

LAKWOOD SCHOOL BOARD

Six candidates are vying for two seats on the Lakewood School Board. The top four finishers in the Feb. 16 primary will advance to the April 5 general election.

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES



AMANDA C. HAHN
 Age: 38
 Address: 609 Herda Ave., Twin Lakes
 Occupation: Project manager, AbbVie
 Education: University of Phoenix, College of Lake County
 Previous elected experience: Lakewood School Board, 2013-present

What issues do you think sparked this many candidates to seek election?

“I believe the success of our current board and Lakewood’s exciting initiatives have inspired others to get involved. It is amazing to see those who may have always had a desire to participate, take the steps to do so. We have many talented people in our community.”

Why should voters propel you to the general election?

“I am proud to be part of the current Lakewood board and enjoy the work very much. I believe I bring a unique perspective, applying varied experience as a working parent of four children and Twin Lakes community member. I have supported and helped drive initiatives that support staff, administration, community members and help prepare students for the future.”

What changes or initiatives would you like to be involved in and why?

“I would love to help advance Lakewood’s community engagement initiative. I believe it is important to leverage the expertise and experience of our small-business owners, retirees, veterans and others in the community who have skill sets that may benefit our students. I also value the work that is being done related to staff compensation.”



NICHOLAS C. HECKEL
 Age: 36
 Address: 712 Maple St., Twin Lakes
 Occupation: Principal, Round Lake (Ill.) Area Schools
 Education: Bachelor of Science, Illinois State University; Master of Arts, National Louis University
 Previous elected experience: None

“I am not sure that there are specific issues that have sparked a large candidate pool. I believe that a new generation of families want to be more involved in the decision making that will directly affect their children and the education that they receive.”

“I have been in education for 14 years. The past eight have been as an administrator. I have a deep understanding of school systems and how different decisions will play out for the staff and students.”

“I would like to be involved in helping the district to continue the upward motion that they are making. Changes have been taking place and it is a very exciting time at Lakewood School.”



KATHY R. TICHA
 Age: 71
 Address: 2062 Meagan’s Way, Twin Lakes
 Occupation: Self-employed
 Education: High school diploma
 Previous elected experience: Lakewood School Board, 1999-present

“Recent renovations have brought a lot of positive attention to our school. Perhaps these renovations made more community members feel they want to be involved.”

“I have experience, integrity and a love for Lakewood. My four children graduated from Lakewood and I have always been a very active member of the PTO and now School Board. I am excited for the direction that Lakewood is going and I would like to be a part of it.”

“I would like to continue to be a part of the recent renovation project, technology upgrades and ensuring our students get the best education possible.”



STEVEN D. TURNER
 Age: 46
 Address: 805 Hickory Road, Twin Lakes
 Occupation: Executive vice president of operations, Yunker Industries
 Education: Bachelor of arts degrees in business administration, psychology and human resource management, Simpson University
 Previous elected experience: Current Wilmot High School Board member

“I believe Lakewood is viewed as a school with many opportunities for growth in an exciting period of change. While Lakewood’s state scores are stable, they remain below Wisconsin’s average which creates an opportunity for invested leadership. Lakewood is in a small, but strong family-oriented community where parents have passion about what’s best for their kids. The need for leadership coupled with a strong family anchor has created strong interest.”

“I am passionate about the caliber of influence our schools have on our community’s children. I have spent my career leading organizational change and excellence at a senior executive level for a Fortune 200 company and am now blessed to be contributing to one of our local, family-owned businesses. When you combine my passion and expertise with Lakewood’s opportunity to improve and excel it feels like a unique and favorable fit.”

“I believe our children have the best opportunity to succeed in life when they get off to a strong start in their education. When they succeed early in their learning careers, their confidence and self-esteem increase, which then creates educational momentum. Kids then begin to form a passion for learning that will stay with them for the long term, improving their path in life. I would love to contribute to this opportunity.”



SCOTT J. WHIPPLE
 Age: 35
 Address: 1336 E. Lakeshore Drive, Twin Lakes
 Occupation: Assistant principal, Big Hollow School District 38
 Education: Master of arts, educational leadership, Concordia University; bachelor of science, biology (teaching) and health education, St. Cloud State University, Minn.
 Previous elected experience: None

“I am not certain as to any issues that would prompt so many candidates. I’m seeing great things happening at Lakewood and want to be a part of the movement of innovation happening within our learning community. As more positive things are happening, it is my belief that more people want to be a part of these great initiatives happening at Lakewood School.”

“Currently there is not an educator on the Lakewood School Board. Great teams need diversity to bring multiple perspectives to better enrich their purpose. I feel that my 12 years as an educator, as a teacher and administrator will bring another viewpoint to support Lakewood’s learning community.”

“I see Lakewood moving in the right direction with implementation of STEM learning through Project Lead the Way. In addition, I will continue to support the fine arts programs within Lakewood. I will support the innovative ideas that will promote and propel our students to be better leaders, problem solvers and critical thinkers.”



BARRY P. WOODS
 Age: 36
 Address: 109 Oak Lane, Twin Lakes
 Occupation: Civil engineer, Illinois Department of Transportation
 Education: Marquette University, electrical engineering
 Previous elected experience: None

“Test scores, lack of urgency to improve those scores and the recent referendum are reasons for myself. I want to reverse the trend of parents choosing another school for their children. I can only hope the other candidates are taking an interest for similar reasons, as well.”

“I am determined with a passion to improve the performance of Lakewood School. My analytic and professional skills will improve the board’s ability to achieve the needed positive results. I will ask tough questions and will expect the hard truths along with solutions. We cannot let down our children for another year while hoping for change out of the same School Board.”

“Improving the overall curriculum of the school, improving test scores and school performance through coordination with parents and teachers are my priorities. We need a common agreement between parents, the School Board and teachers to improve the education provided at Lakewood. Extra homework or “practice” should not be shunned, but embraced as a way to meet our goals.”