



**Dr. Lori Bica**

I feel so very much at home in Eau Claire these days that sometimes I forget I've spent much of my life living elsewhere. I am originally from Detroit, Michigan. After earning a B.A. from Michigan State University, I moved to Columbus, Ohio, to complete M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Developmental Psychology at Ohio State University. As a developmental psychologist, I study physical, cognitive, and social/emotional changes over the lifespan, with a particular emphasis on childhood and adolescence.

I left for Eau Claire to start work as a Psychology Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. That was in 2000, and I have to confess that I appreciate my new hometown more than I could have imagined. I came here for very practical reasons --- a new job, of course, but also for the reputation of the schools. The quality of the Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD) was well known, and the other natural advantages of the region made me confident this was an ideal place to raise children.

Now, 20 years later, I consider myself very lucky to have two amazing sons and to have them both graduate from the ECASD. The teachers and other staff members at the schools they've attended --- indeed, at all of the ECASD schools I have worked with --- are an amazingly dedicated and talented group of professionals. For their excellence alone, I consider it a great honor to serve our district as a member of the School Board.

I have always been an active volunteer in the schools, focusing primarily on academic interventions for students at risk, assisting principals and teachers with program development and evaluation, and writing grants to secure funding for schoolwide initiatives. In these ways, I have felt a strong connection to the schools, and now the Board service affords me an even better opportunity to give something back to a district that has contributed so significantly to the quality of my children's lives. As a Board member, I work to ensure that all children who attend public schools in our district have access to education that is inclusive, rigorous, and of the highest quality, and that all district employees have what they need to flourish in their positions.