

Vallay Varro announces candidacy for Saint Paul School Board

Written by

Thursday, 02 July 2009 15:20

Saint Paul, MN —Vallay Varro announced that she will be a candidate for the Saint Paul School Board. Varro is seeking to fill the vacancy created by the announced resignation of current Board member Tom Conlon.

Varro, age 33, is an education expert, former classroom teacher, mother and East Side resident. She seeks to use that strong background to help guide the Saint Paul Public Schools through some of the most challenging times in its history.

“I believe I have the educational skills, policy experience and a set of unique perspectives to help lead and govern our district to assure that we provide the learning environment that our children deserve,” said Varro. “With a Superintendent search not yet underway, a tough community discussion about declining enrollment, and a projected \$25-35 million dollar deficit, we need a strong voice for Saint Paul kids and for cooperation. I plan to bring that voice to our school board.”

Varro serves as Education Policy Director for the City of Saint Paul. In that role, she has helped to create partnerships between the city and the school district to narrow the achievement gap and get young people ready for school and for life. Her work has leveraged more than \$10 million in state and private funding for learning opportunities for pre school children. She's worked to secure public and private support for afterschool programs, college access programs and circulator buses to improve access to resources for youth in Saint Paul.

Prior to joining the city in 2006, she served as a program manager at the Minnesota Literacy Council, director of the AmeriCorps Minnesota Reading Corps and as a classroom teacher at the University of Saint Catherine Pre-K Education Center. She holds a Masters degree in Education from the University of Minnesota.

Varro moved to the United States with her family from Laos 31 years ago. She lives on Saint Paul's East Side with her husband Chris and their two children ages 7 and 2. She will seek the DFL endorsement for the open seat on the School Board at a special endorsing convention on Thursday June 25.