



Name: James D Karls

Age on February 1, 2018: 50

Brief Bio about yourself/your family: I've been married to Shelly Karls for 28 years. We have two boys, Sam and Joe. All four of our family members have graduated from GHS. I enjoy sports, reading and board games with friends and family.

Where do you work? What do you do there? What is your work history? I'm currently employed at Wal-Mart in Shawano, WI. I've been there since the beginning of December 2017 and am the Manager over the Front End operations. Prior to that the majority of my work history is in the financial field; spending 5 years with Chase, 8 years with Associated Bank and 9 years with Wells Fargo.

What experience do you have with School Board? I have served six years on the School Board with the last three years as School Board President.

What other leadership experience do you have? I have had over 21 years of financial Management experience.

What motivates you to want to become a board member? I would like to continue my tenure on the School Board because I take great pride in being a Gillett High School graduate and am driven to make sure that the tradition of GHS continues by helping the board to make sound decisions around the operations of the district.

What is your vision for education in this community? Kids learn in different ways and have different goals in life and I would like to see that we continue to offer a high quality education for each student no matter what their goals are in life.

What do you see as the primary work of the board? The primary work of the board is to continue to try and get the message out to the community about many things, specifically the educational offerings, financial challenges and successes of the schools. I

would love to see more community members attend School Board meetings but I don't know how to drive that involvement.

How can you contribute to a successful board meeting? I contribute to a successful board meeting by asking a lot of questions to make sure the decisions of the board are based on all the facts involved. I keep a close eye on the financials of the district to make sure spending is warranted.

Please describe your personal beliefs regarding a Board Member's role in interacting with the following groups within the school community:

- * **Students**
- * **Parents**
- * **Staff**
- * **Community Members**
- * **Other Board Members**

I think a School Board member's role in the areas of students, parents, staff, community members and other board members is different for each board member. Some are more involved than others but ultimately a board member has to have the best interests of the students, school and community at the forefront of every decision. I believe that having board members with different levels of involvement gives the board the necessary diversity when making decisions.

What are three areas where you would look to cut expenses? To be honest there aren't that many areas to cut expenses. Sometimes I believe there is a perception that the School Board is frivolous with the budget but I would like to invite anyone with questions surrounding annual budgets to set a time to really dive into the numbers with a board member or administration to understand the total picture of the financial challenges facing the district

What are three areas where you would look to increase revenue? One of the biggest areas where the district could recapture revenue is with the students that school choice out of the district. Aside from that the opportunities to increase revenue are limited because of the revenue cap and how schools have to operate within the rigid guidelines set up by the state.