

Name: Gail Galivan

Hometown (where you currently live): Oakbrook Terrace

Family members: I have five thriving, adult children.

Your connection(s) to District 88: I am a community member. After moving to this area a couple of years ago, some time passed before reopening with people flourishing outside their homes. Initially, my thinking was to reside in Oakbrook Terrace temporarily. Then I learned a few things like how friendly people are. I learned how families take pride and invest in their schools and community. In District 88, it is common for three generations of families to enjoy and to have fond memories of their days at District 88. The faces of those I have spoken to actually light up when asked about their experience at D88. As a mother of five children, I was fortunate to be involved with the public schools and a part of the conversation. Being involved in community continues to be a lifestyle and a fulfilling experience for me.

Why you chose to become a candidate for the District 88 Board of Education: Children and young adults are THE future. They deserve the best environment possible to create their own rewarding opportunities and life goals. I would like to bring to the table my diverse experience in various roles working and volunteering.

- The State of Illinois and partner organizations are investing \$68 million in funds to integrate mental health in public schools, utilizing the "whole child" approach, the 2022 Illinois Children's Mental Health Plan. I bring lived experience regarding the whole child approach in systems. I was a research therapist at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Our team integrated the "whole child" holistic approach by complementing the medical care given in the intensive care unit. We combined treatment of the child, their family or immediate support and their assigned hospital staff to measure various outcomes as a result of, generally speaking, stress reduction.
- I served as a board member of a nonprofit film festival. We provided opportunities for film showings and film festival award ceremonies for productions created by youth. In-school programs and field trips were organized with partner schools for conversations around films approved for viewing by the school administrators.
- In the past, I have been involved in equity discussions in education and a local municipality.
- I helped children reintegrate socially and stay focused during online learning at a nonprofit "essential business" before schools reopened.

What you hope to accomplish, should you become elected to the District 88 Board of Education: I would like to, if needed ...

- Further develop self-awareness and learning about how to remain calm and discerning under stress. I would like to see foundations in learning and practicing non-judgmental,

deep listening implemented. I am curious why some communities are disenchanting with SEL. That may be influenced by the programs selected and how they are delivered in those classrooms.

- Explore quality and enjoyment of school lunches.
- Develop a curriculum for local food security such as hydroponics and a backyard food forest, in response to inflation.
- Integrate awareness and education about special needs within existing DEI programs.
- Minimize the influence of online distractions such as potential background advertising on test prep sites or other programs.
- Support good habits and structured environment in consideration of learning styles.
- Respect family values in curriculum choices.
- Close gaps in knowledge, and build strong foundations in learning.
- Identify cost savings in the budget.
- Protect privacy of students in data management.

Your vision/goals for District 88: Avoid lingering on the "shoulds" of state report card data, and utilize the information. We are where we are. Meet students where they are and progress on an individual basis toward gradient, reasonable learning goals and ensure outcomes. It is important to reduce stress that likely interferes with the ability to learn. Community is at the top of the pyramid on the D88 website. Some school communities are becoming divisive. By staying focused on fostering curiosity, inspiration and an interest in learning, I would like to see our community preserve its integrity and positive educational outcomes. It is clear that this district is extremely high performing. In a richly multicultural environment, it may be fun and uplifting to share "words of wisdom" of sages and wisdom keepers past and present, including a bit of their backgrounds.

Your involvement within District 88: I have attended student performances, art exhibits and online board meetings.

Your involvement within the community: Over the past couple of years, I have been undertaking one-to-one community conversations with individuals, parents, teachers, businesses and community leaders, exploring ways in which I can serve ... like serving on the school board!

Other information to share: I enjoy teaching mindfulness classes, continuing education tai chi courses and providing professional development. In my work and life, it is my nature to seek receptive opportunities to help support what needs to be balanced in a holistic, objective and

nurturing style. Now that my immediate family is independent, I have designed my life to expand into a communitywide focus of mutual listening, compassion and understanding.