

CANDIDATE BACKGROUND QUESTIONNAIRE

We appreciate your interest in receiving the recommended status of the Wright County BPOU. Please fill out the information below.



Personal information

Name: Mike Florkowski

Office Seeking: Delano School Board ISD 879

Question 1. Why are you running for this office?

My wife Melissa and I are raising four boys here in Delano. We're deeply invested in the community and schools, and we want to do our part to preserve what makes this community special while helping prepare our district for the challenges ahead.

That said, running for school board wasn't originally on my bingo card this year. However, multiple parents and leaders in our community approached me and encouraged me to run. So, I reflected on what I could contribute and on the responsibility we all have to step forward when our community asks us to serve.

I quickly realized that when your community is calling you to step forward, you believe you have the experience and ability to make a difference, and your family supports it, the only answer is, "Here I am. Send me."

Question 2. What are your top 3 priorities and what specific actions will you take to fix them?

My first priority is that Delano schools should be a reflection of the Delano community, not St. Paul. I want to preserve the traditions and community identity that make Delano special, to exercise meaningful local control wherever legally possible, and make decisions based on what works for our students rather than simply following ideological trends. This includes but is not limited to standing against the purchase or use of "MyGenderDolls" or any other products, programs, or materials like them by Delano schools, and petitioning the MSHSL and MN House/Senate members to prioritize the safety of our daughters and granddaughters in girls' sports, locker rooms, and bathrooms. These things can and should be done while simultaneously working to treat every child with dignity, compassion, and respect—the two are not mutually exclusive.

Second, I deeply believe in Parents as Partners. Parents must have meaningful visibility into what their children are learning and a genuine voice in all

meaningful decisions affecting their children. Parents and educators won't always agree, but transparency, mutual respect, and collaboration are essential to maintaining trust.

Third is Academic Excellence. Our primary mission must remain educating students - strong core academics, critical thinking, career and college readiness, and opportunities for all students regardless of differing abilities and goals, especially for those students who need extra support to achieve their best selves. No kids in Delano schools should ever be left behind when all they need is a little extra support (special education, tutoring, etc.)

Question 3. What do you hope to accomplish?

I hope to help preserve what makes Delano Schools exceptional while ensuring the district remains transparent and accountable to the families and taxpayers it serves. My priorities are maintaining academic excellence, strengthening parental involvement and transparency, supporting and retaining outstanding teachers and staff, and ensuring that every tax dollar is used responsibly and focused on educating students.

I also want to strengthen local control. Decisions about our schools should reflect the needs and values of Delano families rather than political agendas or unnecessary mandates imposed from outside our community. Parents should be treated as partners in their children's education, and classrooms should remain focused on academics, critical thinking, and preparing students for successful futures.

Finally, I hope to bring stronger financial and governance expertise to the board. With significant enrollment growth, leadership transitions, aging facilities, and increasing pressure on district finances, the next several years will require disciplined long-term planning. I want Delano to continue providing an excellent education while making responsible decisions about spending, facilities, staffing, and the tax burden placed on our community.

Question 4. Why do you believe Wright County Republicans recommendation will be helpful?

School board elections are nonpartisan, and I believe voters often have limited information available to help them understand the values and priorities of individual candidates. A recommendation from the Wright County Republicans would help voters who share my values identify me as a candidate who supports parental involvement, local control, academic excellence, fiscal responsibility, transparency, and accountability in our public schools.

I also believe the recommendation would help broaden awareness of my campaign and allow me to reach more families and taxpayers throughout the district. While I intend to represent every student, parent, staff member, and taxpayer if elected, I believe the principles of limited government, responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars, individual liberty, and strong families provide an important foundation for effective school board leadership.

Question 5. How will you use the Wright County Republicans recommendation?

If recommended by the BPOU, I will first ask for their guidance in how to best leverage and communicate the recommendation. I would then communicate the recommendation in the manner suggested including but not limited to social media (Facebook, Instagram), printed flyers/handouts, and verbally via door knocking, always being mindful to follow whatever restrictions or guidance is provided by the BPOU in properly sharing their recommendation.

Question 6. What are 3 positions that align you with on the Minnesota Republican party platform?

- 1) Local control + fully funded mandates. The platform says core curriculum standards should be determined locally and that state mandates should include a funding mechanism that does not burden school districts. Decisions affecting Delano students should be made as close to Delano families and educators as possible, and when the state imposes new requirements, it should provide the resources necessary to implement them.
- 2) Strong academics and measurable outcomes. The platform supports statewide assessment of basic academic skills, rigorous core standards, and a well-rounded, knowledge-based curriculum. Our first responsibility is making sure every Delano student receives an excellent education. We should maintain rigorous academic standards, measure whether students

are actually learning, identify where we're falling short, and give teachers the resources they need to succeed.

- 3) Financial transparency and accountability. The platform explicitly calls for public schools to be accountable for the funds they receive and spend. Every dollar entrusted to the district belongs to taxpayers and should ultimately serve students. The board has a responsibility to demand transparency, measure results, eliminate unnecessary spending, and make sure resources reach classrooms and the people directly serving students.

Question 7. Have you participated in any Republican activities? (attend meetings, volunteer ie. walk in parades, delegate) *Please give years of volunteering and being a delegate*

I have been a Republican supporter and voter since 2000. At the beginning of this year, I decided to get directly involved with the local party/BPOU by participating in the Delano caucus and attending as many BPOU meetings as my schedule would allow. I was elected to be and served as a BPOU delegate, and I was elected to be a CD6/state alternate delegate for which I attended both conventions, and I was seated and served as a delegate at both.

I have also volunteered for the BPOU at the county fair and ice cream social. I intend to continue to volunteer and participate at meetings for the BPOU as my schedule allows regardless of whether I am elected to school board.

Question 8. Do you have any of our BPOU members who are supporting your campaign?

Karen Arens, Joe McDonald, Todd Belz, Pete Froehle, Jason Franzen

Question 9. Are you the incumbent for the office in which you are seeking election?

No. This is my first time running for any elected public office.

Question 10. Have you ever been convicted of a felony level offense?

No, I have never been convicted, charged, or arrested for a felony.

Thank you for completing the Wright County Republican Parties candidate questionnaire.