



Bettendorf Community School District

2019 Board Candidate Profile



Name	Paul Castro
Email Address	bcsdcastro@gmail.com
Address	1612 Hillcrest Ave., Bettendorf, IA
Occupation	Retired Bettendorf High School Teacher (1971-2000 - Spanish teacher, football and wrestling coach) Grandpa
Education	Assumption High School Associates Degree - Palomar Junior College, San Marcos, CA BA in Education - Augustana College, Rock Island, IL MA in Education - Marycrest College, Davenport United States Army 1968-1971
How long have you lived in the district?	70 yrs., excluding military, and JC in CA
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Susan, spouse• Son – Jeff (1983), daughter-in-law - Amy• Grandchildren: Kyler (BHS Senior) and Kiana (2107 Graduate)
School/District activities	Parent Executive Council, Policy Review, New MT Elementary planning, Facility Advisory Committee, Committee on Fund Raising for our Fitness Center, Finance Committee
Are you a Bettendorf High School graduate? If so, what year?	No
What motivates you to want to become a board member?	Having been a teacher at BHS for 29 yrs., 2 1/2 yrs. at Williams Jr. Hi., and my wife having taught 34 yrs. at BMS, I believe I have a wealth of knowledge about what works in education and what does not. Student achievement is at the top of my priority list. I do not believe in trendy educational practices in which our students are used as guinea pigs. Substantive changes in our curriculum should first be piloted before they are implemented. I firmly believe in well -defined and consistently applied vertical articulation curriculum from K-12. This curriculum piece, when taught with fidelity, helps us to promote more consistent achievement across all grade levels. Besides our students, the next most important asset we have are our teachers. I have articulated and lobbied for very competitive pay for our teachers as they are expected to do more and more with less and less. We are coming to an end of their contract and I sincerely hope we can work out a satisfactory, rewarding agreement for them. Anyone who deals with students on a daily basis merits an appropriate level of pay.

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I firmly believe in making appropriate and timely budget reductions as we should continuously strive to be as fiscally efficient as we can. I have also been outspoken about offering a retirement plan for our employees as a further tool to be more budget conscious.

As a board member, student achievement and success, well scrutinized curriculum, excellent teachers, great facilities, good relationships between administration and teachers, fiscal responsibility and solid policies to support them, have always been the driving forces for me to continue serving this great community.

What skills or experiences qualify you to serve as a school board member?

Having been on the board for 18 yrs. and having had to deal with so many issues and board personalities, I feel that I have been a voice for accountability and high standards across our district for everyone. I know that I am accountable to do what is the very best for our entire district and not be swayed by other board members or other vocal elements. We have built three new elementary schools, a beautiful, new Performing Arts Center at BHS, and have done other major improvements to our other buildings. We are currently discussing how to handle the Edison Academy building. This has taken a considerable amount of planning, discussing and determining the best way forward. I have been willing to do all of that. I have not shown favoritism in these projects, nor have I been swayed by the pressure of nasty emails, Facebook and Twitter postings. As a result, I believe I have the trust and confidence of the overwhelming majority of our community.

What specific strengths would you bring to the board?

I believe I am an independent thinker and have a tremendous affection for our district. We are only 9 sq. miles and everything that we do must be of the highest standard and quality. I have always voted my conscience even if it is against the overwhelming majority. I am willing to ask some of the more difficult questions when needed as I feel we need to do the best for our students, teachers, our other employees and our community. I have a proven track record of voting and doing what is best for our entire district. Having been on the board for 18 yrs., I have had to make some very serious and unpopular decisions, but the guiding concept for me has always been to do the right thing for the BCSD as a whole. I am not a single issue candidate and never have been. Because of that, I feel I have earned the trust and respect of the overwhelming majority of the BCSD.