

Barbara Hooper
Hudsonville Public Schools
Meet the candidates – 2020



- **How long have you lived in Hudsonville?**

I have lived in Hudsonville for almost 13 years. Prior to that, I lived in SE Michigan for 16 years.

- **What experiences do you have with local governance?**

I was appointed in September 2018 to fill a vacancy on the School Board and I currently serve on the Policy Sub-Committee and the Human Resources Sub-Committee. Prior to my appointment on the school board, I served on the school's Sex Advisory Board. In January 2014, I was appointed to the Ottawa County Community Action Agency (OCCAA) Advisory Board. I served as the vice-chair in 2015 and 2016 and I am currently the chair, a position I have held since January 2017.

- **What do you see as the primary work of the board?**

I view the work of the school board as being very collaborative. We work with the superintendent, administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, students, and the community to develop a vision and goals for the school district that are responsive to the values, beliefs and priorities of our community, while advocating for the needs of the district. The board is responsible for establishing and reviewing policies that affect our students. Finally, the board plays an important role in holding the district accountable for results including student achievement and financial.

- **Why are you running for the Board of Education? If elected, what will be your priorities?**

The Hudsonville community is a wonderful community in which to live and raise a family. However, it also continues to grow at a faster rate than neighboring communities. I believe the success of our community is directly tied to the success of our school. My priorities are to continue to advocate for the needs of our students and to prepare them for the future to ensure that students are well prepared for those next steps after high school whether it be the military, college, trade schools, or direct entry to the work force. The passage of the 2019 bond proposal will make possible many district-wide improvements all of which will contribute to our vision of providing students "with a world-class education that will enable them to successfully live and work in a global community". Finally, we have begun the S.O.A.R. IV Strategic Planning process and I look forward to being actively involved in that process.

- **What particular experiences or skills have prepared you to serve as a board member?**

My current experience serving on the School Board and my experience serving on the Community Action Agency, along with my current role as an Associate Professor at Grand Valley State University have prepared me to continue to serve on the school board. I am a strong advocate; I work collaboratively with all members on a team and I know the importance of being able to listen to other individuals in order to understand different views and opinions. Finally, I am passionate about education and making a difference. All of these skills are important to have as a board member.

- **In what school district or community activities/organizations have you been involved?**

Although my children are now graduates of Hudsonville Public Schools, I was active as a room parent and volunteer at Forest Grove Elementary School. I am an active member of St. Sebastian Catholic Church and I am involved in variety of professional organizations including serving as the Faculty Advisor for the Kirkhof College of Nursing Alumni Committee and I am an active member of Sigma Theta Tau International. When my sons were younger, I was also active in Boy Scouts of America Troop 146 and Cub Scout Pack 3149.