

Northland Pines School Board Candidate Chris Petreikis

Education

I received my Associate's Degree in Law Enforcement from Kankakee Community College, Kankakee, IL. I then continued my education at the University of Minnesota-Duluth for Criminology/Sociology. Prior to graduating, I attended the Law Enforcement Academy at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Wausau, WI. Upon graduating the academy, I accepted employment with the Vilas County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff. I have furthered my education and experiences in working throughout our community as a Police School Liaison Officer, Training Officer, Tactical Team Member, and currently as a Detective Sergeant.

Organizations (Local, State & National)

Wisconsin Sheriff's and Deputy Sheriff's Association

Boy Scouts of America; Assistant Scoutmaster

Wisconsin Profession Police Association

Vilas County Deputy Sheriff's Local #118

Wisconsin Waterfowl Association (Northern Wetlands); Committee Member & Former Co-Chairperson

Eagle River Masonic Lodge #248

Eagle River Youth Sports Programs-Multi Year Volunteer

Why have you decided to run for your Board of Education?

I am invested throughout our community by many means and ventures. I am an active parent of three children (11, 8, and 2 years of age), two of which currently attend the Northland Pines School District. I believe in the education of not only our students, but also in community education as a whole. As a Law Enforcement member of our community, I take any and all opportunities possible to educate others as well as myself.

The Northland Pines School District offers many qualities that one whom attends with an open mind will find rewarding throughout their life. Having worked with as well as being friends with several staff members of the school district, I believe our teachers are among the best, most dedicated, and most devoted to living their lives educating our children.

What qualifications and/or experiences do you have that qualify you for this office?

I have great life experiences that will enable me to relate to many community members and a vast resource for consulting to people throughout our community about current issues. I have a personality to be outspoken but professional. I treat everyone fair, equal, and with great understanding while being responsible. I want my children and our community's children to become leaders throughout our next generation. That mentality is a "Win-Win" if properly portrayed.

My personal life experiences have enabled me to think outside-the-box in many situations. Treating others how I would want to be treated in similar circumstances has been an approach that I have adopted in Law Enforcement. Every day is a new day and I believe that I can bring forward what the people throughout our community are looking for in our school board, a person whom deals with a common sense approach while moving forward under pressure.

**What do you think are the most pressing issues for your school district?
How can you help solve the issue or issues?**

I feel one major issue facing our school district is the need to continue being cost-conscious as well as retaining the staff so our schools move forward. With more experienced staff, the incorporation of their ideas and hard work, the school district will not just survive, but excel!

We need to continue to work on parental involvement in education. This will become one of the biggest factors in determining how our students perform. With their positive support, our children will perform better.

One of things that I can recall specifically while assigned to the Police School Liaison position is that I did not have one school board member meet with me to discuss current issues, current trends, or safety concerns. With today's technology, I will have available many means to be contacted.

Do you support the use of "exceed the levy" referenda by school districts to maintain funding levels the School Board determines necessary? Why or why not?

Absolutely I support the school district in funding. If the state will not cover the operating expenses to support the school district, then we as a community have to support it to maintain what we currently have. Coming together in support of our children, teachers, and support staff will make our children future's more direct, supported, and enhanced.

That being said, I do not agree that because the school district is supported by the community that it provides a "free range" of mismanagement or misuse of appropriations. I believe that to continue moving forward, our school district administrators need to be as involved as the teachers, if not more. I am a firm believer that everyone should not forget where you came from; in turn this will produce not just a good school district, but a great community.

Other

As the catch phrase says, "I speak for the trees." I want everyone to know that I will speak for them! I know that it is difficult to attend school board meetings with everything else going on. I know that it is difficult to provide input, ideas, or thoughts to people who have influence over their children's education. With that in mind, I will encourage every parent, community member, and visitor to contact me with their input so I will be more informed and educated myself. It has gone on too long that people have made decisions based on the information they had in front of them, not the information that is out there.