

Jennifer Grant – Responses to Waukesha Freeman Questionnaire

Name: Jennifer Grant

Age: 48

Occupation: Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Healthcare Compliance Professional (CHC, CHPC)

Years lived in Menomonee Falls: Nearly lifelong resident, MFHS graduate

Previous Elected Office: Completing first 3-year term on the Menomonee Falls School Board, currently serve on Waukesha County Board of Supervisors (10+ years), previously served on Menomonee Falls Plan Commission

1. Why are you running for this position?

I grew up in Menomonee Falls and attended our schools from elementary through high school. I am a proud graduate of MFHS. My husband and I chose to raise our family in Menomonee Falls. I am invested in this community. I want all students to achieve their highest potential, become proud graduates, and find success wherever life takes them. I believe in this community, our families, our staff, and our students!

Additionally, I am a Certified Public Accountant, a compliance professional, and a former HR/Benefits professional. I bring important perspective and expertise to the Board that no other candidate offers.

2. What is the most pressing issue facing this school district?

We recently hired a new Superintendent, who, in a very short period of time, has made significant, positive changes throughout our schools. If elected for another term, I will continue to support that positive momentum. I will focus on what matters most to students and families. My priorities include a focus on student achievement and high academic standards, a curriculum that teaches kids how to think critically (not what to think), and accountability to stakeholders with the adoption of a 5-year strategic plan that emphasizes quality teaching and learning.

3. Districts are continuing to face financial challenges and difficult decisions. How would you deal with this?

As an accountant, auditor, and manager, solving financial challenges and making difficult decisions is what I do. I am the current chair of the Finance Committee. The district continuously assesses its financial position. We look at both the short- and long-term. We are in a strong position with a contingency fund and a healthy general fund balance. We recently passed a 10-year Capital Plan and started a Long-Term Capital Improvement Trust Fund. We plan to add teachers next year and can do so within our normal operating budget. We have no need for a referendum, as some are claiming.

4. Parents are very passionate about their children's education. What are ways you make parents feel heard but still do what's best for the school district?

Parents are their children's first teachers and their greatest supporters. Of course parents should be active participants in their child's public school education! Curriculum in public schools reflects the

values of the community. However, when parents disagree with something taught in a classroom, they are able to work with the classroom teacher to find an alternative, acceptable lesson as a substitution. There is always a solution to be found when parents and teachers genuinely work together in the best interest of the student.

5. There continues to be a division in local government and school boards. How do you work with others you don't necessarily agree with?

Everyone deserves to be heard and, in all my various roles (both elected and professional), I listen to all stakeholders with curiosity and an open mind. However, when there are varying ideas and opinions, not everyone can have their way. Ultimately, it is the elected officials, who represent the majority opinion and the community as a whole, who must make the tough decisions. That is the exact job they are elected to do. In the end, most will be satisfied and some will be disappointed.