

Name: Steve Wang

Past Elected Office Held: 2021-2025 Barrington 220 Board of Education

Occupation: Vice President of Finance for a Faith-based not-for-profit healthcare system

Educational Background: Bachelor of Business Administration with honors in Corporate Finance & Business Economics from the University of Notre Dame du Lac

Relationship with school district: child attending and child to attend

Other notable roles that uniquely qualify you for being a BOE member:

1. High school ministry leader at Campus Life
2. Girl scout troop leader
3. Room parent at Countryside Elementary
4. Board member for the Notre Dame Club of Lake County
5. Former Big Brother as part of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Chicago

Accomplishments of district during first term: Passing of 2024 referendum, providing fee-free full day kindergarten ahead of state mandated timeline, completion of 2020 referendum work and generating a budget surplus, annual budgeting enhancements to fulfill day-to-day operations and on-going capital demands (this work continues), improved community engagement initiatives, completion of community driven strategic plan (Framework 220), among many, many great works.

Running for re-election and Board synergy: The first two years of my tenure were filled with national debates and conflict. In the second two years, I have witnessed the Board come together, work through philosophical differences and compromise in ways to push the trajectory of Barrington 220 in a positive direction. With the upcoming work for the now passed 2024 referendum (Transform 220) and the other critical work that lays ahead, I feel called to use the experience gained over the last four years as well as my other areas of work and volunteerism to continue and elevate the great work that is currently in play. To that end, I feel this Board has found commonalities to work together and hit a great stride in collaboration to be an efficient and productive Board, engaging all shareholders and working in the best interest of our school district. We still have a ways to go, but great progress has been made in four years and I believe I can positively contribute to another four years of growth.

Working with stakeholders and subject matter experts: Being in a leadership position of any sort is a humbling experience because there are times we must admit when we do not have the expertise needed. Throughout my life and business career, I have learned the importance of engaging experts. As such, I have surrounded myself with a network of leaders in their fields of study and call on them when I have questions beyond my area of expertise. In school board matters, we have a Board of unique skills: medicine, law, engineering, etc. In addition, Barrington 220 is blessed with a talented and accomplished administration. When we explored the 2024 referendum question, it took all our collective skills plus third-party experts to put together a comprehensive plan that was agreeable to our stakeholders. Accordingly, I am open

to continued engagement of industry or third-party experts to ensure we are considering all facets of a decision.

The Barrington 220 community: When I engage with parents and board members from other districts, some share that they lack parental involvement and interest in being a part of their board of education. This is not the case in Barrington 220. I am proud that we belong to a community that is so very invested in our school district. From the learners and parents/tax-payers to our educators and administration, we have a broad spectrum of leadership and involvement. To me, this is what makes Barrington 220 so strong and admired by many.

The direction of the school district: Barrington 220 is among the best in the nation, though we still have opportunities to grow. The key to addressing any areas of growth is simple: engagement with all applicable stakeholders which includes parents, learners, educators/BEA, administration and tax-payers in the district and not hesitating to evolve, even when the changes seem difficult and unfamiliar. All stakeholders need to have a voice and the balance of influence varies based on the type of decision that needs to be made. The BEA provides the single largest resource to our district, and as such, they must have a seat at the table along with other stakeholders. The learners and parents are the consumers, thus they must also have a voice and ability to communicate their needs. Then, when changes need to occur, the Board cannot be afraid to be humble and vulnerable so they can learn and make the best decision for the community.

Resource allocation: Resource allocation happens to be within my area of educational training as well as chosen career. I am overjoyed to have a strong Chief School Business Official that I can work with on a day-to-day basis and speak the same language as it relates to return on investment, highest-best use, etc. As such, this is an area I hope to continue focusing via the Finance Committee to the Board and ensure that resources are adequately provided to our district in a fair manner. Being an educator today means doing more with less: less time, less money, less supplies, to name just a few. I fully acknowledge this and consider it my mission to use my education, experience and leadership to ensure we make the most of our limited resources to support our educators and administration so that they can make Barrington 220 the best district it can be for our learners, parents and tax-payers.

Other thoughts: When I initially decided to run for the Barrington 220 Board of Education four years ago, I committed to being a voice for those who did not have a voice. I believe I have fulfilled this promise by diligently listening to the public and engaging with administration to respond/adjust accordingly, attending district and community events, as well as meeting with parents, students, and educators alike on a weekly basis to facilitate engagement and understand needs. Like in my professional life, I have an open door policy and invite dialogue so that I can gain a full understanding of the work ahead of me. While I may not always have the answer, I welcome challenges and feedback so that I can learn too. If re-elected, I intend on continuing this mode of operation and communication with ALL stakeholders.