

- Chris Wright
 - Screening Specialist, Molina Health Care
 - Current Oshkosh School Board Member “Treasurer”, Former Town of Algoma Board Supervisor, Former Winnebago County Board Member, Youth Coach, Former Reeve Union Board President, Former Vice President of UW-Oshkosh Student Council, Former Advocap Board of Directors Members, Former Winnebago County IT Committee Member
1. What do you believe is your primary responsibility as a board member? What will be your most important objective if you are elected to the board? My primary responsibility as a School Board Member is to ensure that as many students as possible are College, Career and Community ready when they leave the Oshkosh Area School District. My most important objective as a School Board member is to ensure that the school district is putting the right programming, curriculum and leadership in place to ensure that as many students as possible are College, Career and Community ready when they leave our School District. I believe that we have made great strides in these areas. The relationship between the Chamber and District is strengthening. Literacy Scores are up 3 percent, staff engagement has increased dramatically and we are losing fewer and fewer students to other districts each year.
 2. There are distinct differences between each of the four candidates who are seeking positions on the Board of Education. Please outline what distinguishes your candidacy and qualifications from those of your opponents? I would say that my proven track record of getting things done as an elected official and my connections to the schools and community distinguish me. As a Town of Algoma Supervisor we were able to get the first park built and we were able to put in place a really good comprehensive plan and infrastructure strategy. During college I was a part of Reeve Union’s rebuild. Now as a School Board Member we are reshaping and improving facilities, curriculum, staff engagement and our key performance indicators. In a few years the community will be really proud of the work that is occurring now. Currently I have 3 children attending OASD and they are in 4th, 7th and 9th Grade. They attend West High School, Traeger Middle School and Tipler Middle School/Alps. I have kids in Elementary, Middle School and High School. So I am really invested in OASD and its future success.
 3. The Department of Public Instruction produces annual report cards that indicate overall student achievement and engagement. While Oshkosh Area School District received an overall score of 68.4, which puts it in the “Meets Expectations” category, there are still opportunities for improvement when compared to the rest of the state in Advanced and Proficiency ratings such as English Language Arts & Mathematics. As a member of the Board of Education, what will you do to ensure improved scores in these two areas? First of all I would like to highlight that Oshkosh North finished first in the FVA on the last DPI report card and that Oshkosh West finished 3rd. That means that our system is successful at improving students' outcomes. Oshkosh North finished ahead of high

schools like Kimberly, Hortonville and Neenah etc. Oshkosh West finished ahead of all of them except Neenah. With that being said we still have a lot more work to do. Last year our literacy scores improved by 3 percentage points and I think that we are putting systems in place that will be able to make that growth continual and consistent. The key components in our literacy and math programs that will need to keep being refined and improved continually are high quality staff retention “Teacher engagement has improved greatly”, our Key Performance Indicators “we didn’t have those when I got on the board” and curriculum “we will have some curriculum changes in the near future that we will need to get right “I will not approve those until I am confident that they will lead to better outcomes for all of our students”. I believe that focusing on those areas will allow OASD and its students to reach its full potential.

4. OASD is committed to ensuring that all students graduate College, Career and Community Ready (CCCR). What qualities do you feel a student graduating College, Career and Community Ready possesses? Do you feel that OASD is currently succeeding in creating CCCR graduates? If not, what areas need improvement, and how would you help facilitate that as a member of the Board of Education? I feel like a lot of our students are graduating College, Career and Community Ready. I think that continuing to strengthen our relationships in the community with the Chamber and Businesses will make even more students College, Career and Community Ready. As a current Board Member I am in regular contact with Business Leaders in the Community and we have continual dialog about employment needs and the job skills that OASD students will need to be successful.
5. Tech Education- the old Industrial Arts programs - has been slowly disappearing for many years for various reasons. Please describe your thoughts as to the need for these programs. Describe how much emphasis/ weight you personally would put on this in your decision making process as well as from a policy, expectations and accountability stance? I think that these programs are needed and that our district is improving in this area. The Old Industrial Arts programs are greatly linked to having qualified teachers, community partners and proper facilities. Middle School Students at the new Val Phillips Middle School now have more access and better programming in this area because of the new Middle School that our community built. Programming improvements have been made to the old Industrial Arts programs at North High School and the relationships between the Chamber, Businesses and community have been improving in this area. Personally my Middle School Child has participated in the Old Industrial Arts programs offered at Carl Traeger Middle School. I will continue to advocate for access to this programming and for the continual relationship building between OASD and the Business community.
6. Long-Range Planning - Oshkosh has made significant progress regarding facility improvement, and current examples are the opening of the new Val Phillips Middle School in the fall of 2023 and the new Menominee Elementary School, which is currently under construction. However, Oshkosh area residents have seen their annual OASD tax bills increase by over 30% since 2020. With an updated 10-year Facility Plan in place, please describe how you will stabilize and prioritize this expenditure growth with more proposed school improvement projects on the horizon. Also, discuss your thoughts on

how the OASD should address replacement plans and long-term preventative maintenance on its aging facilities, especially our high schools? Our School Districts Facilities and Maintenance needs have to be on a regular and consistent schedule. For too long we didn't have a proper building Replacement and Maintenance plan. Because of decades of non planning we got ourselves into a building needs crisis "at one point building maintenance needs were well over 100 million dollars". Fortunately the Community and Board came together and developed a comprehensive Long Range Facilities Plan to address these needs. The Community and School District will never be able to thrive with old outdated and non efficient buildings. However it is critical that this plan is implemented properly and that the Tax Levy is at the forefront of this implementation process. I voted in favor of restructuring our debt and because of that decision we have saved roughly 40 million dollars in interest payments. Additionally we are now self funding OASDs health insurance. These decisions will allow the community to have the option of addressing our Long Term Facility Needs with little impact to the Tax Levy. Furthermore the consolidation of our secondary schools is contributing to a lot of operational savings. The NorthSide secondary schools consolidation will lead to between 1.5 to 2 millions dollars of Annual consolidation saving. Our facilities are becoming more modern, attractive and efficient while offering better learning opportunities. This process will allow us to stabilize or reduce the Tax Levy and put our Facilities on a non compressed building Replacement and Maintenance Schedule. In fact the City portion of the School District Tax Bill stabilized this year with little to no increase.

7. What reforms, if any, would you support to fund public school operation? What is your view of school choice? I applaud the State for dedicating more funding to Public Schools within the past budget cycle. I have no problem with parents having the choice to pick which school fits their child's needs the best.
8. WDPI studies report concerning trends within the current education workforce, including declining teacher retention rates on new teachers within their first five years, education program enrollment is still below levels seen in 2008-09, and only 67% of possible new teachers entering the public education system along with high numbers of unfilled K-12 education positions. As a member of the Board of Education, what will you do to ensure improved retention rates among educators? Attracting and retaining quality teachers has been a priority of mine during my time on the Board of Education. I believe that we attract and retain talent by creating a positive work environment that compensates teachers and staff members fairly. We have made some good strides in teacher pay by implementing some of the highest raises for teachers in the history of the district. Also, our staff engagement has increased dramatically. Additionally, continuing to build on the relationships that we have established with UW-O and other Universities will be crucial to attracting the best upcoming available talent.
9. The Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce is working with local businesses and the school district on programming to help create alternative/untraditional programming, such as ACE Academy in Fond du lac, that allows industry professionals to teach their skilled trade specialities directly to as many as 300 students within the existing school year using hands-on applications. With teacher shortages and upcoming building construction

already in consideration, would you consider adding alternative education options into strategic planning conversation if supported by the local business population? Yes, I would absolutely be open to his type of programming if it was supported by the local business population. I am a big believer in the trades. Part time I help pour concrete for a local concrete company and my father in law owned a local construction company for many years in Oshkosh. Also, my wife is currently working in management for one of the biggest manufacturing companies in Oshkosh. Connecting businesses in Oshkosh to the schools has been and it will continue to be a big priority for me as a School Board Member.

10. What are the literacy challenges students face, and how would you address them?
The Oshkosh School District has roughly 750 kids that are English Second Language Learners and 61 different languages are spoken within the School District. Our ESOL program is terrific at teaching English to these kids but at the same time we also need to ensure that our curriculum and teaching methods are coordinated properly with their individual needs. Also, we have roughly 1450 children in the school district with Special Education needs. So it is important that our Literacy Curriculum is tailored properly to each one of the students' individual needs. The coordination of having the proper structure, teachers and curriculum is vital to the success of each student. I think that our programming and instruction for Literacy is improving but Literacy has to continue to be our top priority. It is paramount that we stay focused on Literacy because every child deserves to be given the gift of reading.