

Valparaiso School Board Application

Completed application may be Subjected to Public Disclosure and must be completed and turned in by noon April 21, 2023.

First Name	Karl
Last Name	Cender
Address1	4304 Bedford Rd
City	Valparaiso
State	IN
Zip	46383-1455
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Education	BA in Accounting, Goshen College
Present Employer	Cender Dalton Municipal Advisor
Occupation	Financing Consulting Services
Other Public Office(s) Held	Previously was a school board member of the Valparaiso Community Schools
Political Party Affiliation	Democrat
Reason(s) for Applying	It is a way for me to serve in my community, to use my expertise in public finance to help guide the school.
Children/Grandchildren Enrolled in VCS	No

If Yes (What grades and Which Schools)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Board/Committee Experience	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	Prior 12 years on Valparaiso Community Schools; Chairman of New Creation Business Advocates, Valparaiso; and board of trustee member at Calumet College of Saint Joseph in Hammond, IN
Civic/Professional Organizations/Membership	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Indiana CPA Society
Experience With Detailed Financial Matters	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	As a CPA and a part of my job I consult regularly with Schools, Cities, Towns, Counties and special taxing units on matters of public finance.
Prior Leadership Experience	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	12 years on VCS Board of Trustees including 2 years as President. Currently serving as Chairman of New Creation Business Advocates, a mens shelter and resale store.
Unique Skills You Possess that will Benefit School Board	My prior experience in serving on VCS board for 12 years, my experience on serving on Calumet College of St. Joseph Board and my many years of financial consulting experience with public sector entities.
Educational Philosophy	To ensure that Valparaiso has the best possible schools to serve all of our children, make sure that everyone has an equal opportunity to learn, grow, excel and reach their educational and extra curricular goals and have the best resources available for accomplishing these goals.
Name Two People Who Would Provide a Recommendation as to Your Ability To Serve On The VCS School Board. Please Include Phone Numbers/Email Addresses	Dr. Jim McCall, Superintendent VCS, telephone [REDACTED] [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] e-mail [REDACTED] Kurt Minko, [REDACTED] e-mail: [REDACTED]

Valparaiso School Board Application

Completed application may be Subjected to Public Disclosure and must be completed and turned in by noon April 21, 2023.

First Name	Ashley
Last Name	Kruse
Address1	2264 Marrell Hill Road
City	Valparaiso
State	IN
Zip	46385
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Education	Lake Central High School - Academic Honors Indiana University Bloomington - B.S. Informatics
Present Employer	LucidiaIT
Occupation	Client Account Director
Other Public Office(s) Held	None
Political Party Affiliation	Democrat

Reason(s) for Applying

As someone who cares about my community and highly values the opportunity education offers, I strongly believe a school board is most effective when it is representative of the community in which it resides. Serving on the education board is an opportunity to be part of that representation and to give back to the community through my education and experience. It is an opportunity to provide input that will shape the way our community and schools come together.

I believe that every student deserves access to a high-quality education, and as a school board member, I would have the opportunity to work collaboratively with other members to shape policies that improve student outcomes. I am also committed to advocating for teachers and ensuring that we are creating an environment that attracts and retains talented educators for our students.

Lastly, I feel that quality schools are the cornerstone of any city or town. When schools are highly sought after and provide high-quality education and extra-curriculars, it attracts new community members, new businesses, and contributes to the overall vitality of the city.

Children/Grandchildren Enrolled in VCS	Yes
If Yes (What grades and Which Schools)	Memorial - 2nd Grade Heavilin - Preschool Speech Services
Board/Committee Experience	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	While not board or committee experience in the traditional sense, I have 15+ years of experience presenting, collaborating, and negotiating with various school districts, NPO's, and private/public company's financial committees, technology committees, and governing boards. I also co-founded and co-chaired the "Parents Community" at one of my previous employers.
Civic/Professional Organizations/Membership	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	PTO Member at Memorial Elementary School Indiana University Alumni Association (IUAA) Hoosier Educational Computer Coordinators (HECC) – Attendee/Sponsor International Legal Technology Association (ILTA) – Attendee/Sponsor Indiana IT Symposium – Attendee/Sponsor

Experience With Detailed Financial Matters	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	<p>I have 20 years of experience in sales and leasing, which has given me a strong understanding of financial concepts and the importance of financial analysis in decision making. I have regularly worked with financial statements and budgets to evaluate the performance of my business units and make strategic decisions. I understand the importance of accurately forecasting revenue and expenses, managing cash flow, and mitigating financial risk.</p> <p>Additionally, I have a strong ability to interpret financial data and communicate it effectively to stakeholders with varying levels of financial expertise. I have experience presenting financial reports and analysis to executive leadership teams and board members and I'm confident in my ability to contribute to financial discussions at a high level.</p>
Prior Leadership Experience	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	<p>While with Xerox, I was chosen for leadership training, which consisted of a year long program that focused on communication, decision-making, ethics and corporate responsibility, emotional IQ, and conflict resolution. I've served as a peer mentor both professionally and academically throughout my career. Specifically, I was an academic mentor for Launch U, an organization that assists underserved youth in Chicago. I provided advice, guidance, and emotional support through the college and scholarship application process and preparation for the transition of college life. I also co-found and co-chaired the "Parents Community" during my time at Verkada. The community served to help parents and guardians navigate the difficulties of the pandemic, provided emotional, and sometimes, financial assistance, hosted informational and social events, and advocated for improved parental benefits. Finally, I am responsible for managing a \$MM portfolio of clients; accountable for identifying and managing the sales process, aligning the proper resources, providing accurate forecasts, and ensuring client satisfaction.</p>
Unique Skills You Possess that will Benefit School Board	<p>I have my degree in Informatics which provides a distinctive understanding of how to manage and analyze data for decision making and can help make data-driven decisions regarding student performance, educational programs, and resource allocation. Additionally, I have multiple certifications and a vast general knowledge on different technologies – data centers, networks, cloud, security, and end user services.</p> <p>More recently, I've focused on physical security technologies and how to keep schools safe from outside threats. I've</p>

moderated sessions on Safety Planning & Emergency Response at the FORTIFY Symposium and co-hosted a web session with the CTO of Zionsville Community Schools for Campus Safety Magazine on implementing modern technology to bolster security.

I also have 15+ years of experience working with K12 districts and higher education institutions. I am knowledgeable on K12 technology infrastructures and roadmaps, cybersecurity risks and necessary precautions, and end user/classroom technologies.

Lastly, throughout my career, I have learned how to effectively communicate with multiple stakeholders, understand the needs and interests of each respective group, and negotiate mutually beneficial deals.

Educational Philosophy

Access to quality education is the greatest equalizer of opportunity and should be a fundamental right. My educational philosophy is centered on the belief that education should empower students to think critically, communicate effectively, and become lifelong learners.

To achieve this goal, I believe in providing different avenues for students to learn, recognizing that people learn in different ways. This means allowing educators to utilize a variety of teaching methods, including lectures, discussion, experiential learning, and providing opportunities for students to work independently, in pairs, and in groups. It also means incorporating technology into the classroom and using multimedia resources to enhance student learning.

I also believe that diversity is important in education. That means valuing the unique perspectives that our differences bring to the classroom and creating an inclusive environment where all students feel safe and protected.

Name Two People Who Would Provide a Recommendation as to Your Ability To Serve On The VCS School Board. Please Include Phone Numbers/Email Addresses

Janet Stiller

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dan & Brittany Lieski

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Valparaiso School Board Application

Completed application may be Subjected to Public Disclosure and must be completed and turned in by noon April 21, 2023.

First Name	Clay
Last Name	Patton
Address1	2403 William Drive
City	Valparaiso
State	IN
Zip	46385
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Education	Cooks Corners Elementary School (K thru 6) Ben Franklin Junior High School (7-8) Valparaiso High School (1990) Indiana University (B.A. 1994) Indiana University - McKinney School of Law (J.D. 1999)
Present Employer	PATTON LAW, LLC
Occupation	Attorney
Other Public Office(s) Held	Valparaiso Plan Commission (2022 - Present)
Political Party Affiliation	Democratic

Reason(s) for Applying	As a VCS K-12 alum who has two (2) children attending the same school system, the present and future success of the Valparaiso School Community Schools is vitally important to me. I am committed to making a difference for our community and believe that serving on the Valparaiso School Board is the next best way for me to do so.
Children/Grandchildren Enrolled in VCS	Yes
If Yes (What grades and Which Schools)	11th grade at Valparaiso High School 8th grade at Ben Franklin Middle School
Board/Committee Experience	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	VCS Community Focus Group (2020) Valparaiso YMCA Board (2019-Present) Indiana University McKinney School of Law Alumni Association Board (2012-2018) Valparaiso Schools Foundation (2010-2017) Family & Youth Services Bureau (2007-2012)
Civic/Professional Organizations/Membership	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	Porter County Bar Association (President 2009) Indiana State Bar Association Indiana University Alumni Association (Life Member) Valparaiso Noon Kiwanis (2005-Present) Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce (Leadership Academy 2006)
Experience With Detailed Financial Matters	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	Having served as legal counsel for various municipal entities within Porter County for the last 20 years, I am experienced in the local government budget process and the regular review of financial matters. Additionally, having formed and operated successful local businesses (and representing countless other businesses), I understand the importance of a balanced

budget. Finally, having represented clients in complex multi-million dollar financial transactions, I am keenly aware of the need to pay attention to detail.

Prior Leadership Experience Yes

If Yes (Please Explain)

Valparaiso YMCA Board (Executive Committee; Crisis Management Committee; Secretary)

Valparaiso Schools Foundation (Vice President)

Porter County Bar Association (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer)

Unique Skills You Possess that will Benefit School Board

My legal education, training and experience provides me the critical thinking and problem solving skills necessary to reach solutions to difficult and intricate situations. These skills further allow me to recognize problems before they arise and take action to avoid such issues altogether.

As a parent of two current VCS students, I will bring a perspective from someone who has daily conversations about the academic and extracurricular activities taking place within the school system.

Educational Philosophy

My educational philosophy is student centered, where each issue should be determined based on what is best for the long term success of the students. This focus on students collectively, should be coupled with the recognition that each student has different educational needs, along with varied future educational and career aspirations.

Our local public schools should be a safe environment for students to learn and grow, where they receive the educational foundation in order to become the best that they can be. The school system as a whole should continue to strive to be one that instills pride in every member of our community, who each feel they can participate in the success of our students.

Name Two People Who Would Provide a Recommendation as to Your Ability To Serve On The VCS School Board. Please Include Phone Numbers/Email Addresses

Dr. Robert Behrend

██████████
████████████████████

Paul Knauff

██████████
████████████████████

Valparaiso School Board Application

Completed application may be Subjected to Public Disclosure and must be completed and turned in by noon April 21, 2023.

First Name	Alison
Last Name	Quackenbush
Address1	2402 Nottingham Drive
City	Valparaiso
State	IN
Zip	46383
Phone Number	██████████
Date of Birth	██████████
Email Address	████████████████████
Education	Master of Arts, Instructional Technologies with a concentration in Business Strategy San Francisco State University Bachelor of Arts, Middle School Education with certifications in sciences and social studies Minor of Communications, focus on Public Relations University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Present Employer	Quackenbush Medical PC, dba Quackenbush Consulting
Occupation	Consultant
Other Public Office(s) Held	I currently do not hold elected or appointed public office. However, for most of my adult life I have formally or informally

held roles that involve the public's trust – one of the critical character qualifications to holding public office.

As a middle school teacher, classroom volunteer, and Valpo Parks coach, I have taken responsibility for teaching or guiding the youth in my community. In my interactions I always strive to behave with integrity, advocate for the individual within a group environment, teach and engage those with a culture of self-advocacy and personal responsibility.

I have resided in Valparaiso for over 20 years with my husband who has practiced radiation oncology at St. Mary's Medical Center and Northwest Health – Porter Hospital. As the wife of a physician, it is commonplace for me to receive a call from a member of our community when they or their family member have learned of bad test results and are reeling from what feels like devastating news. In that call, they need someone to listen to them, educate them on what to expect and questions to ask, strategize next steps, put themselves back together, and lastly, to feel empowered that they can do hard things. These calls require levels of action, confidentiality, and judgement. I call on my skills of empathy, listening, problem solving, community networking, and confidentiality.

Political Party Affiliation	Democrat
-----------------------------	----------

Reason(s) for Applying	<p>I was raised with the expectation, "to whom much is given much is expected."</p> <p>I have professional experience and technical skills that enable me to advocate for the safety of our children and their educational needs, while simultaneously balancing the economic asset and development tool that is our school corporation.</p> <p>As a more than 20-year resident I have observed and educated myself on the economic and social issues that both propel and challenge Valparaiso. My family and I have personally benefitted from the services and growth. Right now, it is the best time for me and our family to make this contribution of my time and talents.</p>
------------------------	--

Children/Grandchildren Enrolled in VCS	Yes
--	-----

If Yes (What grades and Which Schools)	My husband Jeff and I have identical twin boys enrolled in 7th grade at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. Previously, Evan and Ryan attended Hayes Elementary and Flint Lake Elementary.
--	--

Board/Committee Experience	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	<p>Hilltop Neighborhood House – Member of the Board of Directors during a time when the reimbursement from the State of Indiana changed, requiring a significant shift in operations and fundraising.</p> <p>340 on the Park Condominium Association Board, Chicago IL – Member of the Board of Directors for a 343 unit, 63 story high rise during the initial period of developer, new construction transition, to resident occupancy and governance. Responsible for supervising a management company, 15 member staff, and what is now approximately a \$5.5M budget with \$2M in reserves.</p> <p>Valparaiso Americans – Participated in various volunteer roles, committees, and the Board of Directors over a five-year period. Acted as the lead liaison for families and partnered with the VCS Covid response team during the 2020 school year to minimize dugout contraction and cross contamination to multiple VCS schools. The strategy being to keep them playing ball with minimal impact to our school community.</p>
Civic/Professional Organizations/Membership	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	<p>Locally, I have been focused on supporting our schools through participation in multiple PTO committees. Serving in a variety of roles: student classroom volunteer, room mom, and event chair.</p> <p>In my 30-year professional career, spanning four geographic regions, I have worked in the following sectors: food service, public education, nonprofit, software development, consulting, finance, and healthcare. In order to successfully transition networks, skills, experiences, and learn new industries the following memberships have proven valuable to me.</p> <p>Chi Omega Fraternity NCMLE North Carolina Association for Middle Level Education AIMS Association of Illinois Middle Schools NSTA National Science Teaching Association ASTD, now ATD Association for Talent Development ISPI International Society for Performance Improvement SHRM The Society for Human Resource Management SHSMD Society for Health Care Strategy & Market Development</p>

Experience With Detailed Financial Matters	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	I possess a strong understanding of cash-based accounting, able to competently review balance sheets, and tax returns. I have reviewed vendor contracts and services agreements to assess operational appropriateness and obtained personal, commercial, and real estate financing and lines of credit through local as well as national creditors. I have drafted and can manipulate large formula based excel documents with detailed business information and routinely manage complex million-dollar budgets with multiple funding sources. These skills have qualified me to successfully review potential business projections and investment opportunities.
Prior Leadership Experience	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	In 2017 my boys joined Valpo Americans (baseball), while clearly it had been a community treasure at that time the organization was in decline. In five years through my leadership, as a member of the Executive Board of Directors, we revitalized the organization and accomplished the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Expanded communications to include league, division, and team level engagement, -Increased participation season over season for the past 8 seasons, -Grew sponsorship and mandated financial transparency, -Upgraded the general facilities: fields, parking lots, landscaping appearance, -Created a strong volunteer pipeline to ensure operational continuity.
Unique Skills You Possess that will Benefit School Board	I have a curious nature and the heart of a lifelong learner. I am inherently an educator with years of proven business experience in a wide range of environments such as: nonprofit, government, startup/entrepreneurial and legacy organizations. All of these experiences and skills would uniquely position me to be a strategic selection for school board.
Educational Philosophy	As a child I often sat at the kitchen table of the School Board President for Naperville, Illinois District 203 hearing about budgets, referendums, and how our schools and park district were the driver of unprecedented growth and national notoriety. At the time my educational philosophy was to get good grades, socialize, and explore as many interests and passions as possible. As a young adult I taught middle grades social studies and sciences. My teaching experiences included two extreme

environments: the courtyard of a legendary public housing project located in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (NC) and one of the wealthiest districts in the State of Illinois. It was through these experiences that my educational philosophy expanded to interdisciplinary instruction, hands-on methodology, and experiential learning to support students with a wide range of needs: IEPs, 504s, high ability, ESL, and economic insecurity.

Thirteen years ago, I became a parent and my educational philosophy expanded again, this time to include an additional lens of accountability. Ensuring my children master and continue to advance in their knowledge of content matter as well as the necessary critical thinking skills to apply that information to the world around them. Equally important, an increased focus on the learning environment: protecting physical safety and bolstering positive mental health.

Lastly, in the post pandemic economy my educational philosophy continues to expand, this time as a taxpayer and economist. Thinking of VCS as a driver of economic development; investment in our teachers, staff, facilities, and programs should result in exponential returns. One element of those returns being a healthy labor pool of VCS graduates that want to remain in Valparaiso to raise the next generation of Vikings.

Name Two People Who Would Provide a Recommendation as to Your Ability To Serve On The VCS School Board. Please Include Phone Numbers/Email Addresses

Stephanie Anderson

Opportunity Enterprises, Chief Human Resource Officer

cell: [REDACTED] * [REDACTED]

I met Stephanie almost 20 years ago, when new to the community from San Francisco, I completed some volunteer consulting projects for the CEO of Opportunity Enterprises. We have remained treasured friends and collaborated on various community nonprofit and youth initiatives. She can speak to my business acumen and commitment to community.

Tim VerSchure

CAPTRUST, Principal

cell: [REDACTED] * [REDACTED]

Tim and I have collaborated professionally for four years. He can speak to my skills in finance, accounting, tax, business strategy, and communications. More importantly, he knows my work style and professional attributes first-hand. Our respect and support of each other, extends into our family and personal circles as well.

Valparaiso School Board Application

Completed application may be Subjected to Public Disclosure and must be completed and turned in by noon April 21, 2023.

First Name	Curtiss
Last Name	Strietelmeier
Address1	4505 Stafordshire Lane
City	Valparaiso
State	IN
Zip	46383
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Education	Purdue University, PHD, Education Administration Purdue University, MS, Educational Technology Purdue University, BA, Elementary Education
Present Employer	CDW
Occupation	Public Sector Funding Strategist
Other Public Office(s) Held	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Political Party Affiliation	Democrat
Reason(s) for Applying	As a longtime resident of Valparaiso, husband of a Heavilin teacher, and parent of three current Valparaiso students, I am connected to Valparaiso schools in many ways. This provides

me multiple viewpoints of the way VCS impacts the lives of all Valpo citizens. I believe this will allow me to better understand and communicate the needs and concerns of all VCS stakeholders.

I am a trained educator and I have worked at all levels including Title I tutor, elementary teacher, district administrator, and superintendent of schools. As a result, I have a strong understanding of the classroom experience, supporting students of need, curriculum, funding, and most important working with the community. Serving as a school board member would allow me to continue to support public education and make a positive impact on the lives of VCS students.

Children/Grandchildren Enrolled in VCS	Yes
If Yes (What grades and Which Schools)	6th Grade Thomas Jefferson 9th Grade Valparaiso High School 11th Grade Valparaiso High School
Board/Committee Experience	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	Area 1 Representative for IAPSS Policies and Resolutions Committee Porter County ARPA Infrastructure and Facilities Sub-Committee Laporte County Special Education Coop
Civic/Professional Organizations/Membership	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	Valparaiso Park District Coach Trinity Lutheran Church
Experience With Detailed Financial Matters	Yes
If Yes (Please Explain)	Current role of researching and reviewing federal and state funding for K12. District funding and budgeting as a former school district superintendent. Departmental funding and budgeting as a former district director of technology. Worked with state legislators to create a law improving funding for a school district transportation levy. Led the process of obtaining GO bonds for school improvements.

Prior Leadership Experience Yes

If Yes (Please Explain)

School District Superintendent, MSD of New Durham Township
Director of Technology, Bremen High School District 228
Chairman, LaPorte County Special Education Cooperative
President Westville Chamber of Commerce
Youth soccer, baseball, basketball, and softball coach

Unique Skills You Possess that will Benefit School Board

I have a deep understanding of school district budgeting and funding opportunities.
I have firsthand experience working with all stakeholders within a school district.
I have negotiated teacher contracts.
I have designed and implemented building technology and led educational technology projects.

Educational Philosophy

With a positive partnership between teacher and parents, every student is capable of learning. It is the responsibility of the community to ensure that schools have access to a wide variety of excellent learning and educational resources and students have a safe, inclusive, and engaging learning environment that fosters individual growth and development.

Name Two People Who Would Provide a Recommendation as to Your Ability To Serve On The VCS School Board. Please Include Phone Numbers/Email Addresses

Scott Carlson, O.D., [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Linda Boxum, D.O., [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
