

October 28, 2021

Dear Families of the Minnetonka School District,

On November 2, citizens of the Minnetonka school district will choose 3 new school board members. Today we are asking you to vote for **Christian Vitale** and **Jessica Reader** for Minnetonka School Board.

For decades Minnetonka residents have enjoyed the community benefit of exceptional schools. Minnetonka schools have a legacy of strong academic results with high rankings and high test scores, leading those outside our community with a desire to open enroll or move into the district for our outstanding schools. Minnetonka has also earned its reputation for fiscal responsibility, doing more with less, and paving the way for or adopting the most innovative programs in the state including Vantage, SAIL Transition Education, Momentum Trades, Navigators, and Wilson Reading. **In the last decade our community has seen many neighboring districts lose vitality. We must protect Minnetonka by choosing the best leaders for academic success.**

Our Concern

As we have attended forums, listened to candidates, and read websites, we have observed several things exhibited by some school board candidates which concern us:

- **Lack of Knowledge.** Candidates are running for school board but have not volunteered in our schools, participated in district committees, or attended recent school board meetings to learn about the district. They **lack basic knowledge** about how ‘school’ operates in our community. Board members that make decisions that are best for students, staff, and the community, are individuals knowledgeable about the business they are going to lead. They have taken the time to learn about the organization.
- **Sharp criticism for the current board and administration.** The school board and the administration set the tone for the district. A district that is in turmoil is a place where people do not feel confident or supported. These organizations see significant turnover in staff and lose academic focus. This would be highly disruptive to our students and overall community.

Our Recommendation

We believe that our students, staff, and community deserve school board members that are committed to the vision of child centered, world class excellence for our schools and promote a culture of belonging for all students. We must build upon the incredible foundation of this district and protect the academic excellence of our schools by voting for candidates that are committed to these ideals.

We endorse and encourage you to vote for Chris Vitale and Jessica Reader on Nov 2:

Christian Vitale

Chris Vitale, current chair of the school board, is a well-known, trusted, and effective leader. Chris has demonstrated his ability to lead the district to build upon its strengths and create solutions for all students, families, and staff. Chris’ leadership and tempered communication skills bring people together, especially evident during the exceedingly difficult last two years. The board, under his leadership, moved forward on the new SAIL transition program and Momentum trades program which will benefit many students in the years to come. We need Chris’ experience, commitment to our students, and proven history of success. www.reelectchriscvital.com.

Jessica Reader

Fifteen years of business leadership with Procter & Gamble and five years of prior board experience with Minnetonka Theatre and Vocal Support make **Jessica Reader** a trusted leader for our community. While prioritizing an excellent academic education for each student, she will leverage her 25 years of strategy, negotiation, finance, and analytics to ensure Minnetonka’s continued fiscal responsibility. As the wife of a beloved Minnetonka educator and mother of two recent Minnetonka graduates, Jessica has valuable insight for our school district.
www.jessicareader.com

This election is very important to the future of our children and our community. Please join us in **voting on November 2nd for Christian Vitale and Jessica Reader.**

Sincerely,

School Board Members

John Holcomb
Charlie Kanan
Pam Langseth
Mike LeSage
Lisa Sumner

Community Business Leaders, Teachers, Coaches and Parents

Cary and Kristi Biel
Chris and Lexi Bixler
Bob and Jennie Coughlin
Nancy and Jim Countryman
Jim and Sarah DeMann
Dan Dosek
Nicole and Jon Fahning
Jeff Josephson
Rhondi Larson Meiusi, MD
Matt and Pam Moran
Coach Dave and Maureen Nelson
Barb Odom
Chris and Jane Pears
Joel Schrimpf
Tammy Schwartz
Tom and Jennifer Shawgo
Jeff and Michelle Velgersdyk
Jon and Mary Wiersum
Tony Wixo
Carl and Ali Zinn

Prepared and paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Christian Vitale 5524 Nantucket Rd, Mtka, MN 55345
Prepared and paid for by the Committee to Elect Jessica Reader, PO Box 124, Chanhassen, MN 55317