



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

I have lived in Georgetown Township, within the Hudsonville School District for 30 years.

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

This is my first time running for a local office. In my vocation as Finance Director for the state of Michigan with the United States Postal Service I had the opportunity for many dealings with local government officials as a regular part of my job.

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

The school board's job is to make policy and set the direction for the Superintendent and the administration to follow. Areas of responsibility should include goal setting, establishment and development of policy, evaluation of the Superintendent, budget and funding which would include reviewing contracts and collective bargaining agreements, curriculum which includes textbooks based on community standards established by the Board, as well as review and evaluation of all programs, and lastly facilities.

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

I am running for the Board of Education because I was approached by several parents who were and still are concerned with the direction of the Hudsonville Schools. Many parents in our District are frustrated with the direction of education in general and our school district in particular. After attending several Board meetings and work sessions, I better understand their concerns and am running to provide parents with a voice about how their schools are operated.

My priorities will be to re-establish the Board as the body which makes policy and sets the direction for where the schools are going and how they are going to get there. I am very concerned about the moral fabric of our country. I am concerned about how my grandchildren will be taught about the things this country stands for. I am seeing countless cases in school districts nationwide of very questionable practices concerning subjects that should not be brought before our children and students. I am adamant in my conviction that that will not happen in Hudsonville and that parents in Hudsonville will not have things going on behind their backs. The Board and the administration will be upfront in all of their dealings with parents. I will listen to those who love their children more than anyone else and know what is in their child's best interest. Parents will have the voice and representation in how their children are being educated.

The role of a Board member has changed from rubber stamping educational programs and taking care of facility needs to closely monitoring the new programs being proposed and the long term effect those programs have on the social and emotional development of our students. The chief role of the school is to educate children. While schools should adapt to change within the community, schools should not attempt to lead the community in a direction not dictated or approved of by the majority of its parents.

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

I have been in positions of leadership for most of my adult life. I worked for the U.S. Postal Service for forty years. During my career I held various Executive and Manager positions. I was a Finance Manager with responsibility for an annual budget of more than \$800M, oversight over more than 500 properties, and responsible for the payroll of 10,000 employees. I have experience in oversight of building projects and working with hundreds of different vendors and contractors. I also directly managed more than 1,200 employees in roles as Postmaster and Plant Manager in Grand Rapids, MI. Throughout my career, I have negotiated contracts with four public sector unions and implemented numerous employee contracts. I have much experience in mediating disputes in the workplace, both with employees and managers. I have made many presentations to both the public as well as internally to employees.

For the past twenty five years I have had the privilege of serving my Churches as both a Deacon and Elder. Currently I am serving as an Elder at Jamestown Baptist Church where I am also the Chairman of our Facility/Building team. I have been a Life Group teacher and I do financial counseling with families in the community. Ministering to the people of Jamestown is a wonderful experience and one that has taught me much in how to deal with people and how to address difficult situations.

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

I was a founding board member of AYSO both in Georgetown Township and then in Grandville. I served on the Board for six years and coached for more than twenty years.

Just prior to COVID I was involved in the Lunch Buddy program for several years at Jamestown Lower Elementary School. My wife and I had the opportunity to spend one lunch hour every week with students who needed some adult direction and support in their life.