

Name:

Hilary Dubay

How long have you lived in the L'Anse Creuse Community?

11 years

Have you served on any school or district committees? If so, please list committees and your role (chair, co-chair, or participant).

I have been approached to participate with the State in the Top 10 in 10 campaign, pertaining to reforming dispute resolution.

Do you attend Board of Education meetings, if so how often?

I attended my first board meeting on April 18, 2016 and I have not missed one since. I have also attended all workshops and special meetings from April to currently.

Have you served as a volunteer in the community? If so, for what organization?

In the past, I have volunteered with many organizations in various capacities. These organizations include the Macomb/ St. Clair Autism Society, the Miss St. Clair Shores Scholarship Program, the Lac Saint Claire Fine Art Fair Committee and the St. Clair Shores Parade Committee. I have attended, chaperoned and planned numerous school activities throughout my children's academic career.

Family:

Spouse: Kevin Dubay

Children: Christopher Dubay and Avery Dubay **How many in LCPS?** Both Chris and Avery attend L'Anse Creuse High School.

Career:

22+ years in the wedding industry

I have supported and joined many national organizations throughout my career.

Education:

Regina High School 1992-1996

Wayne State University 1996-2000

What do you think is the purpose of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Board of Education?

I believe the purpose of this Board is to actively be engaged in the betterment of the student through careful thought on all aspects of running a successful district. I believe the Board should address the various issues that come along with a district of this size and continue to strive for progress at making our district better.

What particular or added dimensions would you would bring to the Board if voted in?

I look forward to bringing the dimension of both that of a parent and also one who specializes in special education. Having both a son with Autism and a daughter whom is a typical student, I have experienced many different facets of the educational process. I am also a positive person who seeks to resolve issues and work together to reach the optimal solution.

What do you feel are the three most positive aspects of L'Anse Creuse Public Schools?

The first positive aspect that I experienced within the schools was a sense of acceptance. Upon entering each building I have visited, there has always been a warm welcome. I have seen this trend carry over to our administrators, teachers and students. Having a typical student and a neuro atypical student, it is so wonderful to see every individual be so welcoming to both. The second positive aspect that I would like to share stems from the first. It is amazing the sense of community that one experiences at L'Anse Creuse. My family and I have experienced such love and support from our fellow Lancers and Crusaders. Finally, the opportunities that L'Anse Creuse provides for both its students and staff are outstanding, not only academically but in other valuable well rounded areas of learning.

What do you feel are the three greatest challenges facing L'Anse Creuse Public Schools?

The first challenge I believe affecting our district is funding. I don't think we are alone in this challenge. Michigan's schools have been dealing with budget issues across the board and L'Anse Creuse is no different. Advocating for stronger educational support from the state should be a top priority of this school board. The second challenge facing our district is enrollment. With the projection of losing 600 students in the next 2 years we need to focus our attention on retaining those students as well as being mindful of potential growth. Finally, the state direction on the learning curriculum (ex. common core) is a challenge for many schools in Michigan, including our district. Emphasizing local ideas and solutions will help our students excel after leaving L'Anse Creuse.

What is your understanding of how our schools are financed? How could the district maintain a balanced budget?

The district receives revenue from state, local, and federal financial sources. Also, the L'Anse Creuse Foundation assists the district by distributing financial and other resources to students for enrichment programs and other projects. In regards to maintaining a balanced budget, I believe it takes quite a bit of work, dedication and compromise. New ideas and fresh eyes are needed to make sure the right programs and accountability of established programs are monitored appropriately. Being able to develop and maintain a transparent balanced budget should be an annual goal for the Board.

What is your assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the overall operations of L'Anse Creuse Public Schools?

The strengths of this district are clearly displayed in the successes of its students. Public education should help students fulfill their potential and prepare them for a satisfying and productive life. The L'Anse Creuse Public School District has operated within a standard that gives students the skills to accomplish these tasks. The overall weaknesses that lie in L'Anse Creuse Public School are the same ones faced by many school boards across the state. In our ever changing society, we are constantly thrown different programs, policies and directions. Our success directly corresponds to being able to respond appropriately and turning our weaknesses into strengths.

If you win a seat on the Board of Education, what would you seek to accomplish?

I would like to bring a sense of cohesiveness to the board. Being a very positive person, I would like to work together to solve the many struggles that a school district may face. With my knowledge of the school system and its operations, I would be an asset in discussions regarding important issues. Communication is the heart of success and failure. I would like to see communication improved and increased, bringing about the best learning environment for our students.

To what extent do you think Board members should be involved in legislative activities?

Board members should be involved and informed of any legislative activities that involve education. If there is a proposal or bill that will impact the school district directly, the Board should collectively decide what would be in the best interest of L'Anse Creuse Public School District and do its best to advocate for that position.

Additional comments:

Education is something that is very close to my heart. Through my experience with special education and the integration of my neuro atypical child, this calling has chosen me. This topic was laid at my feet when my son was enrolled in his first program through the MISD. For the past 12 years I have become a student of the educational system. I find it very intriguing and enjoy discussing any and all aspects of education. It seems as though my journey has naturally lead me to join my own local school board and I am excited to see this through.