

Four compete for three seats on Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education



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The Macomb Daily

Three, six-year terms are up for grabs on the Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education.

The candidates are Frank V. Bednard of Clinton Township, Elizabeth Pyden of Clinton Township, Robert Wojtowicz of Clinton Township and Jill DeMuyneck Zech of Macomb Township.

The Macomb Daily sent questionnaires to the candidates for their age, education, previous political experience, and occupation. They were also asked three questions which should be kept to 50 words each:

1. Many school leaders have in recent years complained the state does not provide enough revenue to sustain their operations. Do you feel both are adequately funded?
2. In recent years the state has incentivized transparency and consolidation. How has your district done in these areas?
3. Identify and give your position on any other issues you feel would be a top priority for you if elected.

Wojtowicz did not respond to the questionnaire.

Frank V. Bednard
Chippewa Valley School Board Trustee
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St. Mary's Preparatory, Orchard Lake
Macomb Community College
Macomb Criminal Justice Training Center
Michigan Association of School Board – Certified Board Member
Currently 16 years as Trustee on Chippewa Valley Schools School Board.
Sergeant with Macomb County Sheriff's Office (29 years).

1. The state does not adequately fund our schools. Due to the gap in per pupil funding among school districts in our state, Chippewa Valley receives an average of \$500 less per student than other Macomb County school districts. Our children need to have our school district funded fairly.
2. Our website transparency page provides individuals with budget and financial information. Chippewa Valley Schools has partnered with other districts to share services. We work with the Macomb Intermediate School

District to house programs like the International Academy of Macomb and a program for special needs students. We use state-wide purchasing programs for equipment, fuel, and energy.

3. Safety is always a top priority of our school district. We need to remain ever vigilant and focused on ways that keep our students and staff safe. Student achievement is another priority. We strive to provide every child with a comprehensive, world-class education.

Jill DeMuyneck Zech

Chippewa Valley School Board

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Masters of Science in Administration, Central Michigan University, Bachelor of Accountancy, Walsh College

Chippewa Valley School Board

Special Education Advocate, Owner, Macomb Advocacy, LLC

1. No I do not. Twenty-two years after Proposal A was enacted, CVS still receives, on average, \$500 less per pupil than other Macomb County Districts. This difference equates to more than \$8,000,000 per year. CVS is still one of the largest, lowest funded school district in the state.

2. Transparency information is available on our district website. CVS has been involved in shared services with neighboring districts, the Macomb Intermediate School District and serves as the fiscal agent and home for the International Academy of Macomb Baccalaureate Program. CVS utilizes state and countywide purchasing programs which save taxpayer dollars.

3. If elected, I'd continue to focus on enhancing curriculum, integrating appropriate technology into classrooms, and working to ensure CVS maintains its standing as a leader in education. I'd continue to make fiscally responsible decisions to ensure all students achieve success in our schools.

Elizabeth A. Pyden

Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education

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B.S.- University of Michigan, J.D.- Wayne State Law School

Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education, elected 2012

Attorney

1. No. Chippewa Valley receives the lowest foundation allowance offered by the state. The district has remained fiscally sound as a result of the shared sacrifice of the entire Chippewa Valley family and difficult decisions by the Board. While the state has limited resources, education funding must be a top priority.

2. I am proud of the work that Chippewa Valley has done in terms of transparency and consolidation. Working with the lowest foundation allowance in the state, Chippewa Valley has maintained fiscal solvency, consolidating where it makes sense, while still providing a world class education and facilities to our students.

3. I do not feel that my work on the Board is done. We have made great strides in being accessible to the community and in creating a vibrant school/community partnership, but there is still work to be done as we work to ensure that families choose Chippewa Valley.