

Dane Dems Endorsement Questionnaire

Thank you for seeking an endorsement from the Dane County Democratic Party. You do not need to answer all of the questions below, but please answer all of the ones you feel are pertinent to your campaign. We will ask more detailed questions and followups during our interview, if we choose to have one, so feel free to answer these questions as briefly or thoroughly as you desire. These answers will be shared in full with our membership before they vote on your endorsement.

Email *

nkvander@yahoo.com

Candidate name *

Ncki Vander Meulen

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

Madison Metropolitan School Board Seat 7

Campaign website

nickiforschools.com

Professional Experience *

I have been a criminal defense attorney for 19 years. I have served on the State of Wisconsin Special Ed Advisory Committee for three years. I was selected as one of Brava's Women to Watch 2017. I recently received the Friend of the Heart Award from the American Heart Association due to my advocacy for providing additional water stations in MMSD Schools. I also received an award in 2022 from the ADCC for my work in education.

Political/Service Experience *

6 years on the Madison Metropolitan School Board. I have volunteered with Dane Dems or College Dems since I

Why are you running for this seat? *

I want to continue to advocate for and help provide an equitable and rigorous education for all students at MMSD.

What are the three most important issues in your race? *

The lack of transparency at MMSD, The achievement gap and the failure to provide a living wage to our staff especially our custodial staff.

What are the largest environmental concerns you aim to deal with in office?

We are currently focused on Greeb Energy building projects and creating schools powered by reusable energy.

How will you use your position to create more equitable opportunities and help those living in poverty?

My job as a School Board member is ensuring every student receives an equitable and intellectually stimulating educational experience. I do this by advocating for projects that focus on our low-income students. One such program I have backed is the transition education program for our students with housing insecurity.

What will you do to address racial inequality?

1 I will Advocate for the removal of the Behavioral Education Plan as it disproportionately punishes Black, Brown, and Disabled Students.

How will you promote restorative justice and address racially biased policing?

In my last term, I played a crucial role in advocating for the removing School Resource Officers, which did occur in 2019. This term, I will continue to advocate for additional dollars and advocate for the hiring of additional Restorative Justice Practitioners

How will you improve the public health of our community in your position?

In my past term, I fought to and successfully helped pass a Covid Vaccine Requirement for all teachers and staff at MMSD. This term, I plan to focus on providing more water bottle-filling stations and fighting for healthier school lunches.

What are the largest transportation issues you wish to work on and how will you address them?

I wish to provide bus passes to all students who need them.

How have you elevated diverse voices in government and public discourse? How would you continue to do so if elected to this office?

I have always advocated for diverse voices and viewpoints. I am active in supporting the hiring of additional Black and Brown Staff. . I will continue to promote programs such as the Black Student Senate to attract more Black and Brown youth to be engaged in school governance.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

Only my motto, which is Disability Rights, are human rights.

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