

Williston Public School District #1

Candidate, Jim Purkey

Jim Purkey graduated with a degree in Anthropology, has lived in Williston for 6 years, works for Books on Broadway and Williston Home and Lumber, has been a substitute teacher for both Districts 1 & 8 and is running because he has a daughter attending Bakken Elementary.

Q. Do you support a merger of District 1 and District 8? Why or why not?

A. I do not support a merger with District 8. Merging our two school districts would be a complicated process that will affect other school districts like Trenton, Granora, and Ray. District 8 is a K-9 school district; District 1 is a K-12 school district; District 8 would have to voluntarily be absorbed by District 1. I do not see that happening. Both districts could dissolve; then a new school district could be formed; however, that would allow every existing school district in the area to reform their boundaries and also allow any number of new school districts to try to form in the vacuum left by the dissolution of the districts.

Q. Do you support re-configuring the boundaries of District 1 and District 8? Why or why not?

A. I do support the reconfigure of boundaries between the two school districts; for the health of the community as a whole. District 1 should logically expand as the city expands; the rural becomes urban. District 1 is the urban school district and District 8 is the rural. The needs of a rural school district are a little different than that of a urban. There is also less confusion for the people of this great city.

Q. Do you support another bond referendum to pay for future school projects?

A. The answer to that it depends on the referendum. Property taxes on land and houses are one of the most unfair forms of taxation; the government taxes you on something you already own for one; the government appraises your property; then it tells you how much you have pay them; Taxes are a necessary; fair taxes are a requirement. In the past school districts could as the tax payers for a use tax ie . \$.01 tax on monies spent in the district; there by generating the income it need for building and repairing and remodeling. However our legislature in Bismarck have tied our hand from ask our constituent for a fair form of taxes, and only left us with property taxes as a form of revenue to do the require improvements. So the referendum has would have to repair and remodel existing buildings in a frugal manner, remove the “portables” and replace them all with permanent structures and

then build with an eye to neighborhood schools with defined boundaries. That referendum I would reluctantly support. All the while, I would be working to get our legislature to untie our hands so we can get the funds we need.