

1. Name: Anna Ibrahim
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3. Why are you running for School Board?

I believe that one of the most important factors to maintaining the health and success of a city is its public schools system. As a resident and passionate school board member I want to insure that Ferndale continues to support and recognize that a stable, thriving city and a successful school district are inextricably linked. I would consider it an honor to continue serving as a school board trustee as we move ahead in this period of growth.

4. If you have children, do they attend Ferndale Public Schools? Why or why not?

My husband and I moved to Ferndale after we both retired so that we could see our grandchildren and children on a more frequent basis. My granddaughter has been in Ferndale School System since she was in pre-school where she attended Grant. When I would take her to school or pick her up I felt a "vibe" that was impossible to miss and I loved how happy she was. She's now a freshman, is involved in marching band, swimming and track and continues to thrive. I continue to be impressed with Ferndale Schools and all of the talented staff who work so hard for our students and parents.

5. What specific experiences have you had that prepare you to serve on the School Board?

I was a Respiratory Therapist for twenty years; most of that time as Department Manager. I oversaw a staff of 50 people, was responsible for developing budgets and other management functions. After that, I returned to school to earn a degree in Secondary Education and taught high school for fifteen years, during which time I also served as a Union Representative. I feel that holding those three different positions gives me a deeper understanding and more holistic perspective of the roles each group (Administration/Management and Teachers/Staff/Union) plays in supporting a school district. Finally, as a grandmother and senior citizen and tax payer, I can work as a liaison with a population that often feels ignored or forgotten. As a senior citizen, I know that quality public schools don't become less vital just because **"I don't have kids in the school district, anymore"** and I want to insure that that message is sent.

I also want to make sure seniors voices and concerns are addressed and that their involvement in the school culture is encouraged and nurtured.

6. What do you see as the appropriate role of a School Board Member when they disagree with an action of the Superintendent?

The School Board Member represents the community at large and its role is to insure that the school mission and vision is adhered to. As such, I look at my role as one of oversight and stewardship; to do my part in holding everyone accountable for putting children and their welfare first and foremost. Every aspect of a School Board Member's purpose is to insure that students needs are the primary driver of everything we do. Disagreements may occur, but I will always fall back to what is best for kids to guide my decisions.

7. How does the district involve citizens in decision making? Please give examples.

Ferndale Public Schools use a combination of social media (Facebook), print media ("Local" Community Education Magazine), their website, and a variety of community/school groups (Ferndale Ambassadors, Ferndale Diversity Committee, etc.) to communicate in the most transparent means possible their mission, vision, goals, and projects. Communication is open and frequent, but what gives Ferndale its reputation for being inclusive and community focused, is their commitment to engaging Ferndale citizens in decisions that affect them. They invite feedback and encourage involvement from all who live within the district—Royal Oak Township, Pleasant Ridge, Oak Park, and Ferndale. Within the past year, a strategic planning workshop was held for community members from a variety of organizations, groups, and churches. More than 70 people—all committed to excellent education and passionate about their schools gave up a Saturday to make their questions, concerns, and suggestions heard. Recently, a open meeting was held so that community members could hear a details of a future bond proposal. They were asked for feedback and questions by the Superintendent and Board as well as a call to take part in work groups as the process unfolds.

8. How is progress on the strategic plan monitored?

Committee of the Whole Meetings are held monthly (or more often if needed) which gives the School Board members the opportunity to review and analyze data pertinent to District Strategic Plan progress. The Board receives frequent and regular reports from the Superintendent whose performance evaluation is based, in part, on successfully meeting strategic plan goals. And finally, regular School Board meetings provide the community with the opportunity to request information and assess how well the Strategic Plan is being followed.

9. How would you describe the role diversity plays in the district?

Ferndale is a diverse school district and as such bears a responsibility to its community to be responsive to students and parents and advocate for equity and equality. This is being actively and thoughtfully carried out by Ferndale staff, administrators and school board members in partnership with Midwest & Plains Equity Assistance Center. In addition, Ferndale Public Schools provided the impetus for the development of the Diversity Committee, a district wide group of parents, community leaders, students, teachers, and administrators all who are deeply committed to insuring that ".....all students will receive an exceptional education that prepares them for college, careers, and success in a diverse society." (FPS Mission Statement)

10. What are three assets of the district?

Three assets of Ferndale Public School district are its diverse population, the steady growth of the city, and a large number of active and engaged community members who champion both the city and the school district.

11. Name three ways the district could improve.

First, we must actively seek out opportunities for Ferndale's Senior Citizen population to become more involved with the district. This could be done through outreach programs that focus on student service for Senior Citizens AND Senior

Citizens volunteering in the schools. Second, we need to continue building upgrades, infrastructure repairs, and structural renovations that reflect and enhance 21st century learning practices. Finally, FPS needs to prepare all of our students from pre-K to 12 to function successfully and safely in a digital world by providing them with the necessary technology and thorough training for staff and students .