

Please answer the following with a few sentences each. Also, **please provide a recent headshot to run along with your responses.** Let me know if you would like me to clarify anything. Thank you.

1. Why did you want to run for school board?

As the current School Board President, I am seeking reelection to provide continuity and to continue advancing our strategic plan of excellence for the district. I have been a resident of the New Richmond School District for 33 years, and both of my children are proud graduates of New Richmond High School. I was first appointed to the School Board in 2017, reelected in 2023, and previously served from 2006 to 2012. Serving on the Board allows me to give back to the community and continue supporting our incredible staff, leadership team, and superintendent; while applying the leadership experience I have developed over more than four decades.

2. What relevant background information would you like the public to know about you?

I retired in May 2022 after a 40-year career in law enforcement, including nearly 23 years with the Minneapolis Police Department and service as Police Chief for the City of Hastings beginning in 2013. During my career, I advanced through the ranks to leadership positions including Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Police Inspector, with command roles overseeing juvenile services and precinct operations in the 2nd and Downtown Precincts.

While serving with the Minneapolis Police Department, I earned a bachelor's degree with honors from Metropolitan State University, publishing my thesis in *Police Practice and Research: An International Journal*. I am also a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police at Harvard, and Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command.

My work has been recognized through several state and international professional awards, including the 2007 Hennepin County Leadership Award, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) Gary P. Hayes Memorial Award, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Motorola Webber Seavey Award, all representing leadership in a major wave of improvements in American policing and for promoting a standard of excellence that exemplifies law enforcement's contribution and dedication to the quality of life in local communities.

As Police Chief in Hastings, I led organizational improvements, expanded community partnerships, implemented body-worn cameras, and strengthened victim advocacy services. I have also served in multiple regional leadership roles and nonprofit boards focused on public safety and youth services.

3. How do you think the school district should approach its bathroom policy? What does a solution look like?

I stand by my morals and ethics instilled in me throughout my 40 years of public service. Following the law, whether popular or unpopular is paramount. Failure to respect and abide by the law promotes chaos and radicalism. Traditionally, the position of school board member has been non-partisan and should be free of personal agendas. The only agenda is what is BEST for kids! Most policies and procedures in society have their foundation in case law. For example, search and seizure laws or the reading of Miranda rights before questioning for a criminal offense is founded in case law. In my public service tenure, had to treat everyone fairly and equally, no matter their sex, color, or religious beliefs. I could not violate one's rights because I do not agree with case law. If I did, I could be fired, imprisoned, or sued for civil rights violations. In our situation, case law and rulings by the 7th Circuit dictates what we can and cannot do. Changing case law must come from the courts and those elected in the Assembly, not at the hands of radicals or local boards. I insist we follow the law until if/when the law changes. Openly violating the law subjects the district to lawsuits not protected by the district's insurance which will financially bankrupt the district, leaving the bill for the taxpayers. The best way to manage this currently is to do what we have been doing for the past 10 years by working with families of transgender students to ensure their safety and privacy while providing a high-quality education free of interference and harassment. Furthermore, making more gender-neutral facilities available for ALL students, as transgender students are not the only students that feel discomfort using or changing publicly in boys' and girls' facilities. Eventually, having all gender-neutral facilities, like neighboring states, is forward thinking and progressive.

4. The school board voted to change school start and end times. Do you agree with that decision? Why or why not?

Yes, I support the decision to adjust school start times. Research on student sleep, health, and learning has become more comprehensive and by aligning schedules with that research enhances childcare needs, reduces time on buses, and better supports after school activities, all which benefit students, and families. Our responsibility as board members is to make decisions that best support student success.

5. What are some issues you'd like to focus on if elected or reelected?

My priorities include maintaining sustainable funding, supporting safe and modern facilities, strengthening staff recruitment, hiring, and retention, while ensuring the consistent use of effective educational practices that support growth for all students.

6. What are some things you think the school district is doing well?

The district has demonstrated strong financial stewardship as evidenced by two facility referendums in the past 10 years, enrollment growth, maintaining a balanced budget, despite being the lowest spending district (19th of 421) and holding the line on taxes. This is the foundation of a strong, vibrant district, committed to its strategic plan focused on serving every student, every day.

7. How should the school district approach artificial intelligence? How much should AI be incorporated into classrooms versus how much its use should be regulated?

Artificial intelligence has a role in education, but it should not replace critical thinking or reliable research. Students should first rely on vetted, credible sources. Then AI can be used as a tool to help organize and present information. Clear, accurate, and educational way with appropriate safeguards in place.

8. Anything else you'd like to talk about?

I am prepared to lead this board and district through this chaotic time by getting us back on track, focusing on district operations, and educating our students, without distraction, interference, and personal agendas.