



Bettendorf Community School District  
**2019 Board Candidate Profile**



<b>Name</b>	<b>Michael Neighbor</b>
<b>Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:mgneighbor@yahoo.com">mgneighbor@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Address</b>	3797 Deerbrook Dr., Bettendorf
<b>Occupation</b>	Occupational Therapist
<b>Education</b>	BA Biology - University of Iowa MAOT - St. Catherine's University
<b>How long have you lived in the district?</b>	15 years
<b>Family</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wife - Cortney</li><li>• Children: Ben, Will, Jack, and Evie</li></ul>
<b>School/District activities</b>	District Safety Committee, parent representative; Elementary Facilities Advisory Committee Member; Neil Armstrong Principal Search Committee Member, parent volunteer at various school activities
<b>Are you a Bettendorf High School graduate? If so, what year?</b>	No
<b>What motivates you to want to become a board member?</b>	Cortney and I are not Bettendorf natives. When we moved to the Quad Cities, the quality of schools was our top consideration for choosing where to live. As we researched the local districts, Bettendorf checked off the most boxes on our list, including: quality education, variety of offerings, diverse student body, student support, and teacher excellence. We have not been disappointed. We have experienced all of these characteristics and more as our children make their way through the elementary, middle school, and high school ranks. My motivation for running to be a Bettendorf School Board Member is to serve a district that has provided so much for our family and to help the Bettendorf Community Schools be the district of choice for many more families.

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

We have four kids: a ninth grader, a seventh grader, a fourth grader, and a second grader. I have a daily, multi-level exposure to Bettendorf schools, teachers, policies, and activities. I will have a student at three levels of the school for the next 3 years. This insight affords me a view few have and it can help shape the decisions I will be making to improve the educational experience of not only my children, but for the entire district.

As an occupational therapist, I work very closely with patients, families, and the entire healthcare team to bring about the best outcomes for all parties. I often treat people at their lowest moments and help them build themselves into someone they are proud to be despite physical, psychological, or emotional injuries and lack of resources. Despite these obstacles, as a team we are able to make their lives better. I hope to bring this collaborative skill set to the Bettendorf School Board as we work with the superintendent to better our schools.

### **What specific strengths would you bring to the board?**

I would strive to enhance leadership, collaboration, and insight. As a supervisor, I have managed staff, set priorities, guided courses of action, and analyzed the outcomes all while meeting budget. The problem solving and multi-tasking required to be a leader in my career will benefit me in my role as a board member. My experience collaborating with teams consisting of people with different interests and opinions will enable me to work jointly with the board members and the superintendent to do what is best for Bettendorf Community Schools. With four children spanning high school, middle school, and elementary, I hope to bring insights from each level of the district to board deliberations.