



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

I have lived in Hudsonville for 22 years. Prior to that, I grew up in Jenison so am very familiar with the area and have deep connections within the community. My husband and I bought our first house here and have lived in the same neighborhood for 11 years.

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

I have most recently been involved with our local government by advocating my support for COVID mitigation measures. I communicated frequently with the county health department, commissioners, and Hudsonville BOE members. Prior to COVID, in my position as a Project Manager with the former West Michigan Strategic Alliance, I worked collaboratively with local government to better our economy and community, primarily in the areas of education and workforce development.

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

The work of the Board of Education is to oversee and improve the education of the students in our community. As a board, this is carried out in four primary ways: the selection and evaluation of the district's superintendent, developing and implementing the SOAR strategic plan every three years, policy review and modification (as necessary), and creating an annual budget. It is the board's responsibility to form positive relationships with administration and staff to empower them to carry out the work of the board.

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

I am running for a seat on the Hudsonville Board of Education because I believe our district is one of the best in the area, although there is always room to improve. I love the growth in our community and the diversity of its people, beliefs, backgrounds, and cultures.

As a mom of two elementary-aged children in the district, I am highly invested in their education as well as their peers', and want to see all students succeed and go on to be responsible, productive members of society.

When I am elected to the Board of Education, my top priority will be to make sure the board applies peer-reviewed research and evidence-based solutions to current and future issues as they arise. My goal is to be a voice for ALL students in our district and to make sure each student knows they are heard, seen, and accepted for who they are by listening to community concerns and advocating for students' rights appropriately.

My second priority would be utilizing my social work background and focusing on relationship development between board members, board members and administration, and board members and staff. As a board, we set the tone for the district, so we need to be able to find solutions and focus on the true work which is ensuring the success of all students, rather than in-fighting or sowing mistrust.

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

As a licensed social worker (LMSW), I have the education, experience, and knowledge to assist me in being a productive board member for years to come. The focus of my graduate degree was on administration and program development. I am also an organized research nerd who takes the time to investigate and fully understand issues and concerns before presenting ideas and solutions.

I have worked with a variety of boards of directors and have also been the executive director of two nonprofit organizations, one of which I developed from the ground up. I have also been involved in education as an adjunct professor for undergraduate and graduate classes at GVSU.

Confidentiality is imperative in the social work profession and I hold myself to a high standard of integrity and commit to keeping the confidence of what is shared in closed door board sessions and to not share with others what needs to be kept confidential. As our community continues to grow and change, we have an increasing number of students who need a strong advocate. My personal and professional convictions of inclusion and empowerment will benefit marginalized students at Hudsonville Public Schools by allowing me to be their voice on the BOE.

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

Being a parent to current Hudsonville students, I have been involved in various programs with my kids' schools. Prior to COVID, I volunteered with classroom parties and helped with fundraisers. One of my favorite things is being a "mystery reader" in elementary classes.

I also love the assortment of Community Education offerings Hudsonville offers. My kids and I have learned many new skills and hobbies by attending different classes such as cookie decorating, coding, and fencing. My children also play little league baseball and softball with Hudsonville Little League and I do my best to attend every game and cheer louder than I ever thought I would.

My husband and I look forward to being more involved in our school district and community as our children get older and as Hudsonville continues to rebound from the COVID pandemic of the last two years.