

James M. Mulcahy - Candidate for Grand Island
Central School District Board of Education



I am running for the Grand Island School Board because I believe that it needs fresh perspectives. I have been an observer of the Board for forty-eight years. While the names and faces have changed, the process just rolls forward: the waste of taxpayer money continues; dismissing concerns and complaints of parents continues. Nothing ever changes. I would like to help change this.

My background is in economics and finance. I earned a MA in economics from The Ohio State University and an MBA in finance and accounting from the University of Chicago. I worked for 45 years in the banking and energy fields. I have worked as an economist, financial analyst, rate of return expert (at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio) and risk officer, retiring eight years ago. Currently, I am an adjunct lecturer in economics at UB. I have taught as an adjunct, off and on, for more than 47 years.

I believe that my experience would be an asset to the decision-making by the Board. One thing that I learned over my career is that to be successful you need to be willing to say no. Not every idea or approach is worth investing time, money or effort in. It is Board's job to keep the District focused on its core mission of educating our children. By being willing to say no, it will go a long way in enabling the faculty to teach, and the staff to provide the necessary support, while at the same time being a good steward of the taxpayers' money.

Mike Madigan and I are both running on a 5-point plan of accountability and excellence. First, there has to be budget accountability. Our scarce resources must be used wisely. Second, an organizational review should be undertaken. Is our staff properly positioned to be most efficient? Also, we also need to see that the environment is conducive to learning. The faculty has to know we have their backs. Third, we should use our facilities better. We have a large capital investment that sits idle much of the time. Why? Fourth. Our capital planning and spending need to be reassessed. Fifth, our curriculum needs to focus on the interests of all of the students.

These are common sense items that not only need to be addressed but there must be clear-cut measures of success identified and adhered to. As an example, referring to our first point, if we lowered the growth rate of the budget from 2.99% per year to 1.99% per year, after five years the budget would have grown 10.4%, not 15.9%. Little improvements magnify themselves over time.

Again, I believe that my skills and experience would be an asset to the Board. I would be representing all of our constituencies: students, faculty, staff, and taxpayers.

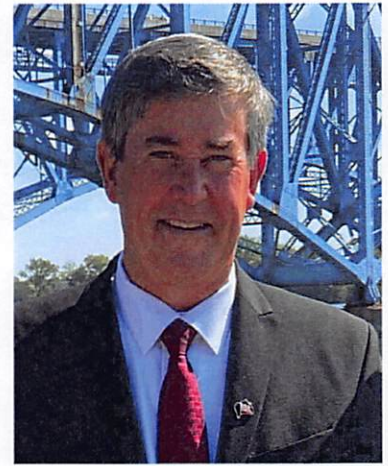
I would appreciate your vote on May 19th.

Mike Madigan – Candidate for Grand Island Central School District Board of Education

Smart Oversight. Strong Schools. Responsible Spending.

I am running for the Grand Island Central School District Board of Education to bring disciplined oversight, transparent decision-making, responsible financial management, and a renewed focus on strengthening both vocational and traditional education.

I have been a Grand Island resident since 1987 and am now retired following a long and successful career.



Most recently, I served as Senior Program Manager at Thermo Fisher Scientific (GIBCO) from 2007 to 2025. Prior to that, I held leadership roles as Manager of Manufacturing and Manager of Process Engineering, where I led teams, managed large budgets, and earned multiple leadership awards. As a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), I take a data-driven approach to decision-making, with a strong emphasis on results and accountability.

My wife, Leslie, a lifelong Islander, and I raised our two sons, William and Matthew, in the Grand Island school system. As both a parent and taxpayer, I understand the importance of maintaining academic excellence while also addressing the burden of high property taxes. I served eight years as a Town Councilman, building a record of fiscal responsibility, transparency, and strong advocacy for residents. I am also an experienced public speaker, skilled at communicating complex issues clearly and effectively.

Since 2015, I have served as a Grand Island Volunteer Fireman, responding to an average of more than 200 calls per year—demonstrating my deep commitment to this community.

Together with Jim Mulcahy, I am running on a five-point plan focused on accountability and excellence:

- Budget Accountability: Conduct a line-by-line review of spending to eliminate waste
- Organizational Review: Ensure efficient and fair administration
- Smarter Use of Facilities: Expand shared use with the Town
- Responsible Capital Planning: Reduce long-term taxpayer burden
- Strong, Traditional Curriculum: Emphasize proven fundamentals and prepare students for college or vocational careers

I am committed to transparent governance, fiscal discipline, and putting students and taxpayers first.

Vote for Mike Madigan on May 19

My name is **Susan Marston**. I am a lifelong resident of Grand Island and a proud graduate of Grand Island High School. I am married to Pete Marston, also a proud Grand Island High School graduate. We have a son Peter, who recently graduated from GIHS in 2025. During his time at GIHS he played volleyball and played the tuba in the wind ensemble. He is now a freshman at Wilson College.



I received a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in accounting from Niagara University. I spent 15 years working as an accountant in the private sector. I made a career change when my son was born. I currently work at home as a logistics coordinator for a company that encourages community involvement. In 2017 I was a recipient of the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award for Community Service. I was honored by the Western New York Educational Service Council in 2022 in recognition of my exemplary contribution to the students I serve.

As a trustee on the Grand Island Board of Education, I have been very involved during the past 13 years. I served as Vice President for 9 years and I am currently serving as President. I have served on many committees during my tenure: The Audit Committee, The Community Education Committee, The Community Relations Committee, Food Service Committee, Distinguished Alumni Committee, DEi Committee, GISBA and Liaison to the Sidway PTA, Huth Road PTA, Kaegbein PTA and the PTA Council. I believe I have balanced my commitment to the interest of all stakeholders and have never wavered from my commitment to our students.

Some highlights of my accomplishments:

- Implemented the Veterans tax exemption.
- Continue to monitor all class sizes and are committed to smaller class sizes at all of our buildings.
- Increased our graduation rate.
- Assisted in the development and monitoring of a five-year strategic plan for the district.
- Made the curricular alignment between Kaegbein and Huth Road Elementary Schools a priority through work with district leaders.
- Advocated for the expansion of sports teams for students including modified soccer and flag football.
- Led in the development of the Family Resource Center to provide needed mental health services throughout the Grand Island Community.
- Supported School Resource Officers for our schools

I'm **Liz Goss**, a longtime Grand Island resident and GIHS graduate. My husband, Shawn, and I are high school sweethearts and have four incredible children: Jay, studying Exercise Science at the University of Buffalo, Emily, a Junior at GIHS, Zee, a 7th grader at VCMS, and Essy, a 6th grader at VCMS. We also have two dogs, two cats, and take on a third dog when a foster home is needed by the City of Buffalo Animal Shelter. My home and heart is always full.



My desire to serve on the board is rooted in my passion to build up the next generation and to serve others. I'm perhaps best known in the community as Coach Liz from The Park Buffalo. I'm the founder and owner of this local, family owned and operated business. I manage the business as well as coach ninja warrior classes and adaptive lessons. I love promoting healthy living and focusing on character building and life skills like goal setting, determination, and overcoming difficulties when working with my students at The Park. I have also launched an adaptive program making this activity accessible to individuals with both cognitive and physical disabilities. Increasing inclusion and accessibility is a lifelong goal of mine and one I strive to implement whenever and wherever possible.

Before entering the world of fitness, I worked in the field of education. I attended Buffalo State College and received a Bachelor of Science in Education (Elementary and Special Education) followed by a Master of Science in Education (Literacy Specialist). I have experience teaching in 6:1 :1 self-contained classroom for students with severe disabilities, as a consultant teacher working with students with mild disabilities, and as a 4th grade general education classroom teacher.

If elected to the Board of Education, I commit to:

1. Focus on educating students for the changing future and preparing students for the future workforce that awaits them.
2. Focus on mental health, combatting the crisis in our country and the bullying within our schools.
3. Focus on inclusion; celebrating diversity in our schools & community and ensuring the inclusion and success of all.

I am hopeful and excited for the prospect of serving the community on the Board of Education. I am proud and grateful to have received an endorsement from the Grand Island Teacher Association.