

Meet the NY Mills Public School Board Candidates

Five candidates are vying for the three open seats on the New York Mills Public School Board, with only one being an incumbent. In an effort to help voters get to know all the prospective school board candidates, we reached out via email to each candidate with several questions for information posters. Election Day is Tuesday, November 8.

AmyAnn Werner Mursu



Why are you running for the Board of Education? If elected, what will be your priorities? I care very much about the NYM school system. I want to inspire board decisions that are not rubberstamped but are instead looked at through every possible angle and guided by evidence and logic-- minimizing judgments based on unfounded fears, herd mentality, popularity contests, political affiliations, and biases. As an attorney and mediator, I ask hard questions and do not make assumptions; this allows me to thoroughly analyze issues and seek creative options that often get overlooked

Is there a particular issue that motivates you to serve on the board of education? I have a vested interest in the success of

the NYM School. Besides being a taxpayer who wants to see that we are excellent stewards of our funds, my oldest daughter recently graduated from NYM, and I have five more children set to graduate every few years from NYM until 2037

What do you see as the major issue(s) facing the NYM School District? Public education? My nationwide pipedream would be to replace all standardized testing and grades with teachers, students, and parents routinely discussing the child's development. We need to encourage authentic learning in which the students are involved in meaningful decision-making instead of rote memorization and a series of rewards and punishments.

What should your school district do to better prepare students as citizens? Encourage volunteerism, support mentorships within the community, and provide robust training in mediation and debate

In what school district or community activities/organizations have you been involved?

NYM School Strategic Plan Committee Member; volunteer for NYM Youth Wrestling Club; pro bono attorney for Northwest Legal Services; Perham Health Foundation Board Member; member of the Apostolic Lutheran Church; past volunteer NYM mock trial coach; past 4-H club leader; past board member Lakes Region Arts Council; past Lakes Area Penguin Swimmer board member

What is your vision for education in this community? Our educational priorities should be (1) encouraging a love and ownership of learning; (2) promoting curiosity, creativity, engagement, and out-of-the-box thinking with student-led, collaborative, project-based learning that incorporates all types of subjects; and (3) fostering individual responsibility, independence, work ethic, empathy, and resilience. The school board must support these priorities by encouraging, actively soliciting, and considering input from staff, parents, and students to improve communication and transparency.