For Release on Saturday, November 28th

GAVIN CUNNINGHAM ANNOUNCES RUN FOR MCLEAN COUNTY UNIT 5 SCHOOL BOARD

The Illinois State University freshmen and Normal West graduate is running for school board on a platform of social justice and equal representation on the board.

NORMAL, Ill. — The community leader and Illinois State freshman is running to be one of the seven Unit 5 school board members. Cunningham is majoring in Special Education and was a part of the Unit 5 school system for thirteen years; he graduated from Normal West in 2020. While in high school, Cunningham participated in Speech, Cross Country, Best Buddies, Not In Our School, Choir, Orchestra, Track, and other extracurriculars outside of school.

“I am running for this office because I am a direct product of what this board manages. I have seen what works, what doesn’t, and what needs changed. I believe the district would benefit from the voice of a recent graduate who is uniquely familiar with the challenges facing teachers and students. I am fully aware that I don’t have the experience in management or finance that some of the current members have, but I have ideas that will benefit students, teachers, and parents alike,” Cunningham said.

Cunningham was born and raised in Bloomington, IL. Before attending Illinois State University, Gavin Cunningham attended Oakdale Elementary School, Kingsley Junior High School, and graduated from Normal Community West High School. Cunningham is running on a variety of issues, but becoming a voice from the West side of Bloomington/Normal is at the forefront. If Cunningham were to be elected, he would be the sole board member to hold a seat in an area of Unit 5 that feeds into Normal West. All current board members’ children have attended or would attend Normal Community High School (the East side of Bloomington/Normal).

“Although the current board is tasked with representing all of Unit 5, they truly do not. By having a voice of a Normal West alum, different voices, ideas, and families can be reached. If I were to be elected, I would propose that all School Board meetings would be both live streamed and posted on the Unit 5 website so that all families can view meetings, even if they can’t attend them in person.”

The Unit 5 School Board has seven members, with three seats up for election in April. Gavin Cunningham believes that Unit 5 is ready for a change in representation. He stated, “I may be young, but I am not afraid to address a problem and face it head-on. Many families in Unit 5 feel like their voices aren’t heard or taken seriously. I promise that if I win one of the three seats, I
will listen to everyone, no matter if I agree with you or not. The school board is supposed to serve the community that attends Unit 5, not the other way around.”

Cunningham officially announced his candidacy on Friday, November 27th at 7pm on a Facebook Live.

Gavin can be reached at (309) 212-2425 or gcunniforu5@gmail.com. More information about Gavin Cunningham and his campaign for the Unit 5 School Board can be found on his Facebook page which will be published promptly at 7pm on Friday evening:
https://www.facebook.com/gavincforunit5

PLEASE DO NOT RELEASE THIS INFORMATION UNTIL SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH