaison to ED-RED, D115's advocacy organization for the Chicago suburban school districts, I advise the Board on important developments.

I promised the Board when they interviewed me in 2015 that I am not a one-issue advocate. While I may have a strong point of view on a topic, as well as ethical and legal lines I will not cross, I will support the Board's final decisions and serve where and when I am needed.

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

- Education Funding and Related Financial Reform Efforts in Illinois

One of the few areas of agreement today in Springfield is that Illinois has a poorly structured, underfunded apparatus for education. A bi-partisan School Funding Reform Committee has been charged with delivering recommended legislation by February 1, 2017, to be voted on in the Spring Session.

It is impossible to predict how these efforts will evolve. But in my opinion, it is only a question of "when" and not "if" legislation will be passed, and when it happens, Lake Forest High School will be affected.

- Special Education Modernization

The District's historic approach to providing Special Education services to students in the least-restrictive environment did not deliver our Mission and Vision. While our Administration is making remarkable, measurable progress to allow all of our students to achieve their academic and related growth potential, the entire District team must continue to make this a key priority.

- New Teachers' Contract

The current collective bargaining agreement will not expire until the end of the 2018-2019 school year, but I still consider it a pressing need for our Board. Under the best circumstances, these contracts often require significant Board and Administration time and resources and this will be the first teachers' contract negotiation for many of our Board Members.

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

The 2016 security improvements to the LFHS entryway and visitor screening process are a great example of the D115 Board doing its job very well. The Board and Administration were able execute quickly and without disruption to the school year.

We were able to fund these capital improvements out of the current operating budget, while maintaining above-average reserves in adherence to previous Boards' post-recession "path to black." And during this same time, the District earned an AAA rating from Moody's, enabling us to refinance debt to deliver savings of \$6.3 million to the taxpayers over the next 10 years.