

2026 Ferndale Public Schools School Board Candidate Questionnaire
Jonathan Turner

1. What experiences have led you to run/rerun for school board?

My most relevant experience is my background as a product of the Ferndale school system. Having grown up within the community, I have witnessed the district's evolution firsthand, and I have contributed to its strategic direction for the past five years. Professionally, my role as a technology coordinator within a school district provides me with a deep understanding of both school district operations and educational technology.

2. What do you see are the strengths and weaknesses of Ferndale Public Schools?

I would say our greatest strength is our community and its dedication to our future. However, the staff are the true magic of the district. The intentional thought and work they put into pushing excellence for our students is impressive. I believe our biggest opportunities are reflected in the strategic plan and its R.E.A.C.H. pillars:

Relevant & Responsive Staff Development
Engaged & Empowered Students
Accelerate Academic Excellence
Cultivating Collective Pride
Harnessing Data to Drive Improvement

3. How do you see collaboration between the Ferndale School Board and city governments/ other local stakeholders?

The current board maintains a strong collaborative network with local municipal governments and educational institutions that helps strengthen support and collaboration among our stakeholders. However, I believe we have an opportunity to further strengthen that collaboration as a board and throughout the community.

4. How do you perceive the relationship among the different schools within FPS?

I think FPS has really stepped up over the last few years in getting our schools to connect and work together more. There are so many great ways for students to interact across different ages and buildings through things like fine arts, robotics, and sports. I'm looking forward to seeing how our new administration team continues to build on this incredible school culture.

5. Oakland County voters recently voted against a regional school enhancement millage. How does this affect FPS? More generally, what is your experience with budgeting that you bring to this position?

It's disappointing that the enhancement millage didn't pass, as it would have been a great opportunity for our county.

However, FPS will continue to make responsible decisions based on the resources available to the district. While my executive budgeting experience is still growing, I currently assist in maintaining a school district's technology budget and have helped guide FPS' budgeting conversations for the past five years.

6. What role does AI (artificial intelligence) and EdTech have in the classrooms of FPS?

This is a very large question because of just how large and intertwined these technologies are becoming, especially in the classroom. I think technology has a great opportunity to enhance learning and give educators tools to support students. However, there needs to be a balance. Technology should enhance education, not replace the human connection and foundational skills that students develop through their relationships with teachers and their peers.

7. In what ways do you see FPS working toward racial equity?

I see this reflected in our current plan, specifically under Goal A.G-1 for high-quality instruction, where we made a point to focus on raising achievement for our Black students. I also see this reflected in our new school bond projects and the district's overall push to improve students' sense of belonging.

8. How do you see FPS working toward climate sustainability?

I see FPS working toward climate sustainability by increasing its efforts to find ways to be more energy efficient and sustainable. I also see FPS educating students on being more environmentally aware and sustainable. I would like to see climate sustainability considered more consistently in the district's decision making.

9. Are there any additional thoughts you would like to share?

I'm proud to be a product of Ferndale Public Schools and to have had the opportunity to serve this community. I believe my experience as both a former FPS student and a technology coordinator gives me a unique perspective on our schools, our students, and the operations required to support them. I'm excited about the future of FPS and want to continue contributing to a district that prepares every student to soar.