



JR HUMPHRIES

NEW BOARD MEMBER
DISTRICT 3 (UNCONTESTED)

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF.

I am a 2001 graduate of Crosby High School. I've worked in a few industries over the years, and am currently a piping designer in the oil & gas industry. I also have a small side business doing various drafting work. My wife is a high school teacher, and we have an 18 month old daughter, and another child due in February. I am an officer in the local Knights of Columbus in Crosby, and have held various positions over the years with that wonderful charity organization. I'm also a board member of the Columbus Club which owns and operates the KC Hall in Crosby, where I have, in the past, held the Secretary and President position.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WANT TO BE A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER?

I had debated running for the school board for several years, but the passage of, and circumstances surrounding,

the 2017 Bond election is what convinced me some changes had to be made. For the past several years, I've felt our community was being taken advantage of. The community's kind and giving hearts were manipulated into thinking we had to spend on extravagant projects, programs, and frills if we really cared about our children and teachers- and this was happening without any regard as to whether we could actually afford it. My contention has always been that really caring for the children and teachers is being responsible with the money that funds them, versus making sure they have all the nicest things regardless of the cost.

WHAT SPECIFIC STRENGTHS WOULD YOU BRING TO THE TABLE?

I've always loved a good debate. I try and break things down to their simplest form and handle them, individually, in that arena. I have no delusions that these are simple problems, but I am willing to take the time to separate complicated issues into their base components where they can be contended with as needed. I'm not afraid to take the unpopular stance if I feel it's the right one, or even play devil's advocate if I think it will help myself or others see all sides of an issue more completely. Also, when I disagree, I put much effort into trying to debate the issue as formally and respectfully as possible. I won't claim that I'm above getting heated, but I do try to temper my temper, so to speak.

WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR THE DISTRICT IN THE COMING YEAR?

First and foremost, we have to prove we can maintain a balanced budget, based on the correct numbers. We, also, need to define, as closely as possible, the mistakes that led us here. From there, I think the culture itself has to shift- I feel we have been "Yes Men" in regards to any and every spending issue we have seen over the past several years. People that followed the Bond elections closely may recall me using the term "glam not grades" in reference to what I believed were unnecessary expenses. I want the board, district, and community to truly realize the balance that needs to exist in that space, if we are to have anything at all. "For the kids" needs to cease being a talking point for gluttonous spending, and start meaning we won't let the kids or their teachers down again.

**WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS OF THE ROLES OF SUPERINTENDENT & SCHOOL BOARD?
WHAT IS THE IDEAL RELATIONSHIP?**

The school board should be able to trust their superintendent to advise them well, as this is his or her field of expertise, and, generally, school board members don't have that on their resume. There is a level of respect that needs to be maintained both directions. I do not, however, believe either the superintendent or the board is more infallible than the other. A respectful working relationship, always questioning things, willingness to take the time to work through differences, and making sure complicated issues are explained thoroughly is a must.

**A COMMUNITY MEMBER COMES TO YOU REGARDING, FOR EXAMPLE, A
MAINTENANCE ISSUE AT A CAMPUS, HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR ROLE AS A BOARD
MEMBER IN RESOLVING THAT ISSUE?**

This is where boards members are the voice of the community in regards to day to day matters. It's something that should be brought up by the trustee immediately and added to the agenda of the next meeting where it can properly discussed and decided on, accordingly.

**WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE DISTRICT'S CURRENT FINANCIAL
SITUATION?**

We're in a mess. With the reality of the RIF, we realized it was worse than many thought, and I know that it's not over, even with that terrible reality. I believe the RIF simply patched a hole in the ship, but there is still water that will have to be bailed out before we are sea-worthy again. More tough decisions are in our future, and although I don't relish being one of those at the helm when these decisions come through, I am willing to make them for the sake of Crosby.