

# 2022 Voters Guide

## Cambridge-Isanti Board of Education

(vote for 4)

### Kevin Gross

**What are your qualifications for the job?** “I’ve worked for 10 years in law enforcement, and working as a school resource officer has taught me a lot about our schools, how they operate, and what our students’ needs are. I also worked in the mental health field that has carried over to my law enforcement career.”

**What are the biggest challenges facing the school board?** “There are a lot of challenges in the district, including finances and a distrust between the community and the school. It takes a village to raise a teenager; I think that trust between the school and community is a huge thing.”

### Tom Heinen

**What are your qualifications for the job?** “I think my biggest qualification is a questioning attitude. What I’ve learned in the



Tom Heinen

business work, being a leader for more than 20 years, is that we have to question what we’re doing. Whether that’s in how we’re spending money, what policies we’re setting, and what curriculum we’re selecting.”

**What are the biggest challenges facing the school board?** “I think the biggest challenge is community support. People are not sure we are heading in the right direction. I would support that by listening to the community. I’ll be an advocate for the community.”

### Tim Hitchings

**What are your qualifications for the job?**

“I have served on the Cambridge-Isanti School Board for the past twelve years; two years as Treasurer and the past ten years as Board Chair. I also am a twelve-year member of the Facilities Committee.”

**What are the biggest challenges facing the school board?**

“If re-elected, I will continue to improve our schools by listening to all stakeholders. I will continue to promote community engagement in our committees. ... I will listen to all sides of issues so Board decisions are based on what’s best for our students, parents, staff, and community.”

### Nick Izzo

**What are your qualifications for the job?** “I believe my professional background qualifies me for the school board. I have a degree in public relations and communications, and I’ve spent a number of years in that field before moving



Nick Izzo

over to supply chain management. There I look at process improvement and making systems better. And I’m a professional negotiator, which I think would help the school board.”

**What are the biggest challenges facing the school board?**

“I think there are so many challenges the district faces. Our administration and staff have done a phenomenal job of working through. I look at funding for schools. ... Funding is one of the biggest challenges we face at the state level, and that comes all the way down to the district level.”

### Nicole Johnson

**What are your qualifications for the job?**

“I have a degree in finance and eight years experience in school finance, and the last four years I have been on the board. I have learned so much, and the different committees that I have been on have helped me understand the challenges the schools face.”



Nicole Johnson

**What are the biggest challenges facing the school board?**

“The biggest challenge is definitely finance. There is little we can do on the school board; it matters more who we vote for in the state legislature. What we can do is work with those legislators to try and change how the funding is done our state to make things more equitable.”

### DeEtta Moos

**What are your qualifications for the job?** “I am a unique school board candidate because I have home schooled four children for the last 25 years. I’ve taught K-through-12, finding my own curriculum. My goal on the school board is to use my knowledge to see what curriculum is best for our teachers and will be honored by our community.”

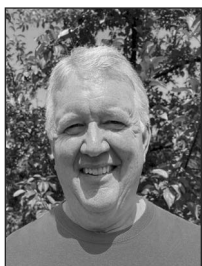


DeEtta Moos

**What are the biggest challenges facing the school board?** “Because of the national conversation, I think the biggest issue is trust in our schools. I would like to help dispel some of the fears people have, because not everything you hear about is happening at Cambridge-Isanti Schools. We have a lot to be proud of in our schools and in our community.”

### Mark Solberg

**What are your qualifications for the job?** “I have a K-12 principal’s license, I have a master’s degree in educational curriculum and instruction. I’m a certified activities administrator, and I have a teaching license in so-



Mark Solberg

cial studies and physical education. I also have a coaching license. I’ve been a teacher and a coach, and I’ve been the activities and athletics director for the school.”

**What are the biggest challenges facing the school board?** “I find it fascinating that the state is at historic levels [of funding], inflation is at 8%, and schools are getting just 2% of state funds. That makes it hard to balance budgets. We cut \$8.5 million in three years before passing a levy, so thanks to the community for that. ... We have to go after state money.”

### Wade Thunstrom

**What are your qualifications for the job?**

“I am a parent with kids in the district, so I care about them, and about the teachers who teach them. I have a business background that allows me to see through



Wade Thunstrom

the fog and get somewhere without causing too much pain. And I’m a taxpayer, so I understand that budgets have to be met.”

**What are the biggest challenges facing the school board?**

“Funding obviously is a problem, mental health is a problem. Some teachers don’t feel they are being heard, and morale is low in that group. As a fiscal conservative, my No. 1 is funding. ... I don’t think there’s an easy answer.”

### Alexis Treichel

**What are your qualifications for the job?**

“I think my biggest qualification is the passion that I have for education and for students. I thought I was going to grow up to be a teacher. After my brain injury, going to school was a lot harder. That gives me a passion for students; I’ve been working with teenagers and young adults for the last 10 years to become productive members of society.”

**What are the biggest challenges facing the school board?**

“One of my biggest passions is accessibility and equity in education. We don’t realize how lacking we are in accessibility because we don’t recognize the needs of all of our students. Why do students struggle? Because they don’t know the resources that are available to them.”

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