

TODD JACOBUS

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Reply To
Attn Of:

August 7, 2013

Fellow Des Moines Residents,

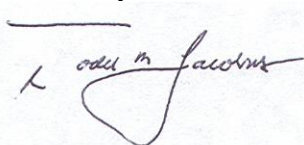
I recently became aware of Mr. Shane Schulte's candidacy for one of the four open seats on the Des Moines Schools Board. I am very grateful that Shane has announced his desire to serve our community in this way. He will be an OUTSTANDING member of the DMPS Board, will provide solid stewardship of the District's \$442,857,718 budget, will provide extraordinary advocacy for the 30,000 students and 5,000 employees in the District, and will no question be the selfless servant on this Board in the same manner in which he has served our community in many other ways. I offer my enthusiastic endorsement of Shane Schulte, and I encourage you to learn more about Shane and consider supporting him, and voting for him, on September 10, 2013.

Since January 2011, Shane and I have been active participants on the 10-member DMPS Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee. During our meetings with the Superintendent and Staff, we learned about some very challenging issues facing public education in general, and specifically the impact of these issues on the DMPS, and our staff and students. The amazing staff at our DMPS provided detailed presentations on a myriad of issues facing DMPS, and their impact on the budget, including federal funding, tax rates and levies, special education, school finance, allowable growth, enrollment trends, student demographics, student achievement, poverty, refugee population, early childhood development, homeless students, turnover, faculty, teacher quality, staffing levels, class size, technology, facilities, and utilities, among other significant topics.

We also learned a great deal about the resources available to support our District, including the Iowa Department of Education, the Legislative Services Agency, the Iowa Association of School Boards, the Urban Education Network, the Des Moines Education Association, and the Area Education Association. Shane was truly a key leader in this process. He was present at each meeting, even showing up early to greet the committee members as we arrived. He invested a great deal of time studying information, analyzing data, and researching on his own. He also was key in leading meaningful discussions on options and alternatives relative to budget shortfalls, courses of action, and the road ahead. And, on numerous occasions, Shane spoke in a very articulate and professional manner to our community members throughout the District on behalf of the Committee. Shane understands the issues, and he is in a position to make an immediate contribution to the DMPS Board.

Over the last 2 ½ years, I have come to know Shane as a very committed, professional, detail-oriented communicator, who understands school finance and the issues facing our district. He is inquisitive, analytical, and I am very impressed with his ability to quickly grasp concepts, and ask thought-provoking questions. Shane is pleasant, positive, and focused. Without question, Shane has the best interests of students, the future of DMPS and our community in mind, as he pursues this opportunity. I am grateful to all who have offered to serve on the DMPS Board. I believe Mr. Shane Schulte has the skill sets to make an immediate, and very positive, impact on the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd M. Jacobus". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

TODD M. JACOBUS