

Emily Ripp, CSW

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June 6, 2021

Ravenna Board of Education
Attn: Marc Vacek, Secretary
41750 Carthage Rd.,
Ravenna, NE 68869

Dear Mr. Vacek,

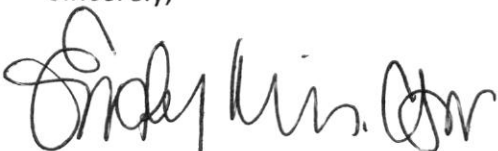
I would like to thank you and the Board of Education for allowing applications for the open seat on the Ravenna Board of Education. I have attached my application for the Board's review.

I am a 2004 graduate of Ravenna High School, and attended my entire primary schooling at Ravenna. After Ravenna, I had the opportunity to attend McCook Community College, Peru State College, and the University of Nebraska at Kearney, where I graduated with my Bachelors of Science in Social Work. Since my graduation, I have had the opportunity to work with various socio-economic classes and populations across the lifespan, which has given me the opportunity to serve others. These opportunities have been eye-opening, and have pushed me to become more servant-minded than ever before. I also have seen various situations that have encouraged me to help make changes where I can, hence my application. I feel I can use my experiences for good and to help create and promote change for the best interests of our families and students.

I am currently a member of the Ravenna Lions Club, and I am a leader with the local BSA Scouts, both Pack and Troop 203. I am a member of the Association of Child Abuse and Prevention Coalition in Hall County, and sit on the Buffalo County Community Health Partners 2030 Steering Committee. I have been a member of the Ravenna Library Board, and it was during my tenure that the new library was approved and built.

I am a mother of 2 boys, who both attend RPS, and my husband is a 2001 Ravenna Graduate. My family has a strong Ravenna background, and my mother retired from RPS as a school bus driver this last fall after 34 years. I feel that because of these ties, and my investment in the community and our school, I would make a great addition to the Board of Education. Although I cannot be at the meeting on June 14th due to a prior commitment, please know that I am truly committed to the Board. I look forward to hearing from you and working together, providing collaborative leadership to prepare students today to succeed tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Ripp", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Emily Ripp, CSW

Application for Ravenna Public Schools School Board

Applicant's Name: Emily Ripp, CSW

1. Are you a resident of the Ravenna Public School District? **Yes** or No
Yes, I am a resident of the Ravenna Public School District.

2. Are you a registered voter in the Ravenna Public School District? **Yes** or No
Yes, I am a registered voter in the Ravenna Public School District.

3. What is the first day you will be available to join the board of education?
I will be available to join the Ravenna Public Schools Board of Education after appointment on June 12th, 2021.

4. What is your primary reason for wishing to become a member of the Ravenna Public Schools Board of Education?

The primary reason I am seeking a seat on the Board of Education is to help ensure that future of our school system is steered in the right direction. I was blessed to have the opportunity to have a Ravenna Education. This education set me up for success in my collegiate years, as well as a working adult.

As a Social Worker, I have worked with various populations and socio-economic classes. When thinking of any type of changes, I will often bring to light the different barriers that lower socio-economic classes face, and ensure my fellow board members are aware of what these challenges are. I know that I am only one vote and one voice on the board, however, I feel that it is important to discuss how changes and challenges will affect all students in our system.

5. Tell us why you believe public education is important?

Public education is one of the most important things that a person should take full advantage of. From the early years and building the foundation of knowledge, to the later high school years and challenging themselves with the more advanced courses, a student could not be more blessed to have the opportunity to learn. The lessons taught through both textbook learning and hands-on will set the course of their lives.

I am well aware that not all students take advantage of their given opportunities. This is where we need to come together to find the common ground with those who do not find school as enjoyable as others. Teachers should not have to bend their rules to get children to want to learn; instead, parents and teachers should work together to find a way to make learning happen. This process may involve the administration, Behavioral Interventionist, and Special Education programs, but is essential to provide some foundation of knowledge to every student that walks the halls of Ravenna.

6. Are you aware of any potential "conflicts of interest" being a member of the school board might present? (family members working for the school district, personal business interests with the school district that represent a potential conflict, etc.)

To my knowledge, there are no potential conflicts of interest.

7. Can you make yourself available every 2nd Monday of the month at 8:00 PM for the regular monthly board meetings?

I will make myself available on the 2nd Monday of every month for board meetings, unless emergencies would arise. In that case, I would make every effort to still attend, utilizing all of my supports available to ensure that I would be present at the meeting.

8. Can you make yourself available for board subcommittee work that generally occurs during the weekday in the evening between regular board meetings, if you are appointed to a board subcommittee?

Yes, I will make myself available for subcommittee work, should I be appointed.

9. Which educator had the most positive influence on you?

When I think back to my education at Ravenna High School, there are 2 teachers that had a positive influence on me for various reasons. It was hard to narrow it down to one, because each of them help mold me into the person that I am today. Mr. Kent Zeller and Mrs. Sandy Clymer were two of the most influential teachers that I had the opportunity to work with in my 4 years of High School.

Mr. Zeller was a man who taught me the uttermost patience and demonstrated passion and pursuit of happiness when it came to our agriculture studies. I only saw Mr. Z get mad one time, and that was over our Parliamentary Procedure team not giving it 100% during practice. He showed us that we could pursue passion and happiness during our Ag Experience projects, and was always proud of us no matter the outcome. I have tried to model myself like him during my leadership tenures with my job, as well as with my parenting.

Mrs. Clymer was very organized and very punctual. When you walked into her class, you were now on "Clymer Time." She had no room for excuses, chit-chat, or poor work; she expected you to come in prepared, ready to work, and on-time. She gave me the value of being prepared, striving for greatness, and showing respect for others. Again, I have tried to model myself like Mrs. Clymer in my leadership and professional positions. These two educators, along with all of the others, helped mold me into the person I am today. I wish to honor their legacies by obtaining a seat on the board of education.

10. How do you proceed when you are faced with making a difficult decision?

I am not one to pull the trigger quickly when faced with a difficult decision, as I have learned that there are always more parts to a decision that need to be looked at. I always need to analyze each part of the decision, weigh the pros and cons of each determining factor, and discuss with my fellow board members prior to making a decision.

Should I be faced with a decision that I need to make an immediate decision on, I like to seek input from those I serve with prior to making my decision, and rely on the information provided to the board. If my fellow board members and I feel we need more time to gather information about the subject, I am not afraid to table the motion until the next meeting, if time allows.