

**Star Tribune**  
**Editorial Pages candidate questionnaire**  
**2018 Primary Election**

Full Name: Rebecca Gagnon

Office you are seeking: At Large School Board

E-mail Address: [rgagnon247@gmail.com](mailto:rgagnon247@gmail.com). Web site: [www.RebeccaforMN.com](http://www.RebeccaforMN.com)

Date of Birth: 12/24/1970

Incumbent: Yes No If yes, when were you first elected? 2010

Previous elective offices held: At-Large School Board Director 2010, 2014

Previous unsuccessful candidacies for elective office: 62B MN House, 2018

Party affiliation, if any: Democrat

Endorsements, if any: Senator Jeff Hayden, Mayor Frey, Council Member Warsame,

School Board Directors Jourdain & Felder, Park Board Commissioners Severson &

Hassan

Highest educational diploma or degree attained, from which institution: BA Sociology,

Stephens College

Current and Past Occupations: see attached resume

1. What in your background prepares you for the office you are seeking? In my almost 8 years in the MPS Board of Ed, I've served with 17 different Directors and with two Superintendents and an Interim Superintendent. This does not encourage stability and follow through so that plans and processes can be fully implemented with integrity in order to impact our system and create the change and progress to close gaps in achievement. In meetings I'm often the person with the most institutional knowledge of MPS, especially in regards to past strategic initiatives like Changing School Options 2008-2010, Capital Enrollment Plan 2013, Strategic Plan 2020, and hiring a new Superintendent in 2016. We are currently undergoing a Comprehensive District Planning Process to create fiscal stability, ensure equitable access to academic and extracurricular opportunities, and improve our long term sustainability as a system of public schools in

Minneapolis. This requires the experience, knowledge, and trust from stakeholders that I have developed and nurtured the past 8 years. I have worked at the local, state and national level on public education issues and have built alliances and partners to help in this work. Our public schools are the foundation of our communities and the building blocks of an informed and productive society. We cannot do this alone, and need the county, city, state and more to provide the supports and services many of our students need to access educational opportunities and achieve their full academic potential. I am committed to this work & am privileged to be able to do this full time and invest extensive mental and physical energy in to improving the MPS experience for our students and families. We have made tremendous progress and achievements during my tenure, including growing enrollment from around 30,000 to 36,000 students, expanding and reopening schools, saving North High and improving the outcomes for students in our struggling schools, and reopening pools throughout Mpls to address the gross inequity of access to water safety in Mpls. These are just a few accomplishments. I am looking forward to four more years of building upon these successes.