

Hi, my name is Chad Grace. I am a Kalispell native who loves all that our beautiful valley has to offer. I attended Trinity Lutheran School and graduated from Flathead High in 1990. I received my bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Montana State University in 1995. Since then, I have worked my entire life in the wood products industry. I currently am the engineering manager for PotlatchDeltic corporation, and I am responsible for managing anywhere from \$20 million - \$60 million in capital projects on an annual basis.

I have 2 kids at West valley. Cruz is a middle schooler in 7th grade and Brooklyn is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader in the elementary school. We also have a child who started her education in the 4th grade at west valley. She is now in high school. We were happy with her educational experience.

Post college, my wife and I lived in several locations, but we always had an eye to return to the valley if the opportunity was right. We moved back for good in 2014. As we bounced around the country from Colorado, to California, back to Colorado, to Montana, to Oregon, then Florida and finally back to Montana we have always used a website called greatschools.org as a guide to help determine our desired part of town. Scores are based on national test scores. Like all parents, we wanted our kids to have the best education possible. Moving back here, we focused on buying in the West Valley school district. This was based on the greatschools.org score, which was a 9 out of 10 at the time, and the feedback we received from parents who had students at the school. These scores have been steadily declining ever since. The middle school is currently rated at a 5 out of 10. This is part of the reason the parents I talk with now no longer see West Valley as one of the premier schools in the area. I believe with the right leadership that West Valley can once again become a top-notch school, a place where parents can feel comfortable knowing their kids are getting the best education possible.

I started attending our school board meetings late last year as our kids were sent home to essentially learn on their own. I am not sure how it was with all teachers, but my kids received little instruction from their teachers. My wife and I took the assignments that were posted by their teachers and we taught them the material because someone had to do it. I, like most parents, was frustrated and I was curious to know what the board was doing to improve the at-home instruction. Through the zoom board meetings, it was painfully obvious that nothing was going to be done to improve it to close out the school year. It appeared to be chalked up to a loss with a look to the fall. Then, the board decided to start the middle school kids at home again even when elementary school and high school kids were allowed to attend in person and I knew I had to become more involved with the school.

By attending board meetings both zoom and in person, it has become more than clear that our current board has no intention of listening to input from parents. I want to change that. I am fully committed to making decisions based on what is best for the students and their educational needs. This will require a change of personnel on the West Valley School board.

I will be an asset to this board because of my project management experience, especially as West Valley looks to construct a new school in the near future. I also have board experience and have served on several community boards. Most recently, I was the Vice President of the NorthWest Sharpshooters Lacrosse board.

I am running to ensure that parents have a voice. I would push hard to ensure that our kids are given the best opportunity to succeed with a return to educational excellence. It is time to once again

put students and their needs first. After all, isn't that the point of a school and education? I thank you for your consideration.