

Dear Wadsworth City Schools Faculty,

Warm Greetings! Thank you for allowing me to introduce myself to you. My name is Natalie Sydorenko. My husband, Zig Novak, and I were raised in Wadsworth and graduated from Wadsworth High School in 1990. After graduation, we both left Wadsworth to pursue higher education and careers, and eventually settled in West Akron after our wedding. When our eldest daughter was ready to start kindergarten in 2009, we desperately wanted to move back to Wadsworth so that our children could have the same exemplary public school education that we received. We are grateful that we have once again made Wadsworth our home for the past eight years. In essence, we never really left. Our family, friends, and community always have been and remain here.

This said, with a PhD in Communication and 20+ years teaching in higher education, I wanted to use my experience and expertise to serve our community--specifically, our students and teachers. As a teacher myself, I am a staunch advocate of faculty and staff being heard by administrators, school boards, and the community at large. Teachers are on the front lines of education in our public school system. Ensuring an amicable relationship and a strong rapport between teachers and school board members is tantamount to me. Living in my hometown has afforded me the opportunity to see so many of my WHS peers and friends become teachers and leaders in our district. Knowing their dedication to our students fills me with pride. I would be honored to serve them and work with them hand-in-hand to continue our goals of providing broad-based quality education for every student.

Trained as a researcher, I understand the importance of looking at our district report card and taking into consideration the reports given to us by Superintendent Hill. I also know that a report card does not represent the extent of the efforts in and out of the classroom that enable children to thrive as students and as young citizens. Through personal friendships and my time spent volunteering in my daughters' classrooms and for the WHYS/PTO, I know well the ways in which our teachers have went above and beyond to bring innovative learning and technology to our students. You, Wadsworth Faculty, volunteer your time, energy, passion, and even hard-earned money to promote our fine arts programs, encourage students to pursue their talents above and beyond the curriculum, and champion them in our successful sports programs. You spend time fostering a sense of confidence in our most at risk and special needs populations. You challenge our gifted students to work to their potential and beyond. I admire that. I want to use my skills in communication, policy, debate, conflict management, and rhetorical diplomacy to help these efforts in every way.

I don't have a set agenda to bring to the table at this time. When asked by reporters what I would change or do in my first year, my answer is: listen and learn. Reading reports, attending board meetings, and hearing the talk of the town is significantly different from being up close and personal with students, teachers, families, and the board itself. If elected, I plan to use the credentials outlined above and highlighted in

my resume to serve in the ways I am most needed in order to strengthen our district and maintain the quality educational landscape for which Wadsworth is known. I would love the opportunity to hear your ideas and concerns and to work with you to accomplish our collective goals.

I've provided my functional resume for you to read and consider. (I think this format is more reader friendly than my 14 page curriculum vitae, but I can provide that too, if you prefer.) If you have any questions or concerns and wish to speak with me, or if you need me to come in to be interviewed by faculty representatives, please feel free to contact me at your convenience at 330-807-8416. Thank you so much for your time and consideration, and thank you for all that you do for our school district.

Sincerely,
Natalie L. Sydorenko, PhD