

Northland Pines School Board Candidate Jim Mulleady

Education

Northland Pines High School Diploma - 1978

University of Wisconsin - Stout BS - Industrial Technology - 1982

DePaul University - MBA - Marketing 1988

General Electric Company - 1983-1989

Dyna-Power Engineers - 1989 - 1991

Boston Gear - 1991-1994

Yaskawa Electric America - 1994 - 2001

Coldwell Banker Mulleady REALTORS - 2001 - Present

Organizations (Local, State & National)

Rotary Club of Eagle River

National Association of REALTORS

Northwoods Association of REALTORS

Certified Residential Specialist

Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association

Catfish Lake Association

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

I have been on the Northland Pines School Board for 9 years. I graduated from Northland Pines back in 1978 so I have a passion for this school district. I believe I have accumulated much knowledge about the District and its operation.

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

Northland Pines School Board - 9 Years

Northland Pines School Board President - 4 Years

Eagle River City Council - 3 Years

Eagle River Light and Water Commission - 2 Years

Eagle River Fire Commission - 1 Year

Catfish Lake Association President - 2 Years

Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association - Director - 2 years

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

The District faces many challenges. It is on a referendum "cycle" where we must ask the taxpayers every 3 years if we can exceed the caps. The school funding formula benefits downstate schools at the expense of northern tier schools. I will continue to lobby our representatives in Madison to find a more fair solution. The District also has challenges ahead with a possible retirement of our District Administrator and our Business Manager in the next 3 years. Those are difficult challenges and ones where I believe we may have possible solutions. The District also faces declining enrollment. I work hard at "selling" the District to possible new students and out of District students. The District faces the challenge of converting over to a 7-12 structure. This has been a controversial move but one the District is in the process of embracing and making it the best possible change for the students.

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?

In the case of Northland Pines, I do support the use of exceed the levy referenda. If we were to stay within the state's funding formula, we would be more than \$4M short in our approximately \$25M annual budget. It would be difficult to maintain all of the staff, extra-curriculars and outlying buildings without the \$3.9M referendum. I realize that this is unpopular with many voters. However, I will point out that even with the referendum passing Northland Pines will still have one of the lowest "mil" rates in the state. The tax bill on a \$100,000 home should still be in the area of \$1300. Relative to other areas of the state, that is quite low. A little know fact here is that we are still cutting spending over \$300K even with the referendum passing. The bottom line here is that the funding formula may work for downstate districts. Districts in the northern tier must rely on operating referenda to survive. We do not have the votes in Madison to overcome this very unfair disparity. Additionally, both Washington and Madison continue to force mandates on districts without the funds to carry them out. The example I will give is the school lunch program. The District must present balanced portions of fruits and vegetables, proteins etc. This has increased every districts' costs. There has been no corresponding funding for these new requirements. Special education programs are supposed to be funded at a rate of 66%. At present, they are funded at 27%. The local taxpayer has to pick up the rest. It is a wholly unacceptable position.

Other

I believe the role of the school board is to look at the needs of the District and weigh them against the cost to the taxpayers. I have discovered that I have a passion for education and for Northland Pines. We have done some great things and when I travel around the state on business or school related matters, I receive many compliments on the leadership position this District has attained. Northland Pines always is at or near the top of ACT scores. It is always at or near the top in other measurements as well. We work hard at trying to provide the best education and provide the best value for the taxpayer dollar.