

2024 ELECTION GUIDE

MILLE LACS BAND
OF OJIBWE



BOOZHOO!

The primary election is almost here, and the Band's Legislative and Executive Branches want to inform you about the candidates and the voting process. Please read this guide to help you make your decision on April 2.

DATE AND TIME

APRIL 2, 2024, 8 A.M. – 8 P.M.

POLLING PLACES

District I Nay Ah Shing (Vineland) Community Center
District II Minisinaakwaang (East Lake) Community Center
District IIa Chiminising (Isle) Community Center
District III Aazhoomog (Lake Lena) Community Center
Urban Area: All Nations Church, 1515 East 23rd St., Minneapolis

CANDIDATES

The order of candidates in this guide follows the primary ballot.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (PAGES 4 – 6)

Samuel Moose, Wallace St. John Sr., Virgil Wind.

DISTRICT I REPRESENTATIVE (PAGES 7 – 12)

Megan Ballinger, Carolyn Beaulieu, Billie Jo “Bea” Boyd,
Melissa “Baabiitaw” Boyd, Valerie Harrington-Wind, Curtis Kalk.

DISTRICT I & II SCHOOL BOARD (PAGES 13 – 14)

Sami Thomas, Semira Kimpson.

For questions regarding the election or to receive an absentee ballot,
please contact Election Judge Deanna Sam at 320-279-0178.

If none of the candidates receive more than 50 percent of the vote in the April 2 primary,
a General Election between the top two primary finishers will be held on June 11.

MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE

TRIBAL ELECTION 2024 — CANDIDATE FORUMS

Mille Lacs Band members are invited to candidate forums to learn more about individuals running for Chief Executive and District I Representative. Dinner will be provided. Forums are anticipated to last for two hours. District I and Urban forums will be for Chief Executive and District I Representative. All other forums will be for Chief Executive only.

District III Aazhoomog Community Center: Monday, March 18, 5:30 p.m.

District II Minisinaakwaang Community Center: Tuesday, March 19, 5:30 p.m.

District Ila Chiminising Community Center: Wednesday, March 20, 5:30 p.m.

Urban All Nations Church: Thursday, March 21, 5:30 p.m.

District I Old Community Center: Friday, March 22, 5:30 p.m.

For election-related questions, contact the Mille Lacs Band Election Chair, Deanna Sam, at 320-279-0178.

For more information about the candidate forums, contact the Government Affairs office at 320-495-5006 or the Legislative Branch office at 320-532-7586.

ELECTION CALENDAR

For the complete 2024 election calendar, including deadlines for challenges, recounts, and appeals, please see millelacsband.com/government/election-information.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This election guide was produced with funding from the Mille Lacs Band Office of Government Affairs, a department of the Executive Branch, in consultation with the Legislative Branch. It was designed and laid out by Red Circle Agency. No Mille Lacs Band members or employees were allowed to review the guide prior to publication.

To avoid claims of bias, submissions were not edited. Candidates were given the opportunity to review a proof of their page and make changes prior to the deadline. All submissions fell within a 500-word limit and met the deadline of 5 p.m. on February 23.

SAMUEL MOOSE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE CANDIDATE



Boozhoo,
Enwemaaganaadoog!

Dear Mille Lacs Band Member, I hope this message finds you and your families well. My name is Samuel A. Moose, and I humbly seek your support to become the next Chief Executive of the Mille

Lacs Band of Ojibwe. I'm happy to share a little about who I am, why I am running, and what I want to accomplish for our Tribe.

Who am I? I come from District II of our Tribe and was raised by Ernest and Brenda Moose. As the son of a drum caretaker, my parents introduced me to all the communities and villages of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe as a youth. We attended ceremonies often and visited with families in all communities. I hold our culture and language close to my heart, and ceremonial life is a critical part of my identity. The values, beliefs, and teachings that I learned have become the foundation for my work, roles, responsibilities, and life.

I currently serve as the Commissioner of Administration for our Tribe and have more than 24 years of experience serving my fellow Anishinaabeg in positions such as Commissioner of Health & Human Services and Commissioner of Community Development at Mille Lacs. I also worked as the Director of Human Services for the Fond du Lac Band, managing their health and human services program.

I earned a master's degree in Tribal Administration and Governance from the University of Minnesota Duluth. But I did not start off with these positions in mind. Like many young men, I took some twists and turns early on and had to learn from my mistakes, but I am grateful that I had Elders and family who helped me.

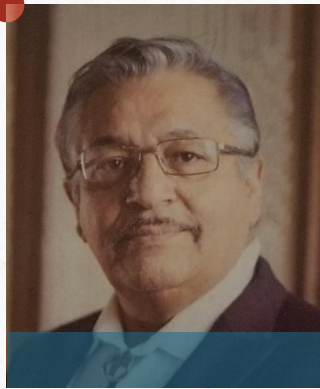
I carry these lessons with me as a leader today.

Why am I running for Chief Executive? First, my Elders asked me to run and I am humbled by their confidence. Second, I ran for Chief Executive several years ago and lost, but since then, I have gained much growth and experience. I believe I'm now well prepared to make immediate positive change and bring our Tribe into the future. Third, I strongly believe every Band member should be treated equally and fairly with the same benefits and services, no matter where they live. I'm committed to making that happen. Fourth, our children are in crisis and we must make changes to prioritize them. Fifth, our economy has to grow and government must shrink, because you deserve more. Finally, we need serious ethics reform and election/campaign reform. Our officials must be held to higher standards.

I know our government strengths, I've witnessed first-hand how we must improve, and with my 24 years of experience, I know how to get it done and begin healing our Tribe. I will bring unity, equality, and respect for all to our tribal government. As Chief Executive, I will continue to work as hard for you as I have ever worked for anything, and Band members will always come first. Miigwech!

WALLACE ST. JOHN SR.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE CANDIDATE



Aniin Nindinaway-
mahgonidug.
Eeshkawbaywis
nindizhinakas. Awassisi
ni doodem. Azhumoog
indoonjiba.

I am writing to inform
you Indigenous people
that I am announcing
my candidacy for Chief
Executive for the

Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. It would be my honor to serve and represent our Tribe. My main Initiative is to help us to understand that we must unlearn our current governmental situation. And how it MUST be done. We must have a collective mind and mentality that allows everyone to relearn and help create a more relaxed version of laws that serve ALL Band members. I was a Legislative Representative for District III and sponsored many bills that have been and will continue to improve the lives of all Band members. Of course, there is still room for improvement, but while serving in the capacity of District III Representative, I observed that there is very little mention and inclusion of Our Creator's law. This is the relearn I've mentioned.

Furthermore, take a look at executive branch departmental policies to allow improvement for employees and how business is conducted all day, every day. Although my chances are limited to win this election, I must point out the importance of bringing attention to how our government has fallen short of its main intent, which is to be fair and equal across the board for ALL members — including employees. The Chief Executive must also be willing to face and

meet with senators and congressional representatives. Be prepared to think on multiple levels so as not to be railroaded by their political intellect and years of manipulation. To stand firm and confident before the President of these states. Always be willing and firm to bring our agenda to them. Be willing to put my head on a chopping block (not literally) and demand better for all Natives.

We all have children that deserve better. We all will have either children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren that are not here yet. What legacy will we create and leave behind for them? I gained insight and knowledge, which I put to use in governmental budgeting and spending. Millions of dollars which needed to be allocated to different branches of government. I was always tough and thorough when allocating funds to different departments for spending. I know I didn't make many friends being tough. I didn't represent the people to become popular or have the most favorable friendships. I did it because it was the right thing to do. One topic that I believe that will be on top of a long list is housing. There is a solution. Maybe not one we're willing to look at or accept. Nonetheless there is a solution. Solutions that we must relearn. Also the three branch government that is claimed to exist is not equal. It can be restored. With tough laws and stipulations that do not allow for any abuse.

Hope to see you all at the forums. Be true to you.
Have faith. Miigwetch Bizaandawiiyag.

VIRGIL WIND

CHIEF EXECUTIVE CANDIDATE



Fellow Band Members,

As a lifelong entrepreneur and successful contractor who has dedicated my career to building stronger communities through hard work and dedication, I started by making birch baskets and canoes alongside

my grandmother and later moved onto multimillion-dollar projects. Through this I learned the value of perseverance and determination from a young age. I started my own business after graduating high school and quickly became known for my strong work ethic and commitment to excellence. Building and contributing to my homeland has always been a commitment that I have never veered from. I was raised on the Mille Lacs Reservation during a time when we had nothing but bumpy gravel roads. I know the monumental movements that have shifted us to becoming one of the most blessed Tribes in the country.

In addition to successful business ventures, I have also served as the District Representative of the Band for the past four years. During my time in office, we've worked tirelessly to pass legislation that benefits our constituents and improved the quality of life for all members of the community. During my term as representative, we passed more legislation than any time in Band history. My compassionate leadership and empathy for others have set me apart as a true leader who cares deeply for the well-being of those around him.

Key Initiatives:

- Economic development and job creation: Implement strategies to attract investment, create

new businesses, and enhance employment opportunities for tribal members.

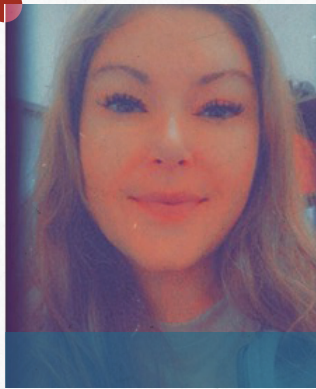
- Tribal infrastructure and housing: Develop and maintain infrastructure projects that enhance the quality of life for tribal members, including roads, utilities, and affordable housing options for all members.
- Education and youth development: Invest in education programs and resources that support the academic success and cultural identity of tribal youth regardless of where they attend.
- Continued support of Tribal General Welfare Exclusion, partner with Band Assembly to establish a long-term plan to keep distribution to Band members steady.
- Collaboration and advocacy: Continue to foster strong relationships with local, state, and federal governments, as well as other tribal nations, to advocate for the interests and rights of the Tribe.

I'm ready to take leadership to the next level by running for Chief Executive. I believe that my experience as a business owner, contractor, school board member, TERO commissioner, and representative uniquely qualifies me to lead our Tribe to a brighter future. With a strong commitment to compassion and empathy, I'm dedicated to fostering unity and collaboration within the Tribe while working to address the pressing issues facing our members. I am not just a businessman or a politician; I am a Band member, father of five, grandparent, and a leader with a vision for a better tomorrow. With my proven track record of unwavering dedication to serving others, this makes me the ideal candidate to lead our Tribe to new levels of prosperity and success.

Please vote Wind for Chief Executive! Always available; call me directly 320-630-1428.
#ONWARDMLB #LIVETHEVALUES

MEGAN BALLINGER

DISTRICT I REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATE



Boozhoo
Indinawemaganadog.
Anangookwe-Gabe-
Aanakwadookwe
indizunikaz, Megan
Ballinger indigo.

I have three degrees,
the highest being
Bachelor's in Tribal
Administration &
Governance from

UMD. I decided to put my name in for District I Representative; because I was asked to, and there have been several people throughout my life that have had visions of me in office.

We really need to double down and get everything back together. The lateral violence is becoming too toxic. It is when oppressed people oppress others, by doing acts of bullying, withholding information and services, keeping people down when they are trying to do better, etc.

I have watched and learned from previous elected officials. My dad was one of them. He took me to many meetings. I remember those meetings held in Milaca at that little restaurant. Those Elders used to have my root beer and rice pudding waiting for me. Those Elders taught me a lot and saw what the future held for me. The People and the Government used to work together.

Our community and our Government are constantly moving, it is alive. It's within our Legislative Office where laws are created to have a functioning Government. But it is the People that move it. The Representatives are the voice of the People.

I am all about ending the attacks on each other. We should be cheering each other on. I want to get our

focus back on our Tribal Schools. We seem to forget or turn away from our Education Department. What about our schools and encouraging higher education? The School Board Ordinance needs to be updated in order to get the School Board its rightful responsibilities and powers. Let's work together to increase fluency in our language. Adults as well. It is a privilege to grow up and have access to the language, culture, ceremonies, teachings, etc. Not all have the access to everything I just listed. We need to break down the barriers before we lose anything.

I believe we need our services to meet the people in the middle, instead of being hidden. We also need to educate our members in home finances and home care, etc. Currently there is too much of a disconnect between the Government, its services, and the People.

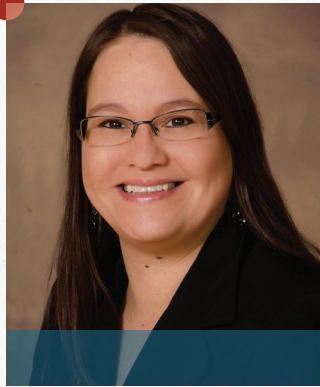
We also need to get our activities and events going for community engagement and knowledge passing at our centers. We need to figure out how to fix our transportation needs so people can work. There is a lot we can do if we all work together.

I want to continue the momentum previous representatives created. I am only human and I make mistakes, but I will give it my all because this is home and you're all my family one way or another. We may not get along with or see eye to eye on things, but we can be respectful to each other and create the best community District and Government we can!

Miigwech. Vote Ballinger April 2 and June 11, 2024.

CAROLYN BEAULIEU

DISTRICT I REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATE



My position on tribal matters has not changed since I first ran for office in 2012: Self-sufficiency for all!

We can help drive self-sufficiency by funding and administering effective programs that help members address and

overcome barriers and by offering ample supportive services that provide opportunities for personal and professional growth and success.

I have 23 Years of Mille Lacs Band Experience: (2001 – 2024) Secretary Treasurer/Speaker of the Band Assembly, Commissioner of Administration, Public Relations Specialist, Director of Band Member Development, Executive Assistant for the Corporate Commissioner, Eddy's Resort Supervisor, Table Games Shift Lead, Talent Acquisitions Manager, and currently the Gaming Process Manager for Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Hinckley.

Education

- Master's degree in tribal administration and governance.
- Bachelor's degree in business management.
- Associate's degree in liberal arts.

Board and Committee Experience

- Wewinabi Early Education Parent Committee.
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Powwow Committee.
- Administration Policy Board.
- Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Executive and Sub-Committees.
- Donation Committee, ML Corporate Commission.

- Secretary for ML Corporate Commission Board of Directors.
- National Congress of American Indians Midwest Area Alternate.

Past Work and Accomplishments

- Workforce center restructure to Department of Labor.
- Labor pool program.
- Strategic plan development.
- Implementation of the Tribal Child Support Office.
- Initiated a housing audit.
- Ordered a Department of Labor inquiry.
- Family Services law revisions.
- Funding for the Four Winds Treatment Center.
- Development and funding of District I Aquatic and Recreation Center.
- Funding for the new District I clinic.

Future Focus on Supporting Self Sufficiency

- Tribal Employment Rights authority expansion and enforcement.
- Band Member Priority in hiring, training, promotions, and development.
- Health initiatives to address the drug epidemic, health issues and promote life longevity.
- Community revitalization plan and increase housing opportunities.
- Child care expansion.
- Transportation program.
- Enhance Elder Services.
- Entrepreneurial financing.

Contact me at 218-251-0062 or email carolmbeau@icloud.com with any questions or comments. Miigwech!

BILLIE JO "BEA" BOYD

DISTRICT I REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATE



Billie Jo Boyd, known as Minwewebinesikwe, hails from Onamia, MN, deeply rooted in District I since childhood.

Her academic journey took her through various institutions, culminating in an Associates in Business Administration from

Colorado Technical University in 2021. Beyond academia, Billie is a devoted mother to four children, finding fulfillment in the challenges of motherhood.

From a young age, Billie embarked on a diverse career path, spanning roles in education, hospitality, administration, and community service. With over eight years in Legislative Offices, she navigated the intricacies of governance, seeking solutions to community challenges.

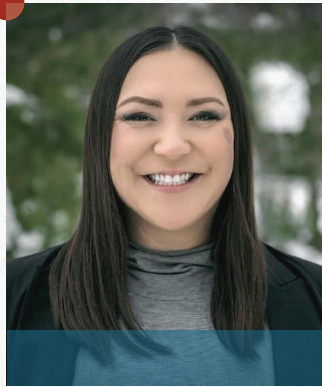
Driven by a passion for her people, Billie aims to be their voice, addressing critical issues and steering the community toward progress. Her commitment to innovation drives her quest for solutions that uplift and fortify the community's well-being, fostering unity and resilience.

An unwavering advocate for District I, Billie remains dedicated to advocating for its inhabitants' needs with passion and determination. As she continues her journey, Billie Jo Boyd stands as a beacon of hope, illuminating pathways toward a brighter future for all.

Please see my website www.bea4d1rep.org for more information.

MELISSA "BAABIITAW" BOYD

DISTRICT I REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATE



Baabiitaw is my Indian name. I was named by Julie Shingobe, David Moosay Sam, Ada Yankee, and Wazhashk Skinaway.

My earliest memories are being at my Grandma Angeline's house on Nay Ah Shing Drive. She was married

to, and made her family with, John Wadena there. Today I raise my family here in District I as well. My parents are Tabatha Boyd (Jeff) and Rick Boyd. I am a mother to Waase (15), Galii (9), and Bam (7).

I love our people tremendously. I have spent my career learning Ojibwe and spending time with Elders so that I may be of service to our young people and relay information that might have otherwise been missed if it were not taught in the home. I knew what it was like to miss out on this information having been in the public school system. It has been my privilege to see that gap in Anishinaabe Knowledge filled.

It was while I was working to create an immersion school within our Head Start program in District I (Miskwaanakwad Immersion) that I gained an appreciation for leadership and governance. I was fixated on making positive change so our Elders could hear children speak Ojibwe again.

I pursued education in leadership and linguistics so that I could be the leader that our language deserved. This work included becoming a Native Nation Rebuilder (Cohort 6) with the Native Governance Center. I studied with this cohort for two years to learn about the governments that Native nations have today and how to make changes that exercise sovereignty and incorporate long-term success measures. Some of the subjects I have spent time studying include tribal economic challenges, job creation, and grant management.

Although language is where I got my start, my experience in government to date has bred a passion for problem-solving, financial management, and being present for our people in all issues. The lessons I have learned over the course of my career have always brought me back to self-reflection and asking myself, "How could I have done that better?", "How can I be more receptive?", and "Would my grandparents and wenh'enhs be proud of how I approached that situation?"

The Mille Lacs Band has been a leader in many national Indian issues. We have a lot to be proud of and we still have a lot of work ahead. I am ready to continue my service to our District I community. How can we work together to make a higher quality of life for all?

VALERIE HARRINGTON-WIND

DISTRICT I REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATE



Aaniin
Indinawemaaganidog
Dibikwe indizhinikaaz;
Migizi indoodem;
Misi Zaagaa'iganing
indoonjibaa Miigwech
for taking the time
to read this.

My name is Valerie
Harrington-Wind.

I am happily married
to Daniel Wind. Our family includes Mariah, Kaitlin,
Kevin, and our granddaughter, Myla. My parents
are Kimberly Sam and Brad Harrington. My
great-grandparents, Starry and Frank Skinaway,
helped raise me and taught me the value of
helping our community.

I am running for District I Representative because
I have the purpose to serve the most important
people of the Mille Lacs Band: you! Being District I
Representative is more than a job to me; it is a way to
give back and serve the people. Mille Lacs is my heart.
I grew up in Mille Lacs my entire life and witnessed
the transition to where we are today. Participating
in decisions for our future, making sure our younger
generations know their culture, feel a part of the
community, and continue to receive the amazing
benefits we currently receive, is important to me.

I humbly request your support for the District I
Representative position. I earned my master's
degree from the University of Minnesota in Tribal
Administration & Governance. Currently, I am Chief
Communications Officer for the Legislative Branch.
I have served the Band in various departments
throughout my career. I completed the Native
Governance Native Nation Rebuilder program
cohort 10. I serve on the Tribal Employment

Rights Office and Women Empowering
Women for Indigenous Nation Boards.

As your District I Representative, I will prioritize:

- Community/legislative priorities
- Write and/or revise laws that empower Band members.
- Use more language and culture in our meetings, events, and activities.
- Continue to receive the benefits we currently receive while being fiscally responsible.
- Host informative live-streamed community meetings with agendas the community decides.
- Partner with Band departments and programs.
- Better program performance in areas of concern.
- Better access to programs and services for tribal members living on and off the Reservation.
- Assistance for employees that don't qualify for services due to wages.
- Fairness and equality in tribal government.
- Value and listen to the community members.
- Build a stronger community foundation.
- Listen to youth, adults, and Elders to ensure that all are represented and needs are met.
- Perform duties/make decisions in the best interest of our Band members.
- Be accessible, accountable, and approachable.

I have years of experience in the Legislative Branch and working with elected officials. Mille Lacs is my home, and I have the education and leadership experience to be a good candidate. I will bring your ideas and concerns to the table.

Please vote Valerie Harrington-Wind for District I Representative Tuesday, April 2, 2024. Committed to our Community. It would be an honor to represent you. Please call/text anytime 218-251-2041. Facebook: @elect.valerie

Miigwech bizindawiyeg.

CURTIS KALK

DISTRICT I REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATE



Aaniin, Hello, I am Curt Kalk Sr. I have been active in our tribal government for 23 years.

I have worked with many fellow Band members throughout those years. The years have gone by fast.

I'm 61 years old and

still enjoy, treasure, and look forward to helping our government serve its members. I served our community as Commissioner of Natural Resources for 10 years, Secretary Treasurer for 4 years, Executive Director, a Cultural teacher at Nay Ah Shing school, and various positions wherever the Band government needed help.

We are moving in a new and exciting direction, I am excited about that, and ask for your vote to help make sure our district is represented by the most experienced candidate. There is not much room for mistakes in today's world, but even the smartest people sometimes make the wrong decisions. That's where the things I have learned through my experience tell me that the best education isn't always through formal schooling, but through the mistakes we may make, the same mistakes that help us grow.

Being mindful and respectful to our Elders is one of my most important practices. Elders that taught me most things were Naawakamigookwe (Maude Kegg), her sons Jesse, Herman, Earnest Sr., Darrell, and her daughter Betty. Sa Puud (Fred Jones) at school, Old Ben Sam, Jim Clark, Raining Boyd, and a lot of others, they

taught me the world is here for us to be part of, take care of, and leave the land and its resources in better shape for the next generation.

The impacts we have on each other are the things we carry with ourselves the most. Education is very important in all forms. I am very proud to say I graduated from Nay Ah Shing in 1981. I never stop learning from the people around me. As we move forward, let's keep all the good things our Elders have gifted us with, and share them with the next generation. We all share common ground in this respect.

Empathy is what has guided me many times. My ability to share common ground with you. Living and working alongside you has kept me learning something new every day. You have been my biggest educators. Life's lessons have helped me be successful through my 23 years of government experiences, which makes me very enthusiastic to be your next District I Representative. I have seen many kind and thoughtful actions from the people of our community; that says a lot about who we are. Thank you for making our community a better place. As always, I have so much more to say. I will have time to listen and go over the common ground we share in the weeks ahead.

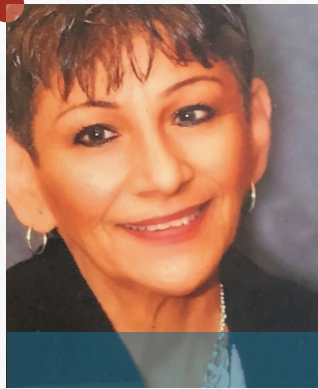
Until then, be safe. Be kind to yourself and others. Live a good life. Miigwech! My number is 320-982-0241 if you would like to contact me.

SEMIRA KIMPSON

DISTRICT I SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE

SAMI THOMAS

DISTRICT II SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE



My name is Sami Thomas. I am an enrolled Mille Lacs Band Elder.

I currently reside in the Isle, Minnesota, area. I have lived in Isle most of my life. My entire family of John Sam lived here their whole lives. Though times

were tough back in the day, we survived.

Well now, times are still tough but in a different way. I graduated from the Isle High School in the early 70s. I then moved out and started to begin my educational journey. I attended Haskell Indian Junior College in Lawrence, KS. Sadly, I did not complete any degree.

As I started to begin my family, I began sending them to school everyday. I would tell them those famous words... "Your Education is Important". My parents made sure we all attended school on a daily basis. That push from my parents always stuck in my mind about

how they cared that much in that way. I am now a grandmother and great-grandmother. I need to instill education into their young minds. I was also on the Heart of the Earth Charter School as a school board member approx. 1998 – 2002.

Being on the Nay Ah Shing school board is a very rewarding and challenging job for me. It informs me of budgets and policies also. Education has always been a push for our community. I see and hear it when we have our monthly school board meetings. We have many awesome leaders that work hard at being teachers/warriors on a daily basis.

Parents, guardians, and grandparents need to make their children's education a priority. Only then can we all move ahead to successful children. This is my dream for us all.





MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE

43408 Oodena Drive, Onamia, MN 56359

millelacsband.com