

Envision Greater Fond du Lac - 2025 School Board Candidate Survey

*Thank you for your willingness to serve our community. Envision Greater Fond du Lac advocates for policies that support economic development, workforce growth, and business friendly environments. Your responses will help our members better understand your vision for Fond du Lac School District's future. ***Please keep your responses to 200 words or less****

1. Why do you want to serve on the Fond du Lac School District Board?

I was a special education teacher in the Fond du Lac School District for 33 years. I am running to improve the quality of education in the Fond du Lac School District. In order to do that we need to create an environment that supports current teachers and attracts highly qualified teachers to our district. I believe that the Fond du Lac School District should be a place where administrators and teachers work collaboratively to provide an exceptional education for our students. I would like to see better communication between the school board, the administrators, the teachers, and the families of the students in the Fond du Lac School District. With my special education background I would also like to see students with special needs being serviced in a way that best meets their needs.

2. What do you believe is the greatest strength and the greatest weakness of the Fond du Lac school district and how will you build upon and improve each of them?

I believe that the greatest strength of the Fond du Lac School District is our teachers and what they have to bring to the classroom. I think we can build on that by allowing teachers to have autonomy in their teaching. We need to allow them to be able to use their strengths while teaching. I would take a look at the curriculum and see how we can get some wiggle room in it to allow teachers to add their own strengths and not be robotic in their teaching.

I believe that the greatest weakness of the Fond du Lac School District is where we spend our money. I would take a closer look at where we are spending the money and investigate to see if this is the most efficient use of our funds. I know that we do not get the full funding from the state for special education, so I would like to get involved in pushing for that so we do not have to take it from the general fund.

3. As the workforce landscape continues to evolve, how do you believe the school district should adapt to better prepare students for future careers? What specific strategies or partnerships would you advocate for to enhance workforce readiness, including hands-on learning opportunities, career exploration, and collaboration with local businesses?

I do know that we have the ACE Academy at the high school and they bring in companies to teach the students different trades. There is also a Youth Apprenticeship Program in which students can take classes for part of the day to get credits and then work the other part of the day. Many of these students

end up getting a job with the company they are doing the apprenticeship with when they finish high school. These are all great programs that I would like to see continued and possibly increase the number of companies that participate in these programs.

4. If elected, how will you ensure transparency and communication between the school board, parents, teachers, and the community?

If I am elected, I will ensure transparency by having an “open door” policy for all. I am planning on having a schedule of the days and times that I will be at each of the buildings so that teachers, other staff and students can talk with me and I can see what is happening in our schools. I also would like to have scheduled monthly coffee chats at local coffee shops so that anyone can come and talk with me about their concerns and the things they think are going well in our district.

5. What are your priorities for improving student achievement and closing any existing learning gaps?

Student achievement is very important to me, but I am concerned at how we are measuring it with all of the testing. Our students seem to be taking tests all of the time and the teachers are being asked to teach to the tests so that the scores will be good for the school report card. I believe that students will do just as well on tests if there are fewer tests and teachers are able to teach and have autonomy in their teaching. We need to remember that the tests are a snapshot of one day in the life of a student and if they are having a bad day or something is happening in their life that we do not know about, that could affect their score.

I would also like to look at how we are structuring student days. Students need to be physically active as well as academically proficient. I am interested in educating the whole child. For instance elementary children learn better when they are allowed to get their wiggles out throughout the day.

6. What is your position on the April 1, 2025, referendum?

I am in favor of the referendum. Of course, I am not a fan of raising people's taxes, but I feel these are important items and we need to do what is right for our students and staff. I would like to see secure entrances and updated security cameras in our high school. With all the school shootings that have happened all across the country you can never be sure and we need to protect our students and the people that work with them. Part of it is for operations and continuing maintenance. We need to make sure that we are able to employ the best staff for our students and keep all of our buildings up so that they have a viable and safe place to learn.