



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

I was born and raised in Hudsonville, and have lived in this community over 40 years, having graduated from Hudsonville Public Schools in 1995. My wife Lindsay and I are proud to raise our two children here, both of whom are current HPS students. We originally lived on the north side of the district with our children attending Bauer Elementary, and now live on the south side with one in middle school and the other in high school.

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

Throughout my professional career, I have always been intentional in finding opportunities to serve our community and engage with local government. I have served as a member of the Hudsonville School Board for the past 6 years and prior to that served for 8 years as a Trustee in Georgetown Township. Other service has included as board member and chair of the Ottawa County Workforce Development Board, along with service on the WCET board, local Chamber of Commerce, and community foundation.

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

The primary work of the board is to represent the community in setting policy that drives the mission of the district. The board is responsible for hiring the superintendent and then working with that individual to ensure the district has highly effective leadership, reviews and approves policies, and maintains an environment of accountability to produce results for our students, parents, staff, and community.

The board also provides input into key decisions and ultimately approves the district's strategic goals, curriculum, & budget.

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

It has been a privilege to serve on the Board of Education for the past 6 years and I feel a deep sense of pride in our Hudsonville community which continues to call me to serve as a school board member. It is vital that Hudsonville Public Schools continue to grow and thrive while advancing our tradition of academic excellence.

If re-elected I will continue to be vigilant and ensure that our district is serving the needs of all students while engaging in dialogue and feedback from parents, students, staff, and community members. I am committed to our continued expansion of educational and extracurricular opportunities, both inside and outside of the classroom; as well as continuing to improve the safety of our schools. In Hudsonville we also have one of the highest quality teaching staffs in the state....a result of high recruiting standards, robust professional development, and a legacy of investing a greater portion of our budget in teachers than most other districts in the state, which I am committed to maintaining and improving.

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

I am a graduate of HPS, parent of current HPS students (and will be for the entire 6-year term), and lifelong community member in Hudsonville. Professionally, I have been in leadership roles for over 25 years, at all levels, ranging from a frontline supervisor to company CEO. For over 15 years, I also was an adjunct faculty member at the university level, teaching courses in business, leadership, and economics to bachelor's and master's students. I currently serve as

a healthcare executive overseeing 11 hospitals and a comprehensive portfolio of post-acute care providers in West Michigan. Finally, throughout my entire career, I have engaged in community service by serving on a variety of boards and participated in all levels of advocacy with our local, state, and federal governments.

The experiences above have taught me how to listen and engage in dialogue with diverse viewpoints in ways that deliver results, especially when navigating complex or sensitive topics. I have deep knowledge of how governance works at the board level, along with the ability to maintain a broad perspective of issues, while also understanding the local impact and ripple effects of decisions.

I firmly believe in and am committed to achieving our district mission to educate, challenge, and inspire all learners to become contributing, responsible members of a global society. That is the experience and education I received in Hudsonville and would like for all of our kids to receive.

- **In what school district or community activities/organizations have you been involved?**
Over the years, I have engaged in a variety of district and community activities. This has included participation and service to the Hudsonville Education Foundation, church youth ministries, elementary school classroom volunteer, local chamber of commerce board, WCET board, township trustee, and many more. My children have been involved in cross country and we are ardent fans and supporters of our Hudsonville athletic teams as well as the arts.