



Tommy Coy

1. What particular experiences or skills have prepared you to serve as a board member?

Having worked at colleges and universities for the past 25 years, I am very familiar with evolving trends and issues facing today's students at all levels. My contributions to commissions, community agencies and boards have also enhanced my ability to represent, consider and appreciate the views of others. I believe my goal of constructive, open-minded dialogue will be an enormous benefit to educators and students alike.

2. What do you see as the primary work of the board of education?

It is the responsibility of the board of education to secure an atmosphere of learning and growth for the student body, while respecting the interests and values of the community it represents. Board members have a responsibility to work together to utilize these viewpoints while creating and enforcing policies, processes and priorities for the students, faculty, staff and stakeholders of Germantown Hills School District #69.

3. What is a school board member's role and responsibility?

Board members carry the responsibility of promoting civil discourse and mutual understanding. While the board isn't a place to promote personal ideologies, each member brings a unique set of skills and viewpoints to the table, and that diversity of thought is such a gift for our students. Board members need to be actively involved in the community and fully understand key issues facing neighbors and students, so they can best represent these viewpoints and values at the board level.

4. What is your vision for education in the Germantown Hills School District Community?

One of the main reasons we moved to Germantown Hills was the stellar reputation of the school district, and I feel so fortunate to live in a caring community that supports our educational needs. My vision for education in the Germantown Hills School District community is for the district to continue down that path of excellence. In order to achieve this goal we will need to encourage and motivate our students to achieve their full individual potential, while assisting them in finding a sense of belonging and community at Germantown Hills #69. We also need to help find a fiscally responsible way to recruit and retain the elite educators we need to help our students achieve these goals.

5. What do you see as the major issue(s) facing our school district? Public education?

One of the largest issues we are seeing in students is a significant decline in interpersonal social skills and self-advocacy. Many students have become more disconnected, often due to increased screen time and virtual interactions. It is important that we are focused on a thriving co-curricular education which is accessible to all students.

A second issue we have to be aware of is fiscal responsibility. It is important that we align our spending in intentional ways, take advantage of cost savings and successfully forecast for the future.

6. How does a school board balance the need to provide a quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden?

The school board is responsible for setting spending priorities that will drive the greatest return to encourage and motivate our students. There are many programs that we could be doing, at a cost. A school board needs to be actively assessing data to determine what programs need to stop and what new ones need to be started. In our current budget system, it is important that we look at the ultimate benefit of how we spend our finances.

7. Why should you be elected to the Board of Education?

We moved to this community largely in part of the education it will afford our daughter, who will be entering kindergarten this fall. Germantown Hills Dist. #69 has a reputation as one of the best districts in the region. There is, however, always room for improvement and growth. We want to set our students up for success - both in their educational path and their role as a productive member of our community. As a lifelong educator at the collegiate level, I believe that I can present a different lens for what students will need in the future to make them successful at both.