

VOTERS' GUIDE 2025

SCHOOL BOARD: ISD 621 MOUNDS VIEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS (ELECT 3)

Tascha Just

City of residence: Arden Hills

Occupation: School Psychologist

List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

I am President-Elect of the Minnesota School Psychologists Association with more than 20 years in public education. Appointed by the Secretary of State, I serve on the Children’s Justice Act Task Force, improving responses to child abuse and neglect. Locally, I am Board Secretary for the Mounds View Schools’ Native American Parent Committee, advancing cultural connection and advocacy. My career has centered on student mental health, school safety, and supporting neurodivergent learners. I’m running to ensure every student feels seen, supported and prepared to thrive.

instruction, and access to the right tools. Just as important, we need to maintain the trust that comes when families, staff and students are heard.

Whether it was the cell phone policy or the addition of Diwali to the calendar, Mounds View has shown how collaboration creates solutions that reflect our shared values. Passing the levy will allow us to sustain these priorities - safe schools, strong academics and a community that works together to prepare every student to thrive.

Q.What do you see as the major issue(s) facing your school district?

A. The most pressing issue is ensuring our schools have the resources they need. Mounds View has earned a strong reputation, but we are at a crossroads. Technology systems need updating, student devices require replacement and cyber security threats remain constant. Addressing these areas now is essential to maintain both academic progress and student safety.

We are also navigating challenges with class sizes, behavioral disruptions, and student mental health. These concerns are real for families and staff, and they require thoughtful, proactive solutions.

And above all, trust and communication matter. Parents want to be heard and included, and when that happens, our district

shines. From the cell phone policy to the inclusion of Diwali on the calendar, Mounds View has shown it can balance data, best practices, and community needs. That spirit of collaboration is the key to meeting any future challenge.

Q. What are your thoughts on the current and the proposed budget for your school district?

A. Our current budget reflects Mounds View’s priorities, with 75 cents of every dollar going directly to student instruction and support. That strong foundation is something we can be proud of. At the same time, like many districts, we face rising costs and new needs - keeping transportation reliable, paying teachers competitively, and supporting students who need extra help.

The proposed levy looks ahead to the next decade. It strengthens safety, updates technology, and supports learning environments while preserving classroom funding. For the average household, the cost is about \$18 a month - an investment that helps ensure our schools remain safe, modern, and strong.

What makes me hopeful is how our community consistently steps up for students. This levy is another chance to do just that: to work together so that every child has access to secure, innovative, and supportive schools where they can thrive.

Mark Sacay

City of residence: Shoreview

Occupation: Consultant

List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- Unidos, MN
- Indivisible Twin Cities
- Isaiah

2. Continuous improvement of academic excellence and support for concurrent enrollment.

Our schools should be centers of opportunity, where all students—regardless of background—have the tools and support they need to succeed, this includes high academic standards, robust instructional practices. I also believe in continuing support for college credits earned in high school through options such as ARCC, CIS, AP, CLEP, PSEO and CTE.

3. Prioritizing mental health in our schools.

The district aims to improve student well-being by expanding readily accessible resources, including on-campus counselors, therapists, and dedicated safe spaces where students can seek support. Also, recognizing the immense pressure on our teachers and staff, I will advocate for professional development that includes training on identifying mental health challenges, as well as access to wellness programs and support services for educators.

Q. What do you see as the major issue(s) facing your school district?

A.

- School safety
- Cyber (hacking, phishing, malware/ransomware)
- Mental health
- Achievement gaps based on demographics

Q. What are your thoughts on the current and the proposed budget for your school district?

A. I’ve carefully reviewed the proposed budget and believe it represents a strategic, long-term investment. My top priority is fiscal responsibility, and I’m confident this plan is necessary to meet the critical needs of our students, staff, and community.

This budget’s focus on safety is essential. It allocates funds for physical security upgrades, which are crucial in today’s world. Furthermore, the investment in technology and data security is a critical step to address the risks and opportunities presented by the rapid evolution of AI. Protecting our students’ sensitive information isn’t a luxury; it’s a necessity to prevent breaches and maintain community trust.

Shauna Bock

City of residence: Mounds View

Occupation: Director of Secondary Education for the Department of Corrections

List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- Treasurer Mounds View School Board
- Co-Chair City of Mounds View Community Engagement Committee
- Member Irondale Band Boosters

strong building security and robust cybersecurity systems, must remain a top priority.

2. Academic excellence: I am committed to maintaining high standards of teaching and learning while also supporting innovation that equips students with real-world skills for college, career, and beyond.

3. Student well-being: Supporting the mental health, social-emotional needs, and sense of belonging of each student is key to ensuring they are prepared to learn and thrive.

Q. What do you see as the major issue(s) facing your school district?

A. Security, safety and technology gaps.

A 2024 internal technology audit revealed urgent needs:

- School safety: Insufficient security camera coverage and outdated visitor management systems.
- Cybersecurity: The district experiences over 60,000 unauthorized

access attempts per month to its technology systems.

- Classroom technology: Chromebooks, iPads, and interactive displays are aging or inconsistent in performance.

Q. What are your thoughts on the current and the proposed budget for your school district?

A. The district has done a commendable job of managing resources efficiently while prioritizing the classroom. I appreciate the transparency in budget planning however, like many Minnesota districts, we face structural funding challenges. The proposed budget reflects difficult but necessary decisions to maintain core academic programs and services. Moving forward, I believe it is critical that we continue to advocate for sustainable state funding, while also being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars to ensure every dollar directly benefits students.

CANDIDATE SHEA BRUCE DID NOT RESPOND

Quick Links:

- View the elections home at

mnvotes.gov
- Register to vote or update your registration at

mnvotes.gov/register
- Request an absentee ballot at

mnvotes.gov/absentee
- View a sample ballot at

mnvotes.gov/myballot
- Find your polling place at

mnvotes.gov/pollfinder