

THURSDAY, MARCH 18 @ 6PM

Meet the Candidates for District 101 Board of Education Election

Link for Meet the Candidate virtual event will be sent out one week prior to the event.

Candidates

Catherine Moon Dudley

Catherine is a proud D101 mom and alumna, and a Children's Librarian at Thomas Ford Memorial Library in Western Springs. She has a Master's Degree in Library and Information Sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Bachelor's in Communication from Elmhurst College. Catherine has been a long-time active member in the community serving on numerous committees for D101 (art appreciation, passports, yearbook, and fortnightly co-chair), First Congregational Church (pre-school committee and Christian education), and as a Girl Scouts Troop Leader. Her passion for education has led her to library work, where she enjoys working with young patrons so they can realize their fullest potential. She has spent hours in the classroom and believes working collaboratively with faculty is critical to the success of our students, especially as we face quickly evolving challenges to classroom instruction. Catherine would be honored to further serve the community as a member of the Board of Education.

Brett Lettiere

I have served as a D101 board member for the past 4 years. My wife, Leslie, and I, both educators, moved to Western Springs 11 years ago strictly because of D101 schools. My son, Beckett, is a student at McClure, and my daughter graduated from D101 and is currently at Lyons Township. We are grateful for the education that D101 provides. Even during this pandemic year, we have witnessed our son having a great educational experience. So much attention goes into the curriculum and instruction in the district that our students are ready to be successful afterwards.

I am running for one more term because I think my experience in and passion for education and my experience on the board puts me in a position to help D101 continue to be a great district. I have worked as a teacher for over 20 years. I am a teacher and division chair at an area high school. The perspective of an educator can continue to offer some perspective to our talented board and admin team. During this upcoming term, the board will see the retirement of Superintendent Barnhart and will need to make sure the transition into the next superintendent is seamless for our students, families, and faculty. We will need to continue to find ways not only to stay great but make sure we continue to be innovative for our students.

Ted McNabb

My name is Ted McNabb and I am very excited to be running for D101 School Board. As a product of D101, I hope to contribute to what I believe is a great education in this district. My wife Kate and I live in Forest Hills and have 5 children, three of whom are at Forest Hills Elementary and the other two will be entering the district next year. I have very fond memories of my time at Forest Hills and McClure.

I graduated from the University of Dayton with a BS in Marketing in 2001. From there I went to work with my father at Insulation Fabricators Inc. I started in customer service and spent time in numerous departments before becoming CEO in 2013. In 2015 I successfully sold IFI to a Private Equity firm. Currently, I am a Senior VP at Alpha Engineered Products and am on the board at Edgewood Valley CC.

I have always tried to bring patience, understanding, and empathy to any challenging situation. I promise to do the same if I am elected to the board. I hope that you will consider me for D101 School Board, it would be an honor to serve.

Dan Pansing

I'm Dan Pansing and I'm pleased to be running for the District 101 school board. I've lived in Western Springs for 13 years with my wife Karen (Bolin), a D101 alum (K-8), and our daughters, Anna, a McClure 7th grader, and Madeline, a Field Park 4th grader. Like many in Western Springs, our children are our priority, and I have enjoyed getting to know families and kids in the community through coaching, Exec at First Congo and other volunteer activities over the years. I care deeply about education, and became interested in running for the D101 school board during my three years on the WSFEE board. If elected, I look forward to the opportunity to continue giving back to this fantastic community.

My 20+ years as a partner at Merit Capital have involved investing in, advising the leadership of, and serving as a board member for, several private businesses. I believe my experiences at Merit will allow me to contribute to the D101 board in a number of key areas. These include strategy development, continuous improvement as well as financial analysis, controls and budgeting. Through my role, I have also developed an appreciation for the critical importance people play in successful organizations. In the case of D101, I believe this requires a focus on maintaining our remarkable administration, teachers and staff. We must prioritize attracting, training and retaining the finest educators available to drive exceptional outcomes for the students and families of D101. Given this priority, I was pleased to serve as a member of the parent interview committee for the new McClure principal earlier this year.

I take the school board's responsibility for overseeing the education of our children very seriously. If elected to this position, I pledge to listen, learn and work hard, applying my personal and professional network and experiences to this important position. I ask for your vote on April 6th.

Caitlin Sendaydiego

As a product of D101, I returned to Western Springs 13 years ago with my husband, Desi, seeking the same educational excellence for our children, one currently at McClure and three at Laidlaw. It has been a privilege to serve on the Board these past four years. I am running for re-election to ensure every student is equipped academically and socially/emotionally for the future, encourage teacher innovation and enthusiasm, and maintain the District's financial stability.

In my first term, I served as the Finance Chair for two years and the WSFEE liaison for two years. We negotiated a new teacher contract, added Before and After Care, oversaw leadership changes at two schools, saved \$1.9M by refinancing bonds, and thoughtfully addressed the challenges of the pandemic. My decisions have been driven by the District's core values of putting students first and continuous improvement.

In addition to my Board experience, I bring professional experience managing teams, developing budgets, and analyzing data to optimize performance. In the community, I led the Newcomers and Neighbors Club for three years, served on Grand Avenue Preschool's parent committee for eight years, and frequently engaged at Laidlaw and McClure as a school volunteer and PTO committee co-chair.

Emily Zimmerman

I am excited at the prospect of serving on the Board of Education. If elected, I am confident I will positively impact our children's education. COVID-19 affects all aspects of life; however, the past calendar year of classroom education, transformed by pandemic, greatly concerns me. I want to ensure that everything possible is done to get our kids where they need to be both academically and socially. I have two young children, a first grade son at Field Park and a 4 year old daughter at the Montessori of Western Springs. My daughter will be starting kindergarten at Field Park in the fall. Obviously, I have a vested interest in how the district will plan and proceed. As a certified public accountant, I believe that I could be a strong asset to the Board's finance committee. I started my career as an auditor for Ernst and Young. I went on to work for UBS, performing monthly accounting duties and preparing financial statements for the hedge fund and real estate investment advisers. Simultaneously, I served on condominium association boards. I found many ways to run things more efficiently and make sure money was spent where most necessary. Additionally, I have been helping our community in a positive way as an active member of the Hinsdale Junior Woman's Club. Most notably, I helped raise awareness and money for Seaspar's new multi-sensory room in Western Springs. Having a sister with a disability sparked a particular interest for me in Special Education. I also love volunteering in the classroom and have done so with art appreciation, holiday parties, and field trips. This year has made me more aware of the importance of the Board of Education. I appreciate listening to the needs of parents, teachers, and students, and as a Board of Education member, I am confident I would get things done and add value to Western Springs School District D101.