

## Serving on the school board gives FIC member insight

**Comfrey, Minn.** – For FIC Treasurer Angie Pidde, it's not a matter of if she will serve her community, but a matter of when. Pidde's involvement in the credit union movement has naturally led her to be active in her community. Consequently, she decided to extend her reach outside the credit union movement by running for the Comfrey School District school board.



After Pidde was elected in November of 2006, she was excited and determined to bring fresh ideas and perspectives to the group. As part of her commitment to well-rounded schooling, Pidde brought her passion for financial education.

**Angie Pidde's (front left) service on her local school board has given her insight into how credit unions can help schools fit financial education into their curriculum.**

Pidde said that serving on the school board opened her eyes to the variety of budget and course requirements schools have to meet. She understands that financial education courses are commonly offered as electives. And with electives frequently on the chopping block in many schools, Pidde realized that credit unions needed to rethink the financial literacy materials they encourage schools to use.

"Credit unions have to be more creative in how they present financial literacy to schools," Pidde said. "We need to find a way to incorporate financial education into the main classes, not just the elective classes that are the first to be cut."

Pidde said she is learning that financial education is often not included in a school's curriculum because it just doesn't fit. While schools may want to teach their students financial management skills, they often lack the time and funding to do so. This realization has reaffirmed Pidde's belief in the importance of the work that external groups, like the FIC, do.

In order to be successful, she said that credit unions need to do more than simply present financial education materials to schools. They need to be proactive and make financial education fit into what schools are already teaching, Pidde said.

(more)

In the 14 months she has served on the board, Pidde said she has been amazed by the pride and support citizens have for their school. The school is our soul and livelihood, which is why education is one of the main values of the community, Pidde said. Learning these values has confirmed for her the need for credit union involvement in communities.

“It is important for credit unions to learn the values of the communities they serve and to investigate how the credit union can support those values,” Pidde said. “Credit union involvement in the community shows that we support the neighborhoods in our area. In order to effectively serve our members, we need to serve them both inside and outside the credit union.”

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*The **Minnesota Family Involvement Council** is a committee of the Minnesota Credit Union Foundation. Its mission is to enhance the future of the credit union movement by promoting financial awareness, financial education and full-family involvement in Minnesota’s credit unions. For more information, visit [www.mnfic.org](http://www.mnfic.org).*

*The **Minnesota Credit Union Foundation** is a non-profit organization founded in 1969 to serve as the charitable arm of the Minnesota credit union movement. For more information, visit [www.mncufoundation.org](http://www.mncufoundation.org).*