



[Rebecca Little - Candidate for D64 School Board](#)

[December 14, 2018](#)

I have decided to run for Eastman Tiu's vacated seat. I have three sons – a third grader at Field, a kindergartner at St. Paul of the Cross who will start at Field next year, and a toddler. (I will have kids in the district until 2030, so I have a vested long-term interest in successful schools. I don't want these guys to end up living in my basement.)

I am a freelance writer and a stay at home mom. I spent much of my career covering local news – I estimate I've sat through about 700 hours of meetings for park, village, township and school boards all across the Chicago suburbs. And I have never seen anything that matches the level of dysfunction displayed on the D64 board. The inefficient, overly long meetings, a hostility toward public comment, and getting into the weeds on every. single. issue. I've been attending D64 meetings for about a year and a half and have wanted to become more involved. Now that my baby has declared armistice in his war against sleeping through the night, I have that time.

Locally, I'm a vice president of the Park Ridge League of Women Voters, communications coordinator for Go Green Park Ridge, a local environmental group, and a member of the city's Youth Commission, District 207's Community Advisory Council, and the Field PTO. Professionally, I'm a former contributing editor for Chicago magazine and I've written for Crain's Chicago Business, The Chicago Tribune, Zagat, Google, The Irish Times, and O.

If elected, I plan to work toward rebuilding trust between parents and taxpayers and the district. There's been a series of debacles over the last year and a half. We made the news for misogynistic comments made by a board member who then resigned. Gaps in special education prompted devastated parents to give emotional testimony to the board (which rightly gave way to a special ed committee.) The SRO debate went way off the rails. Items of interest are often buried on the agenda, meaning those wanting to offer public comment can sit for three hours before it comes up, preventing many who would like to comment from being able to do so. Taken together, these issues have eroded trust in our school board, and a newly elected board needs to work together to restore it. Agenda items of public interest should be higher on the docket. Roberts Rules of Order should be consistently followed. District 64 should create a Community Advisory Council similar to the one that I sit on for District 207, to engage in a meaningful dialogue with parents and create a pipeline of qualified board members for the future. And that's just for starters.

When I told my kids I was running for school board, my oldest said, "That's great, Mom. Is that like a 5K?" No, bud. This is waaayyy longer, with significantly less cardio.

I look forward to hearing what issues are important to you.

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