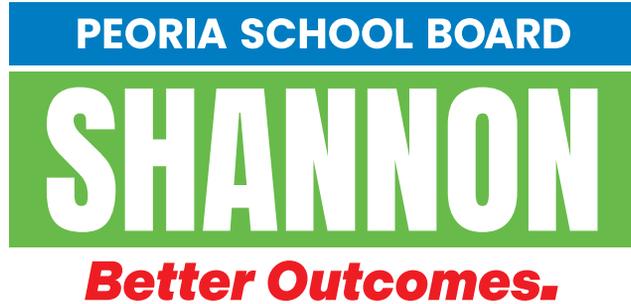


# Doug Shannon

Candidate for Peoria Public School Board



February, 2026

Dear Fellow Peoria Public School District 150 Residents,

I stepped up to run for Peoria Public Schools (PPS) School Board to put STUDENTS FIRST. My motivation to run for the school board is to ensure the education, development and safety of students and their teachers.

I am committed to serving students, parents, teachers, and taxpayers so we can achieve better outcomes for every student.

As a candidate for PPS school board, I believe you deserve the complete case for my election and so I thank you for considering the substantive explanation laid out in this lengthy letter because managing our schools is one of the most important roles in our community. You deserve a detailed case for my election—not soundbites.

The majority of our property tax dollars go to PPS budget—\$250 million per year— and properly managing your funds that are targeted for educating our children comes with a solemn fiduciary responsibility to guide that money soundly.

**Our current PPS School Board does not have a board member with professional business management or financial expertise. As someone with successful experience in this crucial field, I'm running for our school board to bring my professional business and financial skills to the table in order to:**

- Establish a firm priority for enhanced school safety. We must reduce fights, assaults on teachers and staff, and especially gun violence. Teachers cannot teach and students cannot learn while in disruptive environments.
- Put students first, with a higher percentage of our tax dollars going into the classroom to advance academic achievement, setting up a healthy future for them and our community.
- Drive change to include more input from teachers on classroom mandates.
- Make our school system more responsive to community concerns.
- Provide the fundamental skill set of guiding your property tax dollars in the wisest, most responsible manner. No current board member has this level of financial experience. As a result, the school district has been late for three consecutive audits. In addition, our CFO is retiring which makes the need for financial expertise all the greater.

**We need to make common sense reforms to make the vital job of teaching safer with less micromanaging. Teachers deserve fewer mandates that get in the way of fostering a natural learning environment. The School Board and administration must give teachers the support they deserve to ensure classroom discipline is maintained in each classroom so students can learn and teachers can teach in a safe setting.**

Only with more efficient spending of our \$250 million budget can we begin to reduce class sizes and improve educational outcomes for children and help teachers teach.

Professionally, I have been a self-employed fiduciary financial planner and wealth management advisor in Peoria since 2010. As a partner at West Point Financial on Water Street I have built my practice by serving and helping families plan for their futures. I have built a business that employs a team of five who help me manage investment assets for our clients that exceed PPS's annual budget.

**Those skills aren't a luxury—they're a necessity on our school board and can be vital to ensuring tax dollars are more wisely spent to assist teachers and parents in providing improved educational outcomes for all our students. Nothing in our community is more important.**

**I am not running in order to get involved in our schools—I already have been heavily involved for 12 years in numerous ways with the PPS schools my daughters have attended.**

**My passion for education is the overwhelming mission for service in my life outside of my faith and family. I have attended more school board meetings this year than a few incumbent board members.**

I also substitute teach about twice a month in schools across the district, in 19 buildings so far, with a goal to sub in every PPS school. Each time I gain valuable insights into the unique strengths, challenges, and day-to-day realities in our classrooms. I believe these glimpses are essential for anyone making decisions about our district's future.

I have immersed myself in our daughters' education and have interacted with numerous parents and teachers to improve our schools. I am knowledgeable about PPS policies, procedures, and history. I know PPS strengths as well as the frustrations of parents and teachers.

If elected, everything I do on the school board will be to nurture growth in students' academic and extracurricular pursuits in a fiscally responsible manner, while listening to teachers' concerns to enable them to do the best job possible.

The way to safeguard adequate funding of school programs is to budget carefully and maintain healthy financial reserves so PPS never has to make draconian cuts during national economic downturns. Proper budgeting can be a buffer to allow us to sustain funding during recessions.

**Better budgeting can also help us to strengthen and expand vocational education as demanded by the current workplace market. Additionally, wise budgeting can boost funding for special education programs that many families rely on. Better budgeting will also preserve encore and gifted programs that are so vital to fully engaging our students.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH**

I had a profound disagreement with the current board of education (BOE) with how they recently selected the superintendent search firm. They awarded the lucrative contract to a new firm that had done ZERO superintendent searches before—but still managed to pay 3 times the money of the much lower bids from firms with deep and successful experience in conducting nationwide superintendent searches. That extra money should be spent in the classroom helping teachers teach. But more importantly it demonstrates a lack of good management. Where else are dollars being unwisely managed?

As I offer my passion for education and professional expertise, I note my record of community service and especially in our schools.

**Here is a list of my service in our schools:**

- ♣ Peoria Public School Substitute Teacher (2024-2026)
- ♣ Peoria Public School Foundation Booster (2023-2026)
- ♣ Richwoods PTO Member (2023-2026)
- ♣ Reservoir PTO Member (2019-2025)
- ♣ Junior Achievement –Reservoir Gifted Academy RGA/Richwoods (2022-2025)
- ♣ RGA Washington DC/NYC Bus Leader (2024)
- ♣ RGA Washington DC/NYC Trip Chaperone (2022)
- ♣ Kellar PTO Member (2014-2021)
- ♣ Kellar PTO – Adult Night Out Chair (2016-2019)
- ♣ Kellar PTO – Fundraising Coordinator (2015-2019)

**Here is the listing of my other volunteer community service:**

- ♣ Richwoods Community Church (2023-2026)
- ♣ St Jude Booster (2021-2026)
- ♣ Rotary North (2026)
- ♣ LIMRA (2019-2026)
- ♣ Best Buddies International (2018-2026)
- ♣ MHCC (2014-2026)
- ♣ Edgewild HOA (2013-2026)
- ♣ The Resilience Project (2025)
- ♣ Big Brothers Big Sisters Booster (2018-2025)
- ♣ Peoria Friendship House – Event Chair (2021-2024)
- ♣ Peoria Friendship House – OTE Committee (2018-2020)
- ♣ Bethany Baptist Church (2016-2020)
- ♣ Easter Seals, Black & Blue Ball Committee (2014-2018)
- ♣ Creve Coeur Club (2011-2018)
- ♣ Peoria Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals of Greater Peoria (2010-2018)
- ♣ Girls on the Run (2017)
- ♣ NAIFA (2010-2017)
- ♣ CFCI Emerging Philanthropist Committee Chair (2013-2017)
- ♣ Peoria 40 Leaders Under Forty (2015)
- ♣ YPGP Committee Member (2013-2015)
- ♣ YPGP – Social Committee (2011-2015)
- ♣ Wounded Warrior Project (2014)
- ♣ Salvation Army – Toys for Tots Organizer (2011- 2014)
- ♣ Boy Scouts of America (2013)
- ♣ Lego Robotics (2012)
- ♣ METEC Housing Assistance Resource Center volunteer (2011)
- ♣ Community Leadership School (2011)
- ♣ Leaders Emerging to Advance Peoria graduate (2010)
- ♣ Relay For Life (2009-2010)
- ♣ Meals on Wheels (2009)

Many of the people who shaped my character are my teachers. I believe retaining and recruiting high quality teachers requires better budgeting to offer more competitive compensation and benefits. We also know people most often leave jobs because of working conditions and leadership culture. We can improve our culture without additional cost to our taxpayers. I can impact that change.

I've spoken to many PPS staff members who have shared concerns about not feeling comfortable speaking out of fear of retribution. We need to not only create an environment where teachers feel heard and supported, but where challenges such as class sizes, understaffing, behavioral disruptions, and staff safety are actually acknowledged.

I will be a relentless and vocal advocate for our amazing staff around the issues that limit their ability to do what they were called to do—teach our kids.

**I will always be a responsive school board member. I welcome calls from students, parents, administrators, taxpayers and teachers. If you ever have a concern or question I am available at 309.297.9616 or at dougshannon81@icloud.com.** I will handle your concerns confidentially when necessary and will always work through the appropriate channels for results.

Thank you for considering all I've had to say about this important election for our community. I welcome your support and I am asking for your vote on election day, March 17th 2026.

Respectfully,

Doug Shannon



Want to track your mail-in ballot? Scan here.



**Included in this photo of supporters of Doug Shannon for PPS School Board are half of the current and former PPS school board members endorsing Doug Shannon— Dan Adler, Dr. Anni Reinking, Christina Rose, Dan Walther, and Brenda Wilson. Other past board members endorsing Doug Shannon who are not pictured: Linda Daley, Chase Klaus, Rick Cloyd, Sean Matheson, and Chris Crawford.**

**Election Day: Tuesday, March 17, 2026**

Paid for by Shannon For Our Schools PAC