



**Chris Gearhart Cournoyer**

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As a former PV school board member/board president and parent of two students in the district, it is important to me that we maintain a board that understands their roles and responsibilities as school board members: to oversee the the superintendent, to be good stewards of the taxpayer dollars and to ensure every single student receives an excellent educational experience that prepares him or her for post-secondary success, no matter what they choose to do.

After a global pandemic, we are still seeing the effects that masking and keeping students out of school had on our kids. There are two incumbents running for re-election that voted to continue to keep masks on our kids in May 2021. The vote was overturned by the Iowa Legislature the following day and signed immediately into law by Governor Reynolds. We don't know what the future holds, but that is something everyone voting in this school board election should be considering.

I met with the PV school board with 2 other legislators recently and it was disappointing to me that the president of the board seems to think his role is to lecture the room with the talking points of the teachers union instead of productive advocacy with 3 legislators who all have children who have or are currently at PV. Attempts to correct misinformation and false narratives were met with resistance and I was struck by how others on the board even tried to speak up.

When I was on the school board, we had discussions where every member had a voice and we worked hard to reach consensus on very complex and difficult issues. That is how a board should function and it should be led by a president that facilitates those discussions, not dictates them.

I'm attaching a graphic of people that are running for school board for the right reasons: to put students first, to listen to constituents and speak up to ensure that PV continues to be the best district in the state of Iowa. (PV is a director district, not at large, so each school board member runs in a "ward" and only those who live in those wards can vote for them). If you are unsure what district you live in, see this map: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tKm2vPqUCfpzBITerlyHQaZWWDKOUoPB/view?fbclid=IwAR2hmchJ25kWW85t\\_bSkohDBphLJK\\_9dpx5rxEJqWJlwtBJAYd0jwxiFp4](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tKm2vPqUCfpzBITerlyHQaZWWDKOUoPB/view?fbclid=IwAR2hmchJ25kWW85t_bSkohDBphLJK_9dpx5rxEJqWJlwtBJAYd0jwxiFp4)

<p><b>Pete Olsen</b> District 3 <i>Committee:</i> <i>Olsen for PV School Board</i></p>	<p><b>Amy McCabe</b> District 5 <i>Committee:</i> <i>Amy McCabe District 5 Pleasant Valley Candidate</i></p>
<p><b>Danny Amaya</b> District 4 <i>Committee:</i> <i>Danny Amaya for PV School Board</i></p>	<p><b>Jameson Smith</b> District 6 <i>Committee:</i> <i>Smith for School Board</i></p>