



2021 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

NIKKI CHEREK

CHEREKNIKKI@GMAIL.COM

FACEBOOK: [NIKKI CHEREK FOR GREENFIELD SCHOOL BOARD](#)



Why Are you Running For School Board?

My name is Nikki Cherek and I have been a resident of Greenfield for 19 years. My husband and I have two children that currently attend school in Greenfield, one child in Middle School and the other in High School.

I have worked in the field of education for 26 years. For 15 years, I worked as a Program Supervisor for Milwaukee's Title I Program and currently work for MPS Head Start Program. A question I keep hearing on the campaign trail is "Why are you running?"

It comes down to one simple thing: I want to serve the community that I have been part of for the last 19 years. I want the best for both of my sons, their friends, and ALL of our students. Our students deserve preparation for their futures, whatever direction they choose. It is important for our parents to feel they have a voice, as well as feel confident that our District is providing the best educational opportunities for their children. I will listen to the concerns of our children, parents, and the community. I will listen to their perspectives, and make decisions that put our resources in the correct place.

Good schools are about much more than covering the curriculum and managing classrooms. Good schools help students to feel accepted, safe, and loved. Social and emotional learning (SEL) needs to come first. This is about connecting everybody and making him or her feel safe and secure before you can get to academics. Relationship skills are more important today than ever. Too many of our students are struggling with all kinds of challenges at home, which inevitably affects their ability to focus and succeed in school. This makes the role of schools critical in creating a safe and loving environment. It also means that we have to look at the educational system and all its components.

Teachers cannot do this work alone. It matters whether the families of our students have stable housing, food security, health insurance, employment, mental health treatment services, and all the rest of it. The students need the support of the community to be successful. "Good communities make good schools, and good schools make good communities".



2021 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

NIKKI CHEREK

CHEREKNIKKI@GMAIL.COM
FACEBOOK: [NIKKI CHEREK FOR
GREENFIELD SCHOOL BOARD](#)



What are three priorities that you would like to accomplish during your time in office?

1. Social/emotional health and well-being. I will promote and implement a strong response to bullying. I support a curriculum that addresses bullying throughout the school year (not just once a year during a school-wide assembly). We need to engage and involve the Community. An example: inviting community members into our schools that were impacted by bullying and child suicide. Speaking directly to the students about their personal story and its influence on their lives. I will educate our parents. Change will occur when we engage our entire community. Due to the pandemic, many students are experiencing trauma from loss of a family member and/or friend. Some students are also experiencing anxiety and depression. I would advocate for support from CARES Act Stimulus Funding for staffing pupil services, adding additional support for our students. Ex. (School psychologist, social workers, and counselors).

2. I will work toward developing and supporting equity and equality initiatives for our District. Equity in education should be a goal everyone can get behind. All Greenfield students should have equal opportunity for success. Equality means treating every student the same, equity means making sure each student has the support they need to be successful. This requires putting systems in place to ensure that every child has an equal chance for success. It is imperative that we have a diverse curriculum throughout all of our schools. A curriculum in which all students can see themselves.

3. To develop and increase the voices of teachers, students, and community within Greenfield's School District. I plan to focus on the quiet voices in the back. Although some voices may be louder, I will ensure that there is proper representation for ALL. I will be open-minded to what is best for the whole district, not just parts of it. I have learned that being a strong problem solver means I must consider issues from multiple perspectives.

I am excited about the direction that the district is headed. With so many other educational options available to today's students, we need to keep public school relevant. The key to this is being fiscally responsible and advocating for the value of a strong public education system at every opportunity and every level of government.

When you vote, ask yourself, "What kind of community do we want to create so are kids are successful?" I will bring collaborative, community minded leadership. I will listen and communicate with respect and civility. Together our students will launch into the world well equipped to solve the next generation's challenges. It takes a partnership between Parents, Schools, and The Greenfield Community to raise GREAT kids!